

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **June 19, 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, Domingo Hernandez**, said Waste Pro has new staff and Jermaine Robinson is out with them today. He reminded the group not to put tags on the bins because Waste Pro cannot pick up a trash bin with a tag that says, "recycle" and the same with the recycle bin.

**The Greenery, Reynaldo Gonzales**, said they are doing enhancements at the Waterfront Park for the upcoming Waterfestival; floral replacements are being done due to the extreme weather; and mulching of the park will be next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Mr. Gonzales mentioned how to treat the army worms and the mole crickets.

**Southern Palmetto Landscape, James Graham**, said they are going through the neighborhoods behind City Hall; cleaning up the overhanging trees due to the recent rain. They are also making the stop sign areas more visible; and working on the Waterfestival preparations in the Bay Street area. Ms. Merrill asked about a bent Stop sign at Calhoun and Harrington. Nathan Farrow with Public Works said he will take care of it. Lt. Squires thanked Mr. Graham for adjusting their time since they have changed their court and shift changes.

**City Public Works Department, Nathan Farrow**, went over the following items for his department:

- *Phase I of Boundary Street* has begun by taking out the dying plants and replacing them with sod. We're watering the new sod
- *In The Point*, we are opening the street ends back up, so the views are able to be seen.
- Repaired some preservation signs that were old, broken, and need to be painted. We ordered about half to be fixed.
- *At Battery Shores* we did a big roadside clean up. Next, we will be blowing out the driveway pipes.
- *Boundary Street* light assessment is being done with a crew going out during the day and at night to see what's wrong.
- *Spanish Moss Trail* – next few weeks we will be restriping to include the crosswalks.

Mr. Roberts asked if the pedestrian crosswalk will ever be done at Bladen and Boundary Street. Mr. Farrow said he will contact the contractor.

Resident asked is the City Public Works department is in charge of the TCL trestle. Mr. Farrow said no the county handles this as well as the drainage. Resident said Prince Street always floods and drainage is filled with concrete. It's been brought up before, but nothing has been

done. The water sits in the street; dangerous. Mr. Farrow said we are aware of it, but there is no where for the water to go. He will let Neil Desai know.

**Director of Down Operations, Linda Roper**, went over the following upcoming events:

- This weekend the Dragonboat Races will begin at 8 AM at the Waterfront Park. She said all the money raised goes back into the City of Beaufort for cancer patients.
- July 5 is the First Friday with the theme, “Celebrate America”; streets will not be closed, but stores will have sales and entertainment of their own.
- The first weekend in August downtown stores will have their “sidewalk” sales.
- Waterfestival begins in July.

**City Fire Department, Fire Marshall, Jeff Anderson**, said he didn’t have anything to add but asked how many people in the group had new smoke detectors.

**City Police Department, Lt. Squires**, said their department is down a few officers because 4-5 are at the Academy and individuals are not applying as much due to the way the world is now regarding police officers. Some of the community officers have been pulled back into the office due to the lack of officers. Staff is preparing for the Waterfestival; our hurricane equipment is ready to go; Pigeon Point Association had a hurricane presentation, and this can be requested for any of the associations. There are no crime trends, but there is a lot of crime going on such as store robberies and breaking into cars. Regarding North Street, the speeding trailer was put out on Ribaut and Bay near the elementary school and 96,000 cars passed in 1 direction in a 2-week period; average speed was 30.4 mph. We also had the speeding trailer at SC 170 for only 1 week and there were 100,000 vehicles. Lt. Squires mentioned the recent Gullah Festival and Memorial Day weekend. He said the Movie Club will be starting up soon. He said he will be in the Police boat for the Dragonboat Race practice. The “juvenile” age law has changed – 17 is not considered a “juvenile, 18 is. Resident asked if anything is planned for a speeding study (i.e. Bladen Street). Lt. Squires said maybe City Hall can do this; we can put out speed trailer. Resident said they are new in the area and said Ribaut and Bladen are heavily traveled, and a stop sign may be needed at Adventure to slow the speed down. Lt. Squires said 30 is the speed limit and it seems fast. This may have to go through SC DOT. We can put officers out in the meantime.

**Building Codes, Ken Meola**, said Mr. Skipper could not attend due to another meeting, but he will take any questions to him. Mr. Roberts asked about the status of the new Publix. Mr. Meola said nothing has been finalized yet. Ms. Merrill asked about the building at Harrington and Calhoun Street that’s not being used like it was. Lt. Squires said it used to be a teen center years ago. Mr. Meola said he drove by and noticed people just hanging out. Ms. Merrill also asked about the status of the Pink Pub. Mr. Meola said they are in the final steps for permitting for a pub/restaurant. Lt. Squires said SLED did get the residents concerns, but said they have to wait until there is an issue. Mr. Meola said it’s zoned for this use and there is a restaurant across the street and around the corner. Ms. Merrill said parking is an issue; its limited. Mr.

Harvey asked, “how can they open with no parking in the vicinity”? Mr. Meola said parking is by square footage and they met it.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola**, said he is seeing yearly issues of garbage not being properly bagged and people are still dumping garbage on vacant lots. Resident said she is new to the area and asked if there are any minimum standards for keeping up with grass and asked who she calls. Mr. Meola said to call him with any concerns and the allowed grass height is 6 inches. Mr. Meola said he gives a grace period specially if there’s been a lot of rain. Regarding the vacant lots, they must be secured including the windows. Lt. Squires said Mr. Meola has done a great job cleaning up these issues. Another resident asked about the status of the gray building on Prince Street that is leaning over. Mr. Meola said its in the final stage of a rehab. Mr. Meola reminded the group that some properties are owned by heirs and the Probate Court takes at least 9 months to process. Ms. Merrill thanked Mr. Meola for taking care of the issues on Lafayette Street.

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

**Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton**, said their next meeting will be a potluck on September 26 at 6:30 pm at the Presbyterian Church Education Building.

**Old Commons, Dennis Harvey**, said their meeting will also be a potluck one week before the Northwest Quadrant’s meeting. Ms. Harvey talked about the loud noises she is hearing from the post office at 4 a.m. Lt. Squires said he will check with the other officers for a status. Ms. Harvey said they have trash trucks and mail trucks making the noises as well as beepers and alarms going off.

**Pigeon Point, Kay Merrill**, talked about the recent Hurricane Preparedness presentation that was given to their area sponsored by the County and their Emergency Management. She encouraged everyone else to do this. Mr. Meola said its that time and he is going to coordinate a presentation for this group. Ms. Merrill said the re-entry process is an issue. Mr. Meola said this is controlled by the County. Lt. Squires said, “don’t rush” is what we encourage. Fire Marshall, Mr. Anderson, said you will never get a straight answer because it’s a case by case situation. The media doesn’t get access to the let people know what is going on. Ms. Merrill said she received lots of solid information at their last meeting such as the Nixel and Next Door Apps. Ms. Merrill said she is concerned that people won’t leave now because of the trouble with re-entry.

Ms. Harvey said there is a “certified course” by Beaufort County Emergency management for citizens to take for community response. Lise Sundrla from BAHA said she sent out a request looking for representatives to on a taskforce regarding short-term rentals and received great responses. Our findings will be heard at Council’s worksession on July 16. Resident said she \_ lives near a short-term rental and there is an issue with dogs constantly barking. She will send out an email to the neighborhood association presidents. Resident asked if a summary could be provided at the next meeting.

Lt. Squires reminded the group of the "9 O'clock routine". He also said regarding hurricanes, the Police Department does not evacuate. We are out on the roads patrolling areas about two days after the storm.

Next Meeting is July 17, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.