

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

March 24, 2005, 7 PM

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Allenby Green, Bavarian Village, Bromley, Duntreath, English Meadows, Forest Hill Estates, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown East, Germantown Park, Grove Park, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Woods, Oakleigh I, Poplar Estates, Riggs/Arthur, Riverchase, Waverly Crossing, Wilsford, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

GUESTS: Patrick Lawton, Jerry Cook, Tom Lott, Sherrye Wadlington, Stephaine Briggs (student).

CALL TO ORDER: Luci Cromer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Luci Cromer welcomed first time guests from Germantown East, Duntreath, Kimbrough Woods, Germantown Park, Kimbrough Grove, and Bavarian Village

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, presented the handout "City of Germantown, Our Mission," which is the policy items that drive the budget. It identifies the annual, 5 year and 10 year goals. Staff will take the goals and visions and build a budget around them in order to fund the priorities. Fiscal year 06 will start July 1, 2005 and end June 30, 2006. Germantown does a five-year financial plan based on various assumptions to project what finances will look. The City does not anticipate a tax increase before 2009. Because of recent re-appraisals, the tax rate will be recalculated by the State, and the rate will probably drop. The State does allow cities to add 3-5 cents in anticipation of appeals. The general fund budget will probably be about \$34-\$35 million dollars. There are other funds that make up the budget.

- Utility Fund - There will be a rate increase of water and sewer fees because of wetter than normal seasons.
- The City is projecting build out in 6-7 years. It is looking at expanding the water treatment plant on Johnson Road to keep up with population growth, and it is looking at adding another water tower for overhead water storage to assure adequate pressure.
- Sanitation Fund –That fund is totally funded on a fee for services basis. The contract for sanitation services will be bid this year and it is anticipated that the fee in 2006 will increase.
- Health Fund - The City's plan is self-funded. It works well when there are not a lot of claims, but there have been several claims causing the cost to increase.
- Library Funding –The budget adopted several years ago did not anticipate Germantown having to take over the library. Consideration is being given to a library user fee to help support general operations.

Capital improvements projects are paid for out of reserves. The City doesn't want the fund balance to be any larger than 40%, and it is putting self-imposed restraints into place.

The streamlined sales tax is supposed to take effect July 1, 2005. If approved, the rules for collecting sales tax and the rules for distributing sales tax will change. The BMA decided that there would be no further discussions with WKNO about moving to Germantown. There are plans for a Nature Center that will be an interpretive and educational facility along the Greenbelt, and it will be owned and operated by the City. Jerry Cook, Director of Development, presented a preliminary draft of the FY06 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The CIP is a multiyear program. The first year is the one that is funded with the approval and adoption of the budget. It runs through FY 2011. There will be numerous changes in this document before it is adopted. Capital improvements program funding is anticipated to be approximately \$12,800,000, which is broken down into General, Major Roads, Intersections/Other, Drainage, Parks, Centre, Utility and Contingency. TDOT looked at the roadway in front of Bavarian Village and feels that the widening of Poplar is necessary. The State is still acquiring right of way. On the Wolf River Boulevard, some right of way will be acquired. The City is still talking with the owners of the natural area at the end of Kimbrough. Germantown Road / Stout Road is a project that will begin in 2006. It is state funded and will run from Stout Road on the north to Crestridge on the south. The project will begin in December. Traffic signals will be considered for Farmington/Allenby, Farmington/Germantown Road (a double left), Poplar/Oakleigh, and Poplar Pike/Oakleigh. Street signs will be a multiyear project. Eventually all of the existing street signs will be changed out. Homeowners and the City will split the cost, and the City will maintain the signs. Any neighborhood interested in participating in this project should contact Keith Briley in Development for a packet of information.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor's Report – Jerry Cook reported that TDOT plans to widen Poplar to seven lanes, with additional left turn lanes approaching the signalized Exeter, Germantown Road, West Farmington and West Street. The City is working with the state on design criteria to reduce the lanes from 12 feet to 11 feet. There will be double left lanes at several intersections. TDOT has indicated to Germantown that it wants to get on with the Poplar Avenue widening project. The widening project has undergone major changes to get the roadway to minimize the impact on residential and business properties. Thomas Montgomery, president of Bavarian Village Homeowner's Association, indicated that the residents of Bavarian Village oppose the widening of Poplar and intend to fight it.

Median cut – City worked with the Post Office and created a median cut in front of the Post Office to allow people to go east on Farmington. The City also hopes to locate some drop boxes in the Hobby Lobby Parking Lot.

Police Department Report—Deputy Chief Tom Lott said that there have been several burglaries in the northwest part of the city. A four-door brown/tan vehicle was identified. In the last three weeks there have been 21 arrests for Sudafed purchases used for making drugs. None of people arrested lived in Germantown or Memphis. Of those 21 arrested, 4 had pistols on them. Cars have been broken into, and checkbooks and credit cards have been stolen. Sunday night, there was a robbery where two individuals followed an individual home and robbed them.

Neighborhood Services Department Report—Luci Cromer introduced Sherrye Wadlington who has recently been hired as Neighborhood Coordinator for the City of Germantown. Sherrye gave an update on trash and code and said that yard debris must be placed in disposable bags not in containers, The bags cannot weigh over 50 lbs. and

should be placed on the curb, not in the gutter for pickup. There is no longer a length limit on tree limbs that can be placed at the curb. However, when individuals or companies are hired to cut limbs, they are responsible for taking the debris away. Most of the concerns reported to the Mayor's Action Center have been taken care of. Anyone having a need for sidewalk repairs should call the City and they will be given a form to be completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were no association concerns or updates.

Announcements – Billy Brown gave an update on the Neighborhood Preservation Commission's tour of renovated homes and landscapes which will be April 17 from 2-5 p.m., rain or shine. There are ten homes to tour this year. Volunteers are needed to assist in the homes in the tour. Beginning Monday, March 28, C.D. Smith road will be closed from Hacks Cross Road east to Aintree. CONA is holding neighborhood association meetings to encourage groups to become active again. The next meeting will be with the Duntreath area west of Forest Hill-Irene. The next CONA meeting will be on May 26.