SWNA Monthly Meeting

May 26, 2015

7:00pm

* Pledge of Allegiance
* April minutes posted on website but hard copies available tonight; Ron motioned; Joe Moore seconded; approved
* April Treasurer's report: Marjorie provided the Treasurer's report;
  + Osage balance: $ 481.16; upcoming expense of $200 to obtain FEIN; another deposit of $100.00 is getting ready to be made
  + SWNA balance: $ 722.74; upcoming expense of $200 to obtain FEIN; maintenance fee
  + Treasurers report; Ron motioned; Marjorie seconded; approved
* Community Policing
  + Officer Mike Johnson: Beats 28 & 29
    - Been covering 4 beats
    - Beat 27: 1 ag assault, 3 res burg, 5 larceny autos; warm weather means more break ins
    - Beat 299: auto break-ins are up; 1 auto theft, 6 larceny autos, speeding, trash/tire dumping
    - Neighbors asked questions about how to contact police re: speeding drivers within their neighborhood
    - Ron Tracey reported kids on motorbikes speeding down 33rd each evening about dusk between Seneca and Gold.
    - Josh reminded
    - 1100 West Robert: neighbor reported this vacant property recently being occupied and the property having "heavier than normal" traffic that doesn't resemble family; the house is in an elderly "grandma's" name but believes it is actually occupied by 2 young girls who have lots of frequent visitors; Officer Johnson suggested to neighbor that they follow up with Officer Jonker with the SCAT team and tag numbers to be relayed; Josh said if the list is compiled we'll make sure they get to Capt. Salcido
* Mayor Jeff Longwell
  + Appreciates neighbors watching out for their own neighborhoods and staying in touch with community policing, including followup;
  + Would like to see more training & resources for community policing officer; looking for more partners
  + Safe Streets involves a minister and community corporate partners & Mayors Youth Council; program offered to youth to get them off the streets and give them something to do; Community Policing should also involve people who are in the neighborhoods on a regular basis (Cox, Westar, etc.) to recognize signs they see of trouble in the neighborhoods. Neighborhood cleanups funded by tipping fees & franchise fees from Westar on right-of-ways;
  + Hiring of new police chief will include joint training facility with county, provide better training & resources for our officers
  + Would love to see the paving of all city streets; looking to add $2M to budget to do more but needing an additional $30M; looking to sell City assets to help fund that without having to raise taxes.
  + In the middle of process of developing plan to recruit new business, including the funding of GWEDC; takes issue with the County Commissioners who don't announce issues that are going to be on the agenda, instead adding issues to the agenda at the last minute so that the public doesn't have a chance to attend the meetings & have the opportunity to speak to the Commission.
  + Joe Moore asked the Mayor about illegal dumping in the area and what the City is doing about it; Councilman Blubaugh suggested notifying himself or liason, Case Bell, about such issues and they'll forward them to the appropriate channels
  + Josh also brought up the City's new app and how you can use it to report issues in your neighborhood and the City will followup
  + The Mayor appreciates neighborhood associations and recognizes the significant contributions that these groups make.
  + Josh asked the Mayor how he feels about South Wichita. He would prefer that the City spend more money on quality of life issues vs. just throwing money at companies to convince them to come here.
  + Ron asked about new sidewalks. Arterial streets will include sidewalks, residential streets do not. Safe Routes to Schools program might make some money available to pursue some of those needs.....suggesting a street down by South High School.
  + Harry from Seneca to McLean, new sidewalk area over by City's Maintenance facility; the area is draining off into the street and flooding that area; new companies building today have specific requirements about retaining storm water on their property (storage facilities, etc.)
* Jeff Blubaugh, City Council
  + Meridian to be expanded
  + In-fill opportunities
  + Manufacturing opportunities & real estate development
  + City Mgr. discussion re: on/off ramps; money left over from 235/Kellogg interchange improvement
  + Kmarts, South & West, purchased by Jeff Lange
  + Need to control dumping if we're going to entice business
  + Continues to support neighborhood cleanups
  + Ron pointed out that bricks at Pawnee & Meridian are broken and/or missing; Josh pointed out the benefits of bricks to forego striping but snow plows are catching them and breaking them
  + Jeff asked about whether the flooding is still as bad as; discussion of 31st Street, Meridian, 47th Street
  + Discussion of Jeff Lange's intention to build and develop the area at McArthur and Seneca; looking to build 4-5 100,000 SQ FT buildings; City and/or County offering to help with some infrastructure improvements through the CIP budget; wants to improve the value of the area.
  + Discussion of changes possibly coming to Towne West Square and making it more like New Market Square.
  + Issue with where the old Checker's store was at 47th and Broadway and why Home Depot didn't end up going in there; boiled down to groundwater contamination
  + Josh said that SWNA is still working with Troy (Parks Dept) about working with KG&E and their willingness to pull the poles and rework the electricity; Perez and the Gators want to keep the team local; tennis courts are full of pot-holes; the spray park has been vandalized 3 times within the last month
* Love Wichita project
  + James Eflandt was nominated to have a ramp built at his shed so he can get his wheelchair into the shed so he can get on his riding lawnmower. Building the ramp was supposed to have taken place the last 2 weekends but it's been postponed (due to rain) until this coming weekend. We have some volunteers from West High School but can use others.
* Neighborhood Cleanup
  + meet in June & July
  + packer trucks
  + drop off sites at Osage, McCormick, St. Anne's & Salvation Army
* Meeting adjourned at 8:20