

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

MAY 22, 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Grove Park, Oakliegh 111, Poplar Estates, Bromely Foster, Dogwood Creek, English Meadows, Duntreath, and sweet Oaks. 21 people signed in.

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Michelle (filling in for Chair Person Sherry Hicks)

Welcome and Introductions; Alderman Greg Marcom was Present and recognized.

Presentation of Minutes; Minutes were presented and approved as presented.

Guest Speaker; Michelle introduced Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, to present the proposed new City Budget and the new Capital Improvements Plan for fiscal year 2015. Patrick noted that we have two major Funds, The General fund and Revenue Funds. The new School Budget is a special Revenue fund.

The General fund is 47,638,757 which is an 8.4% increase over fiscal year 14 estimate. The largest increase came from the new sales tax of .05%. Patrick showed a pie chart which revealed what each source represents of the total. Property Tax represents 60% of the total, Sales tax is 20 %, License and fees are 7%. General fund expenses are 44,893,300 which is an 11.2% increase in expenses. Some of this increase is the addition of three School Resource Officers who will be responsible for safety in our schools. Other factors are the costs involved in settling the lawsuit over our Municipal Schools and our State mandated obligation to fund our schools. Patrick stated that Germantown is in excellent financial health. We will maintain our AAA Bond Rating which is significant because it means lower interest rates on borrowed funds.

Patrick explained that funding from Shelby County based on average attendance will not be received until early next year so the city is fronting money to carry the schools until that funding begins. A question came from the audience, "If Shelby County passed a .05% county sales tax, how would that effect Germantown sales tax revenue?" Patrick replied that it would be somewhat detrimental to us because the amount received back from the county would be less than what we now receive from our own tax. Patrick discussed the enterprise funds and noted that due to reduced usage of water our cost has gone up which will result in an increase in water bills. The other revenue funds are in good shape.

Patrick introduced Butch Eder who presented our Capital Improvements Plan. We will fund 26 projects with a total of \$9,118,000. Included in these projects are \$413,000 for expansion of the Animal Shelter, \$300,000 for GPAC lighting improvements, \$115,000 for Office Space Configuration, \$250,000 for GPAC Entrance Drive and Parking improvements, \$250,000 North East Corner of Farmington/Germantown Road Intersection, \$1,350,000 Wolf River Blvd Milling and Paving (80% of this is State Money), \$80,000 Design update on Germantown Road realignment (90% of this is State funded), \$600,000 Culvert6 replacement on Poplar Avenue Phase 111 (100% of this is state and federal funding), \$310,000 McVay Road and Bridge Right of way Acquisition (80% of this is State Funded), \$100,000 Wolf River Blvd & Germantown Road Improvement design (100% State Funded), \$30,000 West Street Rail road Crossing improvement (Carryover from FY 2014), \$25,000 Bicycle Facilities Program, \$54,000 School Zone Improvements (Carry over from FY 14), \$50,000 Cost sharing program on Decorative Street Signs, \$100,000 each for Drainage Improvements to Cameron Brown Park and Grove Park Lake, \$610,000 English Meadows Drainage Improvements, \$910,000 from Phase 11 of Bobby Lanier Farm Park Improvement, & \$1,325,000 Wolf river Greenway Trail Extension (80% State funded), \$1,250,000 Athletic Club improvements construction, \$250,000 Athletic weight equipment purchase (Purchase instead of leasing), \$125,000 Great Hall Patio construction, \$50,000 Tennis center lighting upgrades, \$100,000

Miscellaneous Drainage Improvements, \$225,000 North Johnson road sewer Lift Station Rerouting, \$105,000 Farm Park Sewer Extension.

Neighborhood Association Report; Billy Brown gave a report on Poplar estates Homeowners Association. The Association was founded in the early 1960's and is still going strong. With 908 homes in their area they have from 340 to 360 paid members each year with dues of \$25.00. They have five membership meetings (Parties) per year. Much effort is put into making these fun events and the usual attendance is 55 to 80 people. They publish five newsletters each year and have an active email chain and a good website. All events and happenings are well publicized. A membership Booklet is published each year with paid members, officers and board members names, addresses and phone numbers and mailed to paid members only. They maintain a landscaped front gate, sponsor a neighborhood Garage sale each October, and a Holiday lighting contest for all homes in the neighborhood (which encourages people to decorate their homes). They do special fundraising events where neighbors can have a special smoked turkey breast for Thanksgiving, a smoked & glazed spiral ham for Easter and a barbeque pork butt for Labor Day simply by ordering and making a specified donation to the Neighborhood improvement fund. They like most other voluntary Associations must work hard to keep membership up and to recruit good officers.

Joe Nunes Planning Commission; A Site plan was approved for a development at the corner of Neshoba and Germantown Rd. This includes retail and a Hotel. They are also looking at plans for a parking lot expansion at Forest Hill Baptist Church. The Commission will be looking at preliminary plans and zoning requests for property in the western gateway area and a [plan for a medical building on property adjacent to Walgreens at West St and Germantown Rd.

Neighborhood services report; We track concerns from Citizens as well as the time it takes to satisfy those concerns. We are showing improvement in most areas. In our solid waste the target was met for household trash and recycling collection. Satisfaction with service requests declined due to the work stoppage that resulted in excessive service issues.

Sherry Harris Announcements; The Farm Park farmers market will start up soon. Make plans to attend the July 4th festivities at Municipal Park. The Police Dept. asked us to announce that people are moving around the city looking for unlocked doors on cars and houses. To leave these open is an invitation to thieves to steal.

Adjourn; The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM

Respectfully submitted by Billy D Brown