

## **COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

**March 26, 2009**

Council Chambers  
Germantown Municipal Center

**Neighborhood Associations Represented:** Allenby Lakes, Bromley, Dogwood Creek South, Forest Hill Estates, Germantown Trails, Galway Green, Gardens of Oakleigh, The Highlands, Kimbrough Green, Kimbrough Grove, Mimosa Gardens, Neshoba North, Oakleigh III, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Village of Germantown, and Winchester Forest Hill Estates.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Billy recognized first time visitors from the Allenby Lakes Homeowners Association.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

### **Guest Speaker:**

David Pickler, Chairman of the Shelby County Board of Education, reported on the state of the Shelby County Schools in Germantown. He announced that the Board has appointed John Aitken as the new Superintendent of Schools. He also reported that a balanced budget which includes no raises and no new sales tax revenues has been approved. Funding issues are still a problem, and discussions are continuing, but he foresees no solutions from the State Legislature this year. The School Board's appeal of Judge Bernice Donald's ruling has not yet been decided by the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal. It has been eight months, and the Board has heard nothing. Pickler indicated that the Board of Education must win this appeal. Southwind High School will have all four grades in 2010, and Memphis has plans to annex that area (and the school) in 2011-2013. While there is no way of knowing exact numbers, Pickler said that approximately 1/3 of Germantown students attend private schools. However, there has been a noticeable migration back into the public schools with the worsening of the economy. Germantown High's International Baccalaureate Program can accept only 82 students per year. A future goal is to have this program in all Shelby County High Schools, and it will be started at Bolton next year. Redistricting for the coming year will have no effect on any Germantown School. No new school construction is in the works, but Dogwood and Farmington Elementary need renovation and Germantown Middle School is not far behind. An East Tennessee case, which is significant, deals with local school boards' right to appoint a superintendent rather than holding an election. As far as annexation by the City of Memphis, if an area is annexed before December 31, the school becomes a city school the following July. If it is annexed after December 31, it stays in the County system for another year. In answering a question on school transfers, Pickler said that because of legal limitations, no majority student may transfer out of a minority school. As for length of time that transfer approvals last, elementary school transfers are decided one year at a time, but approved high school transfers are for all the remaining high school years. He also announced that Tennessee is 45<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 states in per pupil school funding, and Shelby County is \$415 below the state average.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy reported on the financial status of the city. Sales tax collections have been short of expectations through the month of February. Sales tax revenue makes up 54% of the budget. Sales tax collections for the month of December were off \$10,000 compared to December 2007. Property tax collection is not of grave concern. Retail/office vacancy rates are 10-11% currently. In the fall they were 8-9%. However, two

strong businesses are scheduled to open soon. To meet the budget challenge, last fall all departments except fire and police cut their budgets by 3%, and outsourcing was utilized. The city is on track to finish the fiscal year in the black, and there should be no property tax increase for the sixth year in a row. The city is due to receive \$2 million for roads and infrastructure improvements from the State that does not necessitate matching funds. This money will be used to repave Farmington Blvd., continue Wolf River Blvd. improvements, and traffic signals.

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee presented the monthly Crime/Activity Report and reported that burglaries continue to be down. He stated that there is a direct correlation between strict traffic enforcement and the decrease in burglaries. Germantown has a new Public Service Trailer that will be used at events.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes announced that on the agenda for the April 7 Planning Commission meeting are a gate for the Garner Woods Subdivision, a slight amendment to the lighting and landscape plans for Saddle Creek IV, and a discussion of private street conversion to public streets and vice-versa.

Neighborhood Services: Joe Nunes reminded everyone that Amnesty Day is April 18 from 7:30 to 12:45 in two locations. Residents may bring old TVs and paper to be shredded to the Johnson Road location. Decorative street signs are to be installed in 11 neighborhoods by mid-June. Joe reminded everyone for the need for permits for building remodeling and outdoor work.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Concerns and Updates: Russell John Johnson announced the Spring Community Forum on Crime Prevention sponsored by Leadership Germantown Alumni Association on April 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea announced that on Good Friday City offices will be closed but the regular garbage schedule will be in effect. Memorial Day will be both a City office and garbage collection holiday. She also announced the dates of the upcoming CERT classes and the start of disc golf at Johnson Road Park and pickle ball at Riverdale Park. Sherrye asked that associations let their members know in advance when streets will be closed due to events. She reminded everyone to be sure to attend the April 26 Neighborhood Preservation Commission's Tour of Renovated Homes and Landscapes from 2 -5 p.m. on April 26. Addresses of featured homes can be found at various locations in the city.

Other Announcements: Associations were asked to please notify Jack Langenfelder of changes in officers.

Neshoba North Neighborhood Association will hold a Chili Cook-Off Contest on Monday, May 4.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. The next meeting will be May 28, 2009.