

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

May 28, 2009

Council Chambers
Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Dogwood Creek South, Duntreath, Farmington Glen, Mimosa Gardens, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Sweet Oaks, Winchester Forest Hill Estates.

Call to Order: Chairman Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Billy recognized first time visitors from the Allenby Lakes and Dogwood Creek South. Alderman John Drinnon was also recognized.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 26, 2009 meeting were approved as written. A correction was made to the Agenda. The next meeting of CONA will be held July 23, 2009 and not May 28, 2009.

Guest Speakers:

Butch Eder, Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Manager gave an analysis of the proposed projects for the 2010 Fiscal Year. An eleven page handout detailed the projects separating the following categories: Economic Recovery Projects which are 100% Federally Funded; Surface Transportation Projects which are 100% State Funded; Surface Transportation Projects which are 80% State and 20% Local Funded; and General Government, Major Roads, Intersections and Other, Drainage, Parks, and Utilities Projects which will be paid for with a combination of Local, State, and Federal Funds. A total of 30 projects are being proposed for the FY 10 CIP Program at a cost of \$15,637,000. One of the proposed parks projects is construction of an outdoor amphitheater at a cost of \$250,000. A question was raised as to the advisability of pursuing this project during these tough economic times.

Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, made a handout available and gave a power point presentation which explained in detail the City of Germantown's proposed FY10 Budget. This \$67 million budget passed its first reading on May 11. Key points of the budget which demonstrate Germantown's fiscal health are: 1) There has been no property tax increase for 7 years; 2) Germantown still has a Standard and Poor's Triple AAA Bond Rating; and 3) The budget is balanced. The public hearing on the budget will be held on June 8 at 7 p.m. in the Germantown Municipal Center.

Henry Evans, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board, distributed an explanatory handout and gave an overview of PILOTs and proposed changes to the Board's charter. PILOTs (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) are coordinated with Shelby County and enable companies that build in Germantown to have taxes deferred or forgiven for a certain number of years. Four have been granted and three are still in existence. The change in the charter will enable the Board to consider more than PILOTs in order to have some financing alternatives. TIFs (Tax Increment Financing Bonds) or SABs (Special Assessment Bonds) may be used only for projects dedicated for public use, they must be approved by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, they will apply strictly to the Smart Growth Area, the buyer of the bond assumes the full risk, and they are only for institutional investors.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee presented the monthly Crime/Activity and reminded us that *54 is the number to call for Germantown Police from your cell phone. He reminded us that traffic saturation and strict enforcement work to keep crime down. In regard to teens he said that

Curfew is 11 p.m. for 17 year olds on weekdays and Midnight on weekends. For those younger than 17, curfew is 10 p.m. on week days and 11 p.m. on weekends.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy gave an update on recent City/County consolidation efforts/macro government. Mayor A.C. Wharton, Deidre Malone, and Myron Lowery are hosting listening sessions around the county because a proposed vote on consolidation next year will have to be passed by both city voters and county voters in separate elections. Consolidation would create a huge bureaucracy, and Germantown's representation would probably be limited to one person. Standing in the way of consolidation is the very culture of how government is pictured as a provider of jobs in Memphis City and the County versus Germantown's stress on efficiency, service, and "Excellence, every day".

CONA Special Events Coordinator's Report: Rebecca DeRousse, Neighborhood Preservation Commission chair, announced a new event, "Germantown Cares", to be held Saturday, September 19. Neighborhoods, civic clubs, and churches may select a project and participate in a day of caring to help an individual or group in Germantown or the Shelby County community. There will be end of day festivities planned in conjunction with Pops in the Park. More information is available on Germantown's Web Site. October 22, 2009 is the date for the Neighborhood Leaders Conference.

Neighborhood Services: Sherrye Rhea gave the Neighborhood Services Report in place of Joe Nunes who was on vacation. She said that the number of building permits issued for home improvements is down. There has been an increase in trash and refuse violation notices. She asked that we remind homeowners that building materials cannot be put in bags with yard refuse, and that plastic pots from nurseries cannot go in with yard debris. Trash cans should not be able to be seen from the street when in their normal everyday positions. Residents are asked to be mindful of the height of their grass. There is now a watch list for persistent violators of the grass height ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea announced that Neighborhood Night Out will be Tuesday, October 6, with a Rain Date of October 13.

Other Announcements: Alderman John Drinnon reported that there are three vacancies on the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. Applications for membership on this commission may be obtained online or by contacting Michele Betty, 757-7275, in the administration office. It was also announced that Books by Mail are available through the Library and the Senior Commission working together.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M. The next meeting will be July 23, 2009.