

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held February 2nd, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by John Greene.

Treasurer's Report

Jeffrey Lewis reported the following:

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|------------------------------|------------|
| Total Assets | \$2,795.58 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$2,795.58 |
| Net Income | \$-178.18 |

A detailed statement is available on request of John Greene, President

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder reported that the crime stats for our area were about the same as last month. Officer Bill Cogswell was also present. There were 17 property crimes and 2 arrests for attacks on people.

Question to Officer Snyder: one member has had his spare tire stolen twice. He did report it. Officer Snyder responded that, although Virginia Beach had a rash of such incidents, this is the first in our area.

John Greene had asked the police to also include community issues in their reports. Officer Snyder was happy to report that, as part of their job, they are tasked with Community Involvement. They are working with Bon Secours on a block party for 19th Bay Street, March 31st. It will be a big event with games, food, opportunities to meet the police and fire officers. The hope is to build a bond and working relationship with the police and fire departments, and to expand to other blocks.

Other coming events where the police will be involved include:

A 5K run sponsored by the Sand Fiddler Restaurant in October, that will include Pleasant Avenue and other streets.

Tidewater Builders Assn. will be having a third Home-a-Rama in East Beach this Fall. Work is already underway.

In the future there will be a Triathlon in East Ocean View. Stay tuned for more details.

Guest Speaker: Ms. Sharon McDonald, Commissioner of the Revenue, City of Norfolk

Ms. McDonald reported on her office and what it does. She is a constitutional officer and the tax assessor for all taxes except for real estate taxes. She has held the office for 15 years. Her office's web site is www.norfolk.gov/revenue

Her office is responsible for collecting taxes on all vehicles (cars, trucks, boats, planes, trailers, etc); all business taxes; and meals/admissions/lodging taxes. 26% of the City revenue comes from her office.

Her office's focus is customer service and they are proud of their record. The office consists of several teams that audits businesses every three to four years. They can also handle all the transactions that the DMV handles, except transactions that require photos, and are proud of the speed and efficiency that they have established. Her office handles the Yard sale permits, which are \$5.00, which is necessary to prevent multiple yard sales by the same people in a short period of time. They also handle the program for real estate relief for Senior Citizens who have an earning cap (does not include the value of their house).

Ms. McDonald reported that the City has experienced declining tax revenues since 2005 and we are now at our lowest level. Real estate assessments are also down. Revenue projections do not show additional money available anywhere. They are hoping for a turn around and that business revenues stay constant.

The State has abdicated financial responsibility to localities, has cut funding to localities, and has informed local Governments there will be further cuts.

There was a discussion on how to expand our local economy. Ms. McDonald believes that encouraging young, innovative, technology companies to come to the area is a start in the right direction. She also believes if ODU, Norfolk State, Va. Wesleyan, EVMS, and the Community Colleges would bond together and go after the bio tech industry, our area would definitely profit.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Marcus Calabrese, candidate for At Large seat on the City Council.

Mr. Calabrese addressed the group and told us why he decided to run. He is a Board member of the Southeastern Food Bank and is experienced in PR and marketing. He states that he is a 'grass roots' guy and willing to listen to the community.

Old/New Business

John Greene reported that Councilman Tommy Smigiel is forming an EOJ Steering committee to determine what are the priorities of Ward 5 are so he can support us in our needs to the City Council.

The flood presentation at the Pretlow last week was disheartening. Rep. Scott Ridgell reported there is no money. Bill Kerry, who arranged the meeting, urges all Civic League members to keep writing and calling Rep. Ridgell's office to let him know we are concerned and ask for his support.

Pam Todesco, Civic League Code Committee, has developed a form for you to sign if you'd like to help report code violations in your neighborhood.

Pastor Rodney of the New Life Christian Church reports the church is holding a seminar on gangs on Feb. 13th. Contact the church for the times.

Our newsletter is available on line at www.eovcl.org, and improvements to the design are forthcoming. Check out all the other information on the site.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary