

April 7, 2014

Martinsville City Council Neighborhood Meeting for the Northside area was held on April 7, 2014, at the Martinsville Housing Office, 605 Fourth Street at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Kim Adkins presiding and Council members present including: Vice Mayor Teague, Mark Stroud, Sr., Sharon Brooks Hodge and Danny Turner. Staff present: Leon Towarnicki, Brenda Prillaman, Eric Monday, Coretha Gravely, Eddie Cassady, Officer Durham, Clay Gravely, Wayne Knox, Kenneth Draper and Andy Powers.

Mayor Adkins called the meeting to order and Rev. Lewis Harris gave the invocation. Mayor Adkins asked Andy Powers to present his property maintenance report and then opened the floor for public comment.

Citizen comments and follow up:

April 7, 2014 Neighborhood Concerns from Neighborhood meeting comments:

What is process/path forward to communicate with citizens in follow up to their concerns-Cynthia Ingram *Suggested – After such meetings, a list of concerns brought up for discussion will be generated, responses to those concerns where possible will be entered, and the document will be attached/included with minutes of that particular meeting for Council's review and approval. Where appropriate, staff will correspond directly with an individual(s) regarding a specific complaint.*

Paradise Inn doors standing open – *Crew from the Jail Annex has boarded/secured the open doors.*

Speeding on 2nd and 3rd Streets – *Police indicates each specific area mentioned at this meeting was placed on extra patrol the next day. Beaver Street and Yorkshire were also placed on extra patrol for several days following the meeting. Police also indicates that with some recent realignment of shift operations, additional resources have been made available for this area.*

Street sweeper needed on Beaver Street down from Albert Harris - *Public Works scheduled the sweeper for this street and others in the neighborhood shortly after the meeting, and will continue to monitor.*

Additional lighting needed on Yorkshire Road – *Current City policy is for lights to be installed generally on every other pole in residential areas. Yorkshire was inspected and meets this policy. Staff also checked lights and all found to be working.*

Yorkshire Road residents continually asking for sidewalks - *In regard to scheduled construction projects, construction of sidewalks in residential areas is a low priority, unless the street in question is a main route carrying considerable traffic at higher speeds. If additional construction funding becomes available (City or other sources), sidewalk work may be considered on a priority basis.*

Police presence requested on Yorkshire Road---need more police patrolling regularly – *see response above in regard to speeding.*

Trash discarded on Roundabout Rd.-William Eggleston – *Was turned over to Inspections for review as a possible property maintenance violation.*

Doug Ingram (Cynthia's husband) 1163 Yorkshire Rd. said he paid a fee in 1990's and petitions were given to the city for sidewalks and Leon to research and follow up with Mr. Ingram. *Curb and gutter was installed on Yorkshire Road in 1999 (along with several other streets) as a City-funded neighborhood improvement project approved by Council. Residents were not required to contribute financially to the project. Residents along the street signed a petition requesting/supporting the project and also signed required construction documents. Sidewalk construction was not considered as part of this project. (Follow up by e-mail was made with Ms. Ingram regarding their concerns)*

1143 Wray St.-dumping over the hill – *Was turned over to Inspections as a possible property maintenance violation.*

Rental properties on Third St bringing down neighborhood-sofas on porches/trash sits out whole month & get strewn all over – *Turned over to Inspections as a possible property maintenance violation.*

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The West End Park on 3rd Street needs to be cleaned up – *The park referred to is not a designated City park, but rather a playground used when the current Housing Office site functioned as a school.. The playground has not been maintained in many years. Access to the playground is limited and is primarily through the parking lot of the Housing Office building. It is suggested that; (1) use of the playground should be coordinated with any potential future use of the building since the most likely access would be through the building parking lot, and; (2) any cleanup will most likely need to occur later in the fall when Jail Annex crews have time to devote to the project.*

Residents do not want Housing Office building to go to a private owner- they want it to be used by community. *As pointed out by Council members, there would be opportunities for citizens to comment regarding eventual transition of the building to non-City ownership and/or use, if Housing operations are transferred to Danville.*

Request for guardrails going down Koehler Hill – *Public Works has inspected and guard rail will be installed in the curved section on the south side of Fayette, from Pony Place to the underpass. The section of Fayette uphill from Pony Place is relatively straight.*

Request for guardrails corner Cardinal Lane & Pony Place—resident at 109 Pony Place fears someone will run over curb and into her house. *Public Works has inspected and does not recommend guard rail installation at this time.*

Wants Police Command Center set up on West End. *City police have the capability of establishing a mobile command center in the West End, as well as any other area of the City should a situation or incident arise needing a temporary neighborhood operation command post. A staffed/operational full time West End command center would require the commitment of additional resources to the police department and at this time, the Police Department has not indicated such a need.*

Deer eating up gardens and all vegetation near 1401 Cardinal Lane

Horrible blight on Fayette/Pine Hall/Yorkshire area – *Inspections will review and address areas as appropriate during the next demolition cycle.*

Cardinal Lane requests chemicals for their hill during bad weather – *Street maintenance personnel typically address such problem areas throughout the City, depending on the type of storm. Sleet/ice may require chemical application, snow may not-- again depending on storm conditions.*

Concerns with kids wearing pants hanging down to knees

Beaver St noisy cars and loud music from cars – *see comments above regarding speeding on 2nd and 3rd Streets.*

Third Street-trash on street – *Passed along to Public Works and Jail Annex for litter pickup.*

Locust branches breaking off old dead tree on vacant lot on Third St. – *Passed along to Inspections – will cite if it can be seen from the ROW and poses a threat to people or property.*

1143 Wray St. yard grown up high as house – *Inspections, possible PM issue*

1151 Yorkshire Rd. on back lot—dead tree pushing on fence– *Passed along to Inspections – will cite if it can be seen from the ROW and poses a threat to people or property.*

Citizen concern that City needs to work on ways to keep young folks here

There being no further business, Mayor Adkins adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Brenda Prillaman
Clerk of Council

Kim E. Adkins
Mayor