

## COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

May 22, 2008

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

**Neighborhood Associations Represented:** Allenby Lakes, Bavarian Village, Dogwood Grove, Forest Hill Estates. Germantown Heights, Germantown Trails, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Park, 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 7:01 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Billy recognized first time visitors from Kimbrough Grove, Sweet Oaks, and Germantown Heights. Aldermen Drinnon and Palazzolo were also in attendance as well as reporters from the Commercial Appeal and the Shelby Sun Times.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March 27 meeting were approved as written.

### **Guest Speakers:**

Butch Eder, CIP Manager, highlighted through a Power Point Presentation and a handout the main proposed capital improvements which will be presented for approval to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in June. These proposed improvements for Fiscal Year 2009 are grouped under the headings of General Government, Major Roads, Intersections, Drainage, Parks, and Utilities. Included in the 35 projects are: finishing the Neighborhood Planning Initiatives in the Moore/Arthur/Riggs and Mimosa Gardens neighborhoods, work on the Wolf River Blvd. right-of-way and Germantown Road realignment design, funding for decorative street signs, Miller Farms Drainage Improvements, acquisition of additional park land, and upsizing of the Miller Farms Sewer Outfall. Germantown's share of the cost for these improvements would be \$13,588,000, and the State's share would be \$22,420,000.

Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, distributed a handout, City of Germantown Proposed FY09 Budget in Brief. He announced that there will be no property tax increase for the sixth year in a row. The largest expense is for public safety. The water rate will be lowered slightly, but this will be offset by a \$.80 a month raise in the garbage collection fee beginning July 1, 2008. The Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget will be June 9 at the Municipal Center. He stressed that Germantown is still striving to run the City in the most efficient possible way so that Germantown's public sector will match the efficiency of the private sector.

### **Old Business:**

**Special Events Coordinator's Report:** Barbara Olmsted reported that 600 people visited the 6 homes and Germantown High School on Sunday, April 27 during the annual Remodeled Homes and Landscape Tour. She announced that she will no longer be able to serve in her position because she and her husband are moving out of state.

**Mayor's Report:** Patrick Lawton gave Mayor Goldsworthy's Report in her absence. He discussed the Planning Commission Subcommittee's progress in the development plans for the Arthur Tract and Germantown's Smart Growth goal of providing financial stability for the city and a healthy tax base. He also reviewed the Public/Private Partnership Policy in which the City and Developers work to keep the community informed. The City lobbied to influence the State Legislature, particularly regarding the Cable Bill. The

result was the preservation of the franchise fee to the city, support for educational television, and stronger customer service in the bill. The City also worked in the State Legislature to be sure the state did not balance its budget at the expense of the cities. Patrick also announced that the Poplar/Riverdale road improvements are at least 60 days away from completion because of collapsed drainage pipes on Poplar Avenue.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes announced that the Planning Commission will take up the Saddle Creek/Arthur Property Development at its June 3 Meeting.

Neighborhood Services: Joe Nunes presented a handout which compared Code Compliance Activity for the first quarter of 2007 with the first quarter of 2008 and the 2006-2008 Recycle Volume Comparisons. In addition there was a summary of the number of complaints from the Citizen Action Center. Joe noted the department's work in notices to homeowners concerning grass height and property maintenance. He announced that the city is giving Cardboard Recycling a test trial at the current time and should begin it for the entire city within 30 to 60 days. He also announced that the bid for this year's Decorative Street Signs has gone out. There are currently three cases in court against homeowners in Germantown Park and Mimosa Gardens.

Police Report: Lt. Ed McGee distributed the Monthly Crime/Activity Reports for the months of February and March. He announced that his office hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday if he can be of assistance. He said that having police cars in the "hot spots" has been effective, and he urged everyone to have a sheet with the serial numbers of the high value items that they own. This enables Police to match pawn shop records and identify stolen items.

#### **New Business:**

Association Concerns: There were no concerns expressed.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea announced that this year Neighborhood Night Out will be October 7. Also, CERT Training can be presented during the summer for a Neighborhood Association if there are 15 participants. Call her to schedule.

Upcoming fun events for the city are the Germantown Charity Horse Show and the Concerts in the Park. The whole family will enjoy, "Touch a Truck" at the Germantown Library on Saturday, May 31

Instructions were distributed detailing how to access the Commercial Appeal's Web Site that details the Germantown Budget.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will be July 25, 2008.