

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **February 21, 2018 at 10:10 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.

### **UNITED COMMUNITY TASK FORCE – MICHAEL PHELAN, COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS OFFICER**

Lt. Squires spoke before Officer Phelan about the United Community Task Force (UCTF) and mentioned that Officer Phelan decided to start this task force when he met Rev. Jack during a "shots fired" incident. Lt. Squires introduced Rev. Jack Bomer. Officer Phelan said he was doing some surveillance work when he met Rev. Jack. He said this is not about Rev. Jack's church but about the community. We've been working on this for a month now. One of things we have done is a "Listening Walk" which means we go knocking on the neighbors' doors reaching out to the members of our Community to learn about their interests and concerns and to invite them to join the UCTF as we seek to build a stronger community through education, engagement and empowerment.

Rev. Jack said he feels responsibility and accountability. He said there is an unfortunate presence of "shots being fired". We need to bring organizations together to help the young, he said. We also need to provide education for the youth. They have a false sense of acceptance with gangs and guns.

Officer Phelan said the kick off date for the UCTF is March 3 at Washington Street Park. We'll be hosting registration for families with children ages 10-18 to sign-up for the free sports skill building opportunity. We need more counselors and volunteers, if anyone is interested. Lt. Squires said volunteering/counseling and it doesn't have to be every day; we appreciate any help. Our Facebook Page has been created at [www.facebook/unitedcommunitytaskforce.com](http://www.facebook/unitedcommunitytaskforce.com). Tonight at 6 PM we are having a planning meeting regarding the kickoff event at 1508 Duke Street and tomorrow we will be having a second planning meeting about the Sports Skills Building at 6 PM at the same location as the first meeting. If you cannot make these meetings and want to be involved, please contact us through Facebook or email.

Cora Lee Shoemaker applauded the officers, Rev. Jack, and the Police Department. She said this is a great opportunity for the youths. Through her experience with her grandchildren she has come to learn that youths have a lot to say and want people to talk to about it.

Rev. Jack thanked Officer Phelan and Lt. Squires for their support as well as the Police Department.

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

**Waste Pro, Lamar Taylor**, talked about the pad work being done at the Waterfront Park for the new trash compactor. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone that Waste Pro's new webpage is up and running.

**The Greenery, Lamar Taylor**, said plantings did not do well in our cold weather and not sure what will come back. Larry Kaczowka from The Greenery said a lot of plantings were damaged from the hurricanes and the cold weather. Grass will not be fertilized until after Easter. He assured everyone that the “grass” is not dead but just sleeping so be patient and wait to fertilize it.

Andy Roberts said he was thankful for the flag being replaced at the Waterfront Park.

**Southern Palmetto Landscape, Blake Austin**, said we are having the same issues with plantings and the weather. We will be working on the Depot Trail station.

**City Public Works Department, Lamar Taylor**. Resident asked about the drainage on Prince Street, addressed a year ago, and if the concrete can come out yet? Mr. Taylor said we had a meeting yesterday with DOT and 3 people involved have resigned, so we can't move forward until there are people back in the office.

Mr. Taylor went over the following:

- Staff created 12 additional parking places at the Spanish Moss Trailhead at Depot. *Edie Rodgers said cars are parked on the right-of-way and it's hazardous. Mr. Taylor said it's not organized;*
- Staff cut back the right-of-way along the Spanish Moss Trail (large limbs, shrubs, overhangs, grass encroachments). Also, repaired several “wash out” areas (rip rap, sod);
- 3 sink holes at Waterfront Park;
- Stormdrain repairs at East/Hancock; work around Pinckney/Hancock, too; and
- 2 new hires: Robbie Richardson and Miguel Canella-Pena in Stormwater.

Mr. Taylor went over questions that were asked at the last meeting (January):

1. Mr. Symes said the fountain at Charlie Knott Park was not working. *There was a previous agreement that the residents would make repairs to the fountain. Due to maintenance issues with this fountain, PW staff was going to pull out the “fountain” mechanism and use the fountain as a planter. Residents of the Point wanted the water fountain and agreed to the maintenance and repairs. Public Works turned it over in perfect working order.*
2. Bladen Street/Duke Street: It was questioned that this is a dangerous intersection due to site obstructions. *The City has requested multiple times to approve a 4-way stop here. It was turned down each time. Just not feasible. Public Work's staff recommends the removal of the 4 Palmetto trees and replace them with lower shrubs. This should assist in the site view being more open.* Mr. Roberts asked, “what is DOT's specific objection”? Mr. Taylor said, “traffic count”.
3. Parking needs at Southside Park. *Public Works staff was approved for a budget for the Dog Park parking area which will start very soon. Also, parking is being addressed in the*

*“grant” for the trail at this park. We also received a request to allow soccer games weekly at the middle green which would also require staff to review the parking. This is being discussed by multiple departments (Brian Franklin) and we should have an answer soon.*

Questions from Old Commons Neighborhood Meeting:

1. Potholes near Methodist Church where joint COB and SCDOT have the drainage repairs on-going at Scott/North. *Resident wants to know when project is to be completed, and when can potholes be repaired.*
2. Complaints of standing water at the intersection of Scott/Craven Street. They stated the water never dries up. It was investigated to see if the house that sits there had an over indulgent irrigation – nothing was found. *Beaufort-Jasper Water did lay a pipe in this area some time back and this is when the standing water started. It was hoped with the SCDOT repaving of Craven would eliminate the issue; it has not.*
3. When will Carteret Street paving being? *May of this year.*

Mr. Roberts asked about repairing pavers at the Waterfront Park dock area; 3 sink holes in 3 weeks.

Resident at 808 Newcastle Street said Waste Pro has not picked up her yard debris in six weeks. Mr. Taylor said he will call them.

Mr. Taylor said there will be new mast arm signals going up at Bay & Bladen and then 170.

Mr. Taylor said Council approved the Engineering for the Mossy Oaks area and other drainage issues as well.

Barbara Nash asked, “what do I do if I see debris left on vacant lots”? Mr. Taylor said to contact Ken Meola, City Codes Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Taylor reminded the group to call him directly at 843-986-5625, if there is no answer at the main number.

**City Fire Marshall, Tim Ogden,** reminded the group of the City’s burn cycle. You can burn four times a year (March, April, November, and December). You must get a permit from the Fire Department that is good for one week. If you had a burn permit before, you will need to renew it. The number to call for a burn permit is 843-522-7055. Mr. Ogden said the Fire Department installed 80 smoke alarms. We partner with Red Cross and go door-to-door on Saturdays. Ms. Rodgers asked, “should we put this in our neighborhood newsletters”? Yes, it would great, Mr. Ogden said. Edna Horn said her friend was very happy with this service and said the fireman were all very friendly.

**City Police Department, Lt. Squires**, spoke about the Listening Walk. He said there are currently no crime trends. He did say there are some phone scams going on and to be aware about giving out personal information. Also, the ATM skimming is still going on. He reminded the group to look over the ATM machines at gas stations; use common sense; and don't forget the "9 O'clock Program". Lt. Squires said he thought his card was "skimmed" last week, but it was actually a small piece of plastic from the last person's transaction, but he did inform the clerk inside the gas station.

Peggy Simmer said in Ohio where she lived, there is a scam going on that someone will ring your door bell and then while you're talking another person will go around the back and rob you.

Lt. Squires said to always call us if you feel something is not right. The number to call is 843-2777. He just found out the 9 O'clock Program is nationwide; this is fantastic!

Joan Sedlacek said she had experienced a phone scam awhile back. She received a call from the same place her grandson lived and after a few minutes of talking to this person, he started asking for money and mentioning lawyers, she realized it was not her grandson. She called the police and now her and her grandson have a "code" word. Lt. Squires said his family has a "code" word and it a good thing to do.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola**. Resident asked how we can get people to clean their backyards with snakes. Mr. Meola said some people like the "natural" privacy look and it's a fine line. If it's coming onto another property, he can look into, he said. Resident said it's a rental and we can't seem to get them to take care of the trees. Nigel Stroud asked about the vacant lot requirements. Mr. Stroud said the address is 2725 Oaklawn Drive. Mr. Meola said he's familiar with it and will look at it again. Ms. Anderson offered to help if needed. Mr. Meola told Mr. Stroud he could be reached on his cell phone at 842-263-6792 8:00 to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday as well as email at [kmeola@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:kmeola@cityofbeaufort.org).

**City Planning Department, Libby Anderson**, talked about Whitehall and said it received conceptual approval from the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) on February 19. There is a Lady's Island Plan Meeting tonight at 6:00 PM at Beaufort High School. Ms. Anderson said there are flyers available with more information. Ms. Rodgers said she attended the MPC meeting on the 19. She found it amusing that the people complaining about traffic impact have been living here for 4 years; they made an impact when "they" came, too. Ms. Anderson said the Traffic Impact Study for Sea Island Parkway is on the Capital Sales Tax in November. Phil Hodges asked, "are there anymore annexations"? Ms. Anderson said yes, but its commercial businesses to fill in the "donut holes" on Sea Island Parkway.

Ms. Anderson went over the items listed on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBOA) for February 26 agenda:

1. 2811 Boundary Street – new collision center;

2. Applebee's – owner is requesting a curb cut;
3. 900 Duke St – request for an accessory dwelling unit; and
4. 130 Elliott St – building addition

Ms. Anderson said the Retail Frontage Overlay that is being applied to the old Jail is on Council's agenda on Tuesday, February 27.

In January we had permits for:

- 3 new houses;
- Newcastle Street Apartments;
- 1094 Ribaut Road remodel;
- CO Craven Cottage – new hotel; and
- Walmart – grocery pick up

**City Planning Department, Brian Franklin**, said Southside Park Trail project was awarded and the contractor; breaking ground next week. Regarding Boundary Street, palms are going in by the end of the week. Regarding the Old Commons – planting street trees for their anniversary. Also, PTAC will be meeting on Feb. 22.

Lt. Squires is concerned about the “No Right Turn” at SC 170 and Boundary St at the light; its not straight and people may not realize they cannot make a turn on red.

Mr. Roberts asked what is going on passed the Copeland Funeral Home. Ms. Anderson said it is a new Discount Tire business.

Chuck Symes asked if signage could be put up to discourage people from parking in The Point near Port Republic & New Street. He would like the sign not to be enforced so residents are not forced to have a parking pass. Ms. Anderson said this has been an issue over the years. Lt. Squires said this would have to be approved by the City and possibly DOT and enforced by the Police Department. Maybe a sign on your property would be better, he said. Mr. Symes agreed to start with this. Ms. Simmer said she is on the Parking Advisory with Linda Roper who works for the City of Beaufort and she can contact her. Mr. Symes said he will contact her too.

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

**Northwest Quadrant, Dave Easton**, said we had a great meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> with Deborah Johnson, Councilman McFee and Ken Meola. It was good to see the group together.

**Old Commons, Peggy Simmer**, said they are having a 15-year anniversary coming up this Saturday, March 3, from 11 am – 2 pm. Also, we are working on a Beautification event. On May 12 we will be having a fundraiser. Our 1<sup>st</sup> fundraiser was to restore the Sons of Beaufort Lodge and now this fundraiser will be to buy the Sons of Beaufort Lodge.

Mr. Hodges commented that along the Spanish Moss Trail the trees look great! He said last time it was a “slaughter”, no thinking involved. Ms. Simmer said Robbie Anderson was great out there. Mr. Hodges thanked Ms. Anderson for letting the group know about the variances.

Ms. Anderson said the Neighborhood Association Meeting in March or April will be at night and possibly in the new Fire Station. This will be a good opportunity to tour the new station.

Next Meeting is March 21, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.