

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

May 26, 2005

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Allenby Lakes, Forest Hill Estates, Fox Creek, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown Station, Hobbits Glen, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Woods, Nashoba Plantation, Poplar Estates, Poplar Grove, Riggs/Arthur, Riverchase, Waverly Crossing, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

CALL TO ORDER: Luci Cromer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Luci Cromer welcomed first time guests from Nashoba Plantation, Poplar Grove, and Fountain Square.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Julie Goebel, Research and Budget Analyst, presented the 2004 Germantown Community Survey Results. The survey was distributed to citizens last November and is a good tool for knowing what citizens want. The response rate was 35%, which is a good sample. The results are as follows:
Citizens satisfaction with services – 67% are very satisfied
Responsiveness to citizens – 62% very satisfied
Administrative leadership – 57% very satisfied
Efficiency – 43% very satisfied
Specific issues of concern identified by residents were retaining the residential character of Germantown and improving traffic flow. 78% of the residents indicated that they used the parks last year, and attendance has gone up at GPAC. 55.9% of residents prefer backyard garbage pickup, and 79.2% think automated enforcement should be used in reducing traffic accidents. What residents like most about Germantown is safety, followed by cleanliness and beauty of the city as well as quality of life. What residents like least about Germantown is development, traffic, and the cost of living.

Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, reported that the Vision 2020 Steering Committee is still working on the 2020 project, so it would be premature to give out results. They anticipate wrapping up the project sometime this summer.

Patrick Lawton, reported that the FY06 budget is \$59,290,646 which is divided into: General fund \$33,727,314, enterprise funds \$13,009,058, Special revenue fund (city receives revenue to provide specific services) \$2,146,274, capital projects (funds designated to provide capital improvements in city) \$10,408,000. There will be no property tax rate increase this year. The Germantown Centre will undergo reorganization for improved efficiency, customer service, and

accountability. It is proposed that the Morgan Woods Theatre be moved to the Children's Theatre programs at Germantown Community Theater to create a broader experience for all children of Germantown. The budget is extremely tight with a reduction from the 2005 budget but with no reduction in services. There is a proposed rate increase in the utility fund to expand the Johnson Road Treatment Plant to include dropping additional wells and construction of a new water tower. Also included is substantial rehabilitation of sewer lines. The proposed water usage fee increase is \$4.74, and sewer usage increase is \$9.85.

Jerry Cook, Director of Development, talked about the capital improvements projects. While the CIP is a 5-year planning project, FY06 is the only year that will be adopted. Concerning Wolf River Boulevard, the city has come to an agreement with the Memphis Garden Club on a reconfiguration so the proposed roadway can be put through without infringing on the natural areas. As part of the agreement, a nature area will be located on the south side of the proposed extension. The area north of the roadway will be under the ownership of Germantown, and the City will acquire additional acreage on the north side of the river to put into a permanent conservation easement.

Drainage projects include Howard Rd./Mimosa Gardens, Lateral G, and Wildwood Farms retention basin. Old Germantown streets will be improved as well as changes to the Council chambers, improvements to the animal shelter, and installation of a median on Forest Hill-Irene.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor's report – TDOT has notified the City that it will proceed with the road-widening project on Poplar in 2006. The City has asked TDOT to minimize the impact on Bavarian Village. North of the Wolf River, 318 acres have been acquired that will remain in conservation in perpetuity. The Audubon International Association will be brought in to make sure that the road expansion will be as sensitive as possible to the natural environment.

Police Department report -- Lt. Lee Covey announced that Tuesday, August 2, is Neighborhood Night Out. Sherrye Wadlington has forms to use to announce this National Night Out. Joe Bradley can arrange for officers to visit neighborhoods. Lt. Covey reported that there was an incident a couple of weeks ago where a woman came home, and her house had been burglarized. GPD was able to get fingerprints, and a warrant has been issued. He encourages citizens to be aware of their surroundings.

Neighborhood Services Division report -- Joe Nunes presented a handout that gave a comparison by quarter. Total notices issued by code compliance have been averaging 300-400 per quarter, mostly related to trash violations. He stressed that waste may not be placed in the streets and reminded residents that when one hires a contractor to cut tree limbs, the contractor is responsible for removing them. The tour of remodeled homes was extremely successful. There are continuing efforts to revitalize neighborhood associations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Association concerns and updates – Germantown Station – Terry Fischer, association president, stated that we as neighborhood leaders should let the Board of Mayor and Aldermen know that we support the neighborhood preservation efforts. He suggested that CONA develop a letter of support for the Property Maintenance ordinance. A motion was made by Terry Fischer and seconded by Gene Forrester that CONA support the ordinance in general. The motion was passed, with all yeas and only one nay, that CONA write a letter in support to the BMA. (See attached letter.) Alderman Drinnon thanked the group for this action.

Announcements – Luci reported that all representatives should have gotten a letter about the maintenance ordinance reminding them to write a letter to the BMA. The letter may be emailed, faxed, or posted, but they need to hear from you. Letters must be received before the June 6 work session.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

2078 Norcross Drive
Germantown, TN 38139
June 1, 2005

Board of Mayor and Aldermen
City of Germantown
1930 S. Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

Dear Mayor Goldsworthy and Aldermen Chism, Drinnon, Hinely, Palazzolo, and Uhlhorn:

The Council of Neighborhood Associations is comprised of the eighty (80) neighborhood associations of the city of Germantown. All of the City's neighborhoods have a stake in the passage Ordinance No. 2005-9, otherwise known as the Property Maintenance Ordinance, because the Neighborhood Preservation Commission brought this ordinance to CONA meetings twice, while it was in its formative stages, for input and suggestions from the neighborhoods. At those times, the neighborhoods agreed that this ordinance was very important because it dealt not only with the preservation of neighborhoods but also with their viability.

At the May 26 CONA meeting, the neighborhood association representatives overwhelmingly voted to support this ordinance when they asked CONA to write a letter in support of the proposed ordinance.

While we understand that some minor changes may be made to this ordinance at the work session on June 6, **CONA and its member associations ask that you vote in favor of this ordinance.** As we see it, passage of Ordinance No. 2005-9 is the first step to preserving the integrity of all of our neighborhoods, and we request that you do so.

Sincerely,

Lucia A. Cromer, Chairman
Council of Neighborhood Associations

