

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **September 18, 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

Ken Meola mentioned Hurricane Dorian and asked the group if everyone was alright. Mr. Harvey spoke about his experience with the hurricane. Jeff Anderson spoke about the lane reversals. Barb Rader thanked Mr. Meola and asked if the City could get together with the associations and discuss the positive and negative issues we've experienced after each hurricane. Mr. Meola said it will speak with Captain Edrel.

Mr. Meola introduced the Community & Economic Development's new employee, Joan Furlong. Ms. Furlong gave a brief background saying she is from New Jersey and that her previous experience was working with Open Space and Parks. She also designed playgrounds. She said she is more experienced in design and construction than planning.

Ms. Furlong said she was asked to give 4 fun facts about herself. She said (1) she loves to bake, especially pies; (2) she has four children; (2) her husband is in New Jersey packing up their house and will be here soon; and (4) she plays the piano.

Sue Sagui asked if she is the new "Libby". Group said, "no one can replace Libby". Ms. Sagui asked, what will Ms. Furlong be doing? Mr. Meola said planning and landscaping.

Mr. Meola said the City Manager asked him to speak about the press release on 9/12/19 that stated the City of Beaufort did not waive the requirements for yard debris. The debris that was pushed to the street would be picked up. Ms. Merrill said the City of Beaufort is picking up with the claw things that have been sitting there for some time already.

Waste Pro, Jermaine Robinson, said we are tagging but for the most part, customers are following the rules. Some are upset that the rules were not lifted, and he's received lots of phone calls, he said. Resident asked after it is tagged and nothing is done, what is the recourse/fee. Mr. Robinson said after the 2nd tag, we will notify Mr. Meola with the City of Beaufort. Mr. Meola said he will first go out to see if the debris is gone and then send a letter to the owner. Mr. Meola referred to the situation on Duke Street. Resident commented that the gentleman on Duke Street has a lot of stuff and needs to be resourceful himself to get help. Mr. Robinson said debris in the recycle bin is not allowed and will be tagged. Mr. Meola said, "it's a shame that some people take advantage". Edie Rodgers suggested keeping a ball of twine in your hurricane box. Resident asked about the "tag system" and asked how long it is before the second tag is placed and Mr. Meola is called. Mr. Meola said usually a week or two in between. Rhonda Carey with City of Beaufort Downtown Operation asked Waste Pro to let the group know how many tags they have put out for Hurricane Dorian. Mr. Robinson said 200-300. We're working hard to keep Beaufort clean, he said.

Mrs. Harvey said her schedule has changed from 7:30 am to now between 2:30 and 3:00 pm. The recycling is also falling through the cracks, she said. Ms. Sagui said she lives on Newcastle Street which is a few blocks from Mrs. Harvey and last Monday the trash was picked up but not the recycling. Waste Pro Representative [lady's name] said last week was an odd week because we came back from the storm with employees not returning yet. Mr. Robinson takes it upon himself to go out and help, she said. Mrs. Harvey said this is not the first time she's mentioned this problem. Waste Pro Representative [lady's name] asked Mrs. Harvey to give her information to her and Mr. Robinson.

Ms. Merrill thanked Waste Pro for getting back the trash receptacles from the Pigeon Point Boat Landing.

The Greenery, Brandon Duitsman, said tree fertilization at the parks will be next week; helping with preparations for the Shrimp Festival; added more trash cans to the core district and recycle bins will be added soon. Everything has been returned to the parks that were removed due to Hurricane Dorian; start transition flowers at the parks; rose fertilization this week. He mentioned St. Augustine is good in the winter but not in the spring; Bermuda best recommendation.

City Public Works Department, Neil Desai, went over their department's list:

- Picked up large debris.
- For the "claw", please do not put your cans near mailboxes, etc.
- We have some equipment down, please be patient.
- Landfill overloaded in Oaktie area.
- Will be on Charles Street and the core districts in 2 days.

Ms. Merrill said it would be nice to get "1" type of communication instead of getting all the different types of information. Our contract is not very detailed or specific. He said the City manager and himself are talking about being more sufficient. Jeff Anderson, City of Beaufort Fire Marshall, said regarding the debris piles, also do not put them anywhere near fire hydrants because they can be broken. Ms. Carey said if debris is non-compliant and is placed in the wrong spot, we have to deal with it and it's difficult. We felt this time, the compliance was much better, she said.

Neil Desai spoke on behalf of Director of Public Projects and Facilities, Matt St. Clair, gave the following updates:

- Arsenal roof will be done by the end of September. We will be going over the punch list next week.
- Greene Street Streetscape will be done by the end of November.
- Maintenance will start up again next week regarding the pylons at the Waterfront Park.

Down Operations, Rhonda Carey, went over the following events going on in October:

- First Friday (10/4)
- Shrimp Festival (10/4-10/5)
- 2nd Annual Halloween Party at the Waterfront Park (10/19, 4:00 pm – 8:30 pm) including a DJ, costume contest, trick-or-treating and movie on the lawn at the end of the night.
- Tour of Homes (10/26 & 10/17)
- Art Walk downtown (10/26)

Ms. Carey said Ms. Hodges from her department will be sending out volunteering information to the neighborhoods to help decorate a table and hand out candy during the Halloween Party. Ms. Carey said Ms. Roper, Ms. Hodges and herself often drive around going through the area to see if there are any issues with trash. Ms. Carey she can be reached at 843-379-7063 or rcarey@cityofbeaufort.org.

City Fire Department, Fire Marshall, Jeff Anderson, said there have been quite a few kitchen fires and he wanted to go over prevention with the group. He passed around small fire extinguisher that only for your stove top and is placed under the range hood and not visible until activated by a fire. This type of extinguisher has the same powder as a normal extinguisher. He said the Fire Department had two recent “saved” fires using the range top extinguisher. If you don’t want to have the range top extinguisher, you can have the normal 5 lb. extinguisher. Mr. Anderson demonstrated how a normal fire extinguisher works. An easy way to remember how to use it is, the word **PASS** which means:

P for “pull” (pin and twist)

A for “aim” (at the base of the fire)

S for “squeeze” (the trigger)

S for “sweep” (moving back and forth aiming at the base of the fire)

Mr. Anderson recommended having your extinguisher inspected once a year. They will check the powder, make sure it’s charged, and look at the nozzle to make sure it’s not rotted. Resident asked if the range top extinguisher are available locally. Mr. Anderson checked and said they are available on Amazon.com. Mr. Meola asked if there is specific company that inspects them. Mr. Anderson suggested googling it. Ms. Merrill asked if the Fire Department inspects them. No, said Mr. Anderson, but you can google it and there are 5 companies, or you can look at another fire extinguisher to get the company’s name that’s on it. Ms. Rodgers asked if the inspection is a long process. Mr. Anderson said it depends on the company. Some will come out but will charge a fee and some will let you bring it in to them.

City Police Department, Lt. Squires, said currently our manpower is down due to retirements, etc. Also having trouble hiring due to individuals not passing the background checks; we’ve added a hiring bonus. Regarding Hurricane Dorian, we went to re-call for 24 hours; hurricane was a test of our department. City Hall, Court, and Police Department lost air conditioning last week, but not due to the hurricane. We are not seeing any specific trends right now, but do

having people out after 12 AM drinking and fighting and some gang activity but nothing like what is going on in Chicago. Lt. Squires reminded the group to secure their valuables; lock their cars; and keep up with the 9 o'clock routine. Captain Robert Carson is retiring this Friday. Ms. Merrill thanked Lt. Squires and the Police Department for the presence in her community during the storm. Ms. Rodgers thanked the Police Department for patrolling the communities. Ms. Rodgers asked if the lack of qualifications is part of the national scene. Lt. Squires said, "yes, definitely". Ms. Merrill referred a magazine that had an article about the number of people who sign up for military can't pass the first test because of health issues, obesity, etc.

Lt. Squires let the group know that Officer Phelan did leave the Police Department and since we need officers on the streets, he will try to help out.

Building Codes, Bruce Skipper, Building Official, talked about flooding and the CRS program. He provided brochures for the group. He reminded the group when clipping trees not to clog the drains. He said its important to know your flood area. Other things helpful when there is flooding is to project your family (evacuate if you can); keep an eye on the weather; protect your property (include using sandbags); put furniture on a 2nd floor or at least elevate from the floor; put up hurricane protection prior to the storm (storm shutters, plywood); check your hurricane kit; and do not apply for or change an insurance policy at the last minute. Lt. Squires said, "make sure you also prepare for your pets beforehand".

Regarding the flood maps, Mr. Skipper said there is still no new news. He's not sure the information on the maps is all that great. Lt. Squires said past storms we've had storm surges (i.e. Irma). Mr. Skipper said with Hurricane Dorian, a King Tide was expected on top of a storm surge. When Matthew and Irma hit, we were at a 10' level.

Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola, said the pink house on Duke Street will be closing on the end of this month; contractor bought and will renovate. Regarding the Harrington Street issue, the woman who owns it went into the hospital. Mr. Meola said she has a great attitude to volunteer help in late October to early November. He told her to contact Kay Merrill. Mr. Meola said regarding the gentleman who lives on the property, he has not left, but we are working with the Sheriff's office to get him back to Yemassee. Ms. Merrill thanked Lt. Squires and Mr. Meola.

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Overlook at Battery Creek resident said he moved into the subdivision two years ago. He said there were a set of buildings codes to go by and now the new buildings are not going by the "lowcountry" style (wood trim is now vinyl). Mr. Meola said he is a little familiar with the situation and the Homeowners Association (HOA). Barbara Stoff said the area is not nearly completed and the new builders "are" the HOA and are changing the architectural guidelines; we have no recourse. Mr. Meola said this did go before the City's Design Review Board (DRB) and they denied the vinyl siding. Mr. Meola said, "pay attention to what their doing and do your own research". Also, Mr. Meola, said, "they have to record with Beaufort County what they are doing".

Hermitage Road Area, Phil Hodges, talked about the Walk for Water event he is participating in. He explained what the Walk for Water event was and encouraged the group to participate. He said he started his team just a few days ago. Pigeon Point is leading the way.

Lt. Squires asked regarding the issue at The Overlook how important it is to get the area developed. Resident said it's very important. Resident said they are advertising the houses for half the price. Mr. Meola asked what the average size being built is now and what was the average size being previously built. Resident said 1500 square feet for the new ones and 1800-2000 square feet for the previous ones. Ms. Stoff said she was thankful for the planning review board because they would have been moving out. She said she moved in the area in May and this was not disclosed to us. Mr. Meola said this development has been stagnant for three years. Mr. Meola said, planning wise, we look to see if the design standards are met and built according to the Building Codes. Lt. Squires asked, "who let's you know of a HOA when looking at the area"? Mrs. Stoff said the HOA did not disclose this to her. Ms. Rodgers asked if the City of Beaufort could maybe establish a specific statement to prevent this from happening again. Mr. Meola said it is the State Law. The new builder never contacted the HOA. The new development plan came before the DRB and doesn't preclude the HOA or builder to ask for changes. Mrs. Stoff said they will have to seek legal help.

Northwest Quadrant, Sue Saguai, said their meetings are starting up again. For the holidays, the Black Chamber is collecting toys for tots on December 15.

Old Commons, Mr. Harvey, said their association meeting is a covered dish tomorrow at 6 PM.

Pigeon Point, Kay Merrill, said the new restaurant, Shark Tank, is open now from 7:30 am to 9:00 pm and geared toward the USB students. They are located in the old Herban Market". She said if you bring your own mug, they hang it up there and your coffee will be discounted.

Regarding the Task Force for the kids' program; reached out to United Church but haven't received a response back.

Mrs. Harvey said there meeting was last month.

Ms. Merrill said the Pigeon Point neighborhood is having their 2nd annual picnic for the USCB students on October 20 at the Pigeon Point Park.

Next Meeting is October 16, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM