

September 13, 2010

A Neighborhood Meeting with City Council for the Uptown/Druid Hills areas was held on September 13, 2010, at Uptown Southern Bistro, 124 E. Main St., Martinsville, Virginia, at 7:30 P. M., with Mayor Adkins presiding and Council members present including: Gene Teague, Mark Stroud, Sr., and Danny Turner. Vice Mayor Kimble Reynolds was absent. Staff present included: Clarence Monday, City Manager; Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager; Brenda Prillaman, Wayne Knox, Eric Monday, Robert Ramsey, Kenneth Draper and Andy Powers. Mayor Adkins welcomed those in attendance and Gene Teague gave the invocation.

Mayor Adkins asked Andy Powers, Property Maintenance Inspector, to give a property maintenance update and he reviewed the list of properties visited on the Council tour of the Uptown/Druid Hills neighborhoods noting that a majority of complaints are high grass. He noted that since January of 2010, 219 complaints have been processed for the entire city with 69 resulting in action against the property owner and during that time, the department had 18 structures demolished. Department heads are currently working with the Inspections Department in prioritizing the demolition list. Mayor Adkins asked for citizen comments which included the following: Ray Dietz, Lanier Road, reported his problems with water line breaks and asked that the city replace the pipe so this will not continue to happen. The City Manager reported engineering work through a grant is now in progress for this water line situation and a news release will be issued this week to update the public on the situation. Leon Towarnicki will investigate putting in a pressure reducing valve to relieve some of the high water pressure on these pipes and he reported the valve will cost around \$50,000. Virginia King, Jones St., had the following concerns: graffiti on building behind NCI and overgrown alley (police dept. will contact property owner to ask that graffiti be voluntarily removed and check with the sheriff for inmate labor to assist in the clean up if necessary and Eric will research graffiti ordinances); concerns with lottery sign on Main St. (Wayne Knox is working with the business owner about the sign); asked to consider taking down one hour parking signs (the Uptown Master Plan will address signage as part of the complete plan); very long trucks coming through Uptown even with signage in place; trash pick up issues for businesses Uptown especially those that leave trash out all weekend on the street (Leon Towarnicki will check on schedule and work out the most efficient plan with the resources the city has); Dr. Mervyn King, Jones St., commented on the excessive speeding in the

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Uptown area and suggested speed bumps and signage (staff was directed to recommend this to the Transportation Safety Commission for their evaluation and also asked that the Police Department be asked to evaluate this situation and make a recommendation).

On a motion by Gene Teague, seconded by Danny Turner, Mayor Adkins declared the community meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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Clarence Monday  
Clerk of Council

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Kim E. Adkins  
Mayor