

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **January 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** at City Hall in the Planning Department's first floor conference room, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were the Neighborhood Association Representatives and City Staff.

### **NEWS FROM CITY STAFF AND STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

**Waste Pro, Jermaine Robinson**, said he has been with Waste Pro for nine years and handles all issues. He reminded the group if you have any issues, to contact him at 843-737-1321. Kay Merrill said people are leaving large items in the Higgionsville area like mattresses and large furniture. Mr. Robinson said normally it is removed on Saturdays by our Bulk Pick Up service. He reminded Ms. Merrill that the bulk pick up service is processed by going to the Trac-E system on Public Works website. Other Waste Pro rep said this can also be accessed on Waste Pro's website and you don't have to be the homeowner. Ms. Merrill what happened if some stuff doesn't fit in the trash can. Mr. Robinson we are supposed to pick it up. Resident commented that Waste Pro is doing a great job and their staff is very friendly. Mr. Robinson said we have to look at as if it is our house and we want it to look good.

**Southern Palmetto Landscape, James Graham**, said we are working on the standard maintenance and winter projects. He reminded the group to contact him if they have any issues.

**City Public Works Department, Neil Desai**, said the Washington Street Park restrooms are being installed; the swing at Logan Park was replaced; shoulder work is being done at Pine Court; drainage has started on Azalea and will a 6-8 week project. Also, fungi spraying has been done in some parks due to all of the rain we had in 2018. Mr. Graham said pesticides were done too. Mr. Easton asked about having doggie bags at the Washington Street Park. Kids are playing at the park and its not good. Mr. Desai said there will be bags provided once the bathrooms and landscaping is installed. Edie Rodgers said there was a bag of dog mess in the recycling bin in Jericho Woods, what can be done? Lt. Squires said if happens a lot, call us. Mr. Harvey said the word needs to go out saying, "no matter where you are, you must clean up after your dog". Ms. Merrill asked about the paving schedule for Pigeon Point at Lafayette to the boat landing. Mr. Desai said he will get with SC DOT. Mr. Merrill said she will send Mr. Desai an email.

**Director of Public Projects, Matt St. Clair**, said since Lamar Taylor's retirement, Neil Desai is the acting Director of Public Works. The remodel of the Arsenal roof will begin in February and be a 6 month project. He encouraged the group to use "Report Concerns" on the city's new website. Glebe Resident thanked Neil Desai and Matt St. Clair for replacing the swing. We're all happy and surrounding neighbors are watching to make sure it's not broken again. Ms. Rodgers asked what the City is doing with the left over money from the Boundary Street project.

**Director of Down Operations, Rhonda Carey**, said we were given permission to plan for the Taste of Beaufort which will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are also partnering with the Air Station for their Air Show. Ms. Carey complimented Waste Pro and said the calls she receives are down. We are also working with Public Works, The Greenery, and Southern Palmetto regarding the Waterfront Park. Ms. Carey said they have hired a new staff member and she will introduce her at the next Neighborhood Association meeting. She encouraged everyone to stop in to say, "Hi" to them at 500 Carteret Street.

**City Fire Department, Chief Reece Bertholf**, thanked David Prichard and Public Works. He said his department to grow. New Fire Department is going to be occupied soon. Bridges is moving in next door; Beaufort Fun Park may be redeveloped soon. He referred to Spanish Moss area saying it's growing, and we will serve them, too.

Chief Bertholf mentioned the promotion of Tim Ogden to Deputy Chief and said is proud of him. Chief said we have hired Jeff Anderson as Fire Marshall to replace Chief Ogden's vacant position. Mr. Anderson worked on Hilton Head, the South East and the Midwest and has great experience. Mr. Anderson introduced himself and said he prides himself on "prevention". Mr. Anderson said he can be contacted anytime at 843-441-9194.

Chief Bertholf said they are doing the inspections of the USCB dorms. Resident said she heard in the past the Fire Department was using smaller vehicles for 911 calls, but she's still seeing the bigger trucks. Chief Bertholf said we do have the smaller trucks, but they are not ISO rated because they do not have suppression, so the bigger trucks are being used and an ambulance is required. Lt. Squires said the ISO rating can help with your homeowner's insurance rate. Chief said not all insurance companies use the ISO rating that we earned 18 months ago. Fire Department mentioned this prior to this meeting and some individuals are receiving lower rates on their insurance. Glebe resident thanked the Fire Department because when she lived on Lady's Island, she needed medical assistance and if the fire truck had not responded so quickly, she may not be here today. She thanked them. Chief Reece said the response time for an ambulance is 9 minutes and for the Fire Department it's 4 minutes.

**City Police Department, Lt. Squires**, said we have a healing city and community by having our crime watches, community meetings, trash being picked, and keeping landscaping nice. If we look "unhealthy" criminals will notice. Unfortunately, he has seen more people living the police career due to what is happening with offices lives. We have six new officers coming out the academy next week. We are also recycling more vehicles. The task force will start up again and we were given permission to use the Greene Street Gym will help keep the program going. Kevin Woodlock said, were working with the new USCB Dean. Mr. Woodlock loves seeing the kids walking around from the dorms and questioned the security and asked what security they have. Lt. Squires said we do have the blue lights. Also, the USCB security vehicle drives around daily. He thanked the Pigeon Point area for welcoming the students to the area.

Barbara Nash mentioned that she heard gun shots this past weekend. She said its ongoing and asked if there is any headway on this. Lt. Squires said these people don't care when they're arrested. Arguments start on social media and then that provokes incidents like this one. Warrants are out for the recent ones, but there are no witnesses. We continue to respond quickly.

Ms. Rodgers said, “as citizens, we don’t know how many 911 calls happen daily. Lt. Squire said its 24 hours a day. He said this can separate the residents from the officers because it takes time away from the officers, but that is why Sgt. Phelan and myself are working with the community. Lt. Squires said we had 85,000 calls last year; we are proactive.

**Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, Building Official**, said there are no updates on the new Flood Maps. Appeals are being worked on. It maybe 12 months until we hear anything. He reminded the group that permits are required for interior work. Some of the big projects we’re working on are the next phase of the USCB dorms which should be done by July or August; the area across from Lowes will be a Butler Dealership, Aspen Dental office, and Longhorn Steakhouse restaurant. The mobile home park on Ribaut Road will be redeveloped and the old Red Rooster on Ribaut Road will be new apartments and a gas station. Also, there will be a new hotel to replace the Travel Lodge going through the permitting process and will be issued in a few months. Mr. Skipper said 2019 is going to be extremely busy commercial wise. Resident asked what is going to be where the mobile park is. Mr. Skipper said it will be commercial space with residential. Ms. Rodgers asked about the status of the old Publix’s. Mr. Skipper said Harris Teeter has merged with another grocery store. There will be a new Publix’s at Beaufort Plaza. Also, there will be liner buildings coming to the plaza along with a restaurant at the perimeter of the area. Lt. Squires asked if their redoing the plaza. Mr. Skipper said there will be a facelift. Ms. Nash asked if there is any news about a new movie theatre. Lt. Squires said he’s hoping for one. David Prichard said John O’Toole called and possibly looking for a 20,000 square foot building. Resident asked about the fenced in parking on Boundary Street. Mr. Skipper said this his temporary parking until the other USCB dorms are built.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola**, said remember to stay pro-active! He said to email and/or call him if anyone has issues. He said he is working on long term housing issues but working with heirs can hold things up. He said all of the City of Beaufort departments are working very well together and that helps. Ms. Sagui asked about the status of Nathan’s property. Mr. Meola said the Presentation Company has called him about locks and the bank wants to retain it. Mr. Easton thanked Mr. Meola for work in his street from the last meeting. Ms. Rodgers said, “Kudos! We have the most responsible government with departments having a wonderful interaction and response”!

**Community Ombudsman, Peggy Simmer**, said now she has 565 people on her list. She reminded the group to let her know their feedback. It is still being worked on to have just one mass email. Tomorrow is the Beaufort 2030 and then another one on February 13. The Old Commons meeting is tomorrow with pizza.

Ms. Merrill spoke about the water main issue. She said she received Nixel after 4 PM stating to avoid the area, then before 5:30 PM, WSAV said to boil water in Beaufort, specifically Pigeon Point. Then she received Simmer’s email and an hour later the Robo call. All sent out information but BJWSA. Ms. Simmer said she called BJWSA before 5 PM and they said they were sending out a release and Robo call, but not sure why there was a delay. Glebe resident said, “I was very disappointed”. Ms. Sagui said she has a contact at the Sheriff Department and

received a text. It had been an hour before Nixel was sent out. They also have protocol to follow, she said. Ms. Simmer said she's not sure why Nixel didn't send out the "no boil" information. Ms. Rodgers suggested inviting BJWSA representative to attend one of our meetings. Ms. Simmer said the Town Hall Meetings are starting up again are taken back their associations. We are also working with Neal Pugliese.

**City Planning Department, David,** said he is attending a meeting today at LCCOG to talk about the CDGB grant. He said, "me and Mr. St. Clair went over the Capital Improvement Projects which included the Duke Street Phase III Streetscape. Regarding the City's new website, he asked the group to give their feedback.

### **NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

**Dixon Village,** said the Prince Street yard drainage is ongoing. Mr. Meola said it's more closer to Ribaut Road and it was disconnected and filled in by SC DOT. He said Mr. Taylor was working with them, but there is no timeline. Mr. Meola we will ask them. Resident asked about the one on Harrington Street. Mr. Meola said this is the 800 block of Harrington Street and Mr. Desai and were there and now waiting to hear from SC DOT.

**Hermitage Road Area, Phil Hodges,** said hoping for restrooms along the Spanish Moss Trail.

**Islands of Beaufort resident,** said no issue, but we do have 6 homes under construction and 9 more in the pipeline.

**Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton,** said we are meeting now on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at the Presbyterian Church Education Building on North and Church Street. He said their first annual meeting and election of officers will be on January 24.

**Pigeon Point, Kay Merrill,** talked about their "caroling" in the Park. She said we had a resident who played the violin and made it very interesting. Also, we had a resident from Czechoslovakia who taught us to sing a song in Czech! Next year it would be nice to have people from the City of Beaufort and from this group.

**The Point, Chuck Symes,** thanked Neil Desai for resolving the pothole issues.

Ms. Simmer reminded the group that the April Neighborhood Association Meeting will be an evening meeting at City Hall.

Next Meeting is February 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.