

A meeting of the Neighborhood Associations was held on **August 21, 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.

#### **FOUR FUN FACTS – Heather Spade, Planning Tech, Planning Department**

Heather Spade, Planning Tech, went over her four fun facts for Beaufort that included SC Turtle Hatching Season, Hunting Island State Park, Parking Apps, and The Point Neighborhood once being a big shipyard. (See attached Ms. Spade's presentation).

#### **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE AND PRESENTATION – CAPTAIN GEORGE ERDEL**

Captain George Erdel introduced himself and talked about his background. He has been promoted to Captain due to the retirement of Captain Rob Carson this October. He said the information is going over today is both from his experience and what he has learned. He reminded everyone to take pictures of all their valuable items as well as writing down serial numbers. Each county has a coordinator and he is the coordinator for the City of Beaufort, he said. Captain Erdel went over the Hurricane Updates and Presentation via PowerPoint which included how emergency management works locally; the changes in the UPCONS; the Hurricane Categories; and the common types of water and wind damage. He referred to the 2018 Horry County intercoastal waterway flooding that was from Hurricane Florence. He explained what the public officials are doing to be prepared for future storms. He reminded the group what they can do prior to a storm and what their emergency kit should contain. He also went over how to prepare your house before the storm. He reminded the group about the importance of evacuation. He also reminded them what would happen if someone did not choose to evacuate. Capt. Erdel went over the following resource apps: SC 511 (for traffic conditions/traffic cameras); Waze (driving conditions such as accidents); Glympse (this is good to broadcast your location to family and friends so they know when you will be arriving or if you are traveling and have more than 1 car on the road); iExit (you can see what's coming up on an exit); Gas Buddy (most accurate for gas prices); and Tripadvisor (hotel reviews and reservations). Capt. Erdel went over the impact that Irma and Matthew had on the lowcountry. Regarding re-entry, (after a hurricane), this is controlled by the Sheriff's Office. Resident said people don't evacuate because they can't get back in and asked if the City could put something together, so residents *are* allowed to come back sooner. Capt. Erdel said this is being discussed at every meeting he's had, but the County controls this. For re-entry, it's our job to get the life critical equipment back up and running first, he said. Capt. Erdel said we have a Four TIER Re-Entry System that includes four tiers (Tier One - first responders (Fire, Police and Public Works), Tier Two - Life Safety & Infrastructure, Tier Three - Support Personnel (grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies), Tier Four - residents are allowed back in. He agrees that we need to get the tiers done quicker. If you are one of the persons in the tier like a pharmacists, you can request a pass.

Chief Reece Bertholf with the City Fire Department said regarding the resident's comment, he said the State Statute maintains the County's emergency for hurricanes and he will need to reach out to their State Representative.

Capt. Erdel said it's important to get accurate information. He recommended the following free apps:

- The Police Department's Facebook Page
- The Fire Department's Facebook Page
- Nixel (this is for city's emergencies; different from the County's)
- Nextdoor (social media for neighborhoods)
- Zello – (Walkie Talkie app)

Chief Bertholf said the Fire Department supports Nixel, too. Capt. Erdel said the Nextdoor app lets you share information with the Police Department, and it is anonymous. We use the Nextdoor app for events such as the Hurricane Preparedness Fair taking place at Lowe's this Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Barbara Radar from the Glebe said the Beaufort County app is not good. There was a tornado watch alert and she received it 48 hours later. Also, she said having wipes in your hurricane kit are essential; work great! Capt. Erdel said it's good to have more than one source of information. The SC Emergency Management App is very good. He agreed that wipes *are* a great item to have.

Captain Erdel thanked the group for letting him give his presentation and said if they had any questions they can contact him at [gerdel@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:gerdel@cityofbeaufort.org) or 843-322-7958.

(See attached Captain Erdel's presentation).

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

**The Greenery, Brandon Duitsman**, said the Waterfront Park has been mulched after the Water Festival and the park is coming back nicely. He finished plantings at the dock and pavilion. The fall annuals will be done the first of October.

Resident asked about the tabby walls down on Bay Street on the water side. He said there are trees and scrub shrubbery growing into the tabby structure which is historic. He asked if it can be cleaned. Mr. Duitsman asked for the location. Resident said it's down by the Bluff on Bay Street. Rhonda Carey with Downtown Operations said this may be the Open Land Trust area.

**City Public Works Department, Neil Desai**, said the park and playgrounds are active and in full swing. Bike signs have been installed on the Spanish Moss Trail. The Southside Park trail signs

are on order. There will be a concrete table installed at Pigeon Point park in October. Regarding Twin Lakes, the contractor has been called today and to get things going.

**Director of Public Projects and Facilities, Neil Desai**, said Mr. St. Clair could not make the meeting today. Mr. Desai talked about the Greenlawn Streetscape. He said the Arsenal roof will be done in September. He talked about the barge at the Waterfront Park and the work on the pylons. Resident from Twin Lakes asked when will the clean out begin. Mr. Desai said it will begin with the construction of the outfall. Resident asked if deepening of both lakes would be done. Mr. Desai said yes it will. The resident said he was told Public Works will have to come through his yard and he's been waiting for two years now and hasn't had a garden. Chuck Symes asked about the area near New Street and Duke Street that is filled with gravel; needs something more. Dennis Harvey said on Duke Street between Carteret and Charles Street there are 100% potholes to happen; serious deterioration. Mr. Desai said he will look into this.

**Director of Down Operations, Ronda Carey**, said the representative from Waste Pro could not be here today but she can answer questions. She passed out some Waste Pro Post-It Notes and refrigerator magnets. Ms. Carey said regarding hurricanes, please wait until you have heard the Waste Pro protocol to put out storm debris. Resident said he has several large Amazon boxes he put out by the recycle bin, because they wouldn't fit into the bin, but Waste Pro did not take them. Ms. Carey said you will have to flatten them if possible; must be in the recycle container. If they are too bulky, you can call Waste Pro for a "bulk" pickup which are only on Saturdays. Ms. Carey said the new management team for the downtown marina is Safe Harbor and they've been with us since early August. Ms. Carey said she is working with the Beaufort County School District with the new app, Purposity and will be contacting neighborhood associations to get on their meeting agendas to speak about this. She said this app allows people to help out a student in need and its anonymous. For example, if a family has a fire and a student needs a new pair of sneakers, you can order them and have them delivered to the student's home. Resident said he did have a submission but there were some glitches. Ms. Carey said she is aware of this and we are looking into it. Ms. Carey introduced her department's new support person, Tara Hodges. Ms. Sagui asked how she can contact Ms. Carey. My contact information, Ms. Carey said, is [rcarey@cityofbeaufort.org](mailto:rcarey@cityofbeaufort.org) with the Downtown Operations and Community Service. You can also access us by going onto the City's website.

Resident asked what is being done to address the homeless because they are quite a few now downtown. Ms. Carey said unfortunately there isn't anything we can do; no crimes have been done by them. We haven't had any crime by them. But if you do see anything, please report it to the Police Department. Resident said it is unnerving; yesterday they were quite a few and public urinating. Other resident said early in the morning under the pavilion, they are being loud and pushing each other; out of control. Ms. Carey recommending calling the non-emergency Police Department number at 843-524-2777.

**City Fire Department, Jeff Anderson, Fire Marshall**, said regarding hurricanes, propane tanks are a problem; need to be secured; fireplace propane tanks should be grounded. He recommended securing things that could be projectile and/or float. He said re-entry is hard

because after the storm sometimes there is only one lane in and out; lots of debris; no stores or gas stations are open; roads are blocked. Chief Reece Bertholf said the SC 170 Fire Station is finally complete and a grand opening will be during the cooler months around September/October. All neighborhood associations will be included in the invitation.

**City Police Department, Ken Meola**, said no one was available to attend today's meeting. Ms. Sagui asked who will be replacing Officer Phelan. Mr. Meola said he will check into this and let the group know.

**Building Codes, Ken Meola**, said Bruce Skipper was unable to attend today's meeting but wanted to remind the group to check their flood policy's insurance its hurricane season.

**Codes Enforcement, Ken Meola**, said regarding the pink house at 1310 Duke Street, engineering is being done and should be for sale soon. Regarding the back yard where someone is living, he will be out of there by the end of the month, Mr. Meola said. The property owner did a lot of work here, especially in the back yard. She may be open to help, now. Ms. Merrill said, we're ready and thanked Mr. Meola for his attention to this.

**City Planning Department, Ken Meola**, talked about the two new hotels, Home 2 Suites and Tru Hotel.

Ms. Merrill asked for an update on the new Publix. Mr. Meola said he talked to the developer about the site work, but hasn't heard anything else. Ms. Merrill also asked about the lot at Boundary & Charles Street. Mr. Meola said he hasn't heard about anything happening there. Ms. Merrill said when the student parking is done, will there be a plan for the lot across from the bank. Mr. Meola said yes, but not sure what yet.

**Lise Sundral from BAHA** encouraged everyone to attend the City Council September 6 worksession because she will be giving a report from their task force regarding short-term rentals. Ms. Sundral said Ms. Sagui asked her to send this out to the neighborhood associations to help get the word out. Port Royal and the County also have task forces.

Mike McFee, Councilman, said Council is back from their summer vacation and their first meeting will be August 26.

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

**Dixon Village Rep** asked about the lot with the *french* drain between Prince Street and Ribaut Road. Mr. Desai said it's on SCDOT's radar. There are a few options were looking at. Resident said its extremely dangerous especially when it rains.

**The Glebe Rep** said Beaufort Elementary School anchors one of the neighborhoods and their cooling tower is getting louder and louder. One neighbor is working with the school and has talked to the manufacturer. Mr. Meola thanked the resident for bringing this to his attention.

**Old Commons, Dennis Harvey**, said their meetings are starting up again in September.

Next Meeting is September 18, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM