

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held January 3, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ann Bolen, Vice President. John Greene, President, on vacation.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$4768.12
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4768.12
Net Income	\$-484.00

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

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, noted there were 29 reported incidents in our area: 24 were property crimes, larcenies, usually from vehicles. There were a couple of robberies around the Little Creek Rd./Shore Drive area where there was a weapon displayed. He reports they are seeing an increase in this type of crime and recommends that if you have to be out late, stay in well lit areas.

Installation of Officers

Ms. Kristen Lentz, a Norfolk City Official, installed the 2015 Board of Civic League Officers. The officers are: John Greene, President; Ann Bolen, Vice-President; Ann Freeman, Secretary; Jeff Lewis, Treasurer. Members at Large; John Hadfield, Amanda Skuppin, Juanita Snead, Rodney Hammonds, Steve Van Leeuwen, Willie Smith, Jim Casey, Mike Joyner.

Guest Speaker: Kristen Lentz, Director of Utilities, City of Norfolk

Ms. Lentz is a lifelong resident of the area, a graduate of Old Dominion University, and is a civil engineer. She leads a department that is comprised of over 370 employees who are dedicated to providing top quality drinking water, customer service, and wastewater collection to Norfolk residents and businesses. Norfolk Department of Utilities provides treated water to over 820,000 customers in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, local military families, and portions of Chesapeake.

Ms. Lentz reported that the City is in great shape when it comes to water supply as they bought up most of the water in the region over the years. It was a very smart move. There are eight reservoirs, five local that we hardly ever use. The three big reservoirs are in Suffolk, Isle of Wight, and Blackwater. Because of these reservoirs, the City of Norfolk is drought resistant. We are the second largest water facility in the State, the largest in is Northern Virginia. Ms. Lentz advised that if you have water and/or sewage problems you should call the City before you call a plumber. If the City can fix the problem it is free, if not they will identify the problem and you then call the plumber. The number is 823-1000, it is always a live answer.

Other information: there are 131 sewer pump facilities in the City. The sewer system is old and ragged but they are working on it. Please, do not ever put grease down the sink. It clogs the pipes. Pour it off into a car, freeze it and throw it in the trash. Ms. Lentz brought lids for the cans for this purpose.

As for billing, in Norfolk you are billed for the amount of water you use, whereas in Virginia Beach you are assessed a flat fee. If you find you have a water leak, call the Department of Utilities, they will have you send a copy of your repair bill and the City will work with you. If you find you cannot pay your water bill, call the Department of Utilities and they will put you on a budget.

Storm Water bill: fyi - street cleaning is part of this bill. The City has increased this storm water fee/tax \$1 to use for sea level rise issues. One project is a flood gate near Pretty Lake Bridge.

Guest Speaker: Barbara Willis, CEO, Hampton Roads Community Health Center

Ms. Willis was here to give us an update on the Medical Center in the East Beach Shopping Center. The Health Center has been in this location for two years and provides both medical and dental care. It is a fully staffed center and treats patients of all ages. Hours of operation are 8am to 5pm. Dr. Rodriguez is the medical doctor and he is now joined two days a week by a pediatrician. Dr. Ben Steel is the dentist. The staff is bi-lingual and will help patients navigate the health care system.

In 2014 the center saw 4,151 patients which is about 350 a month. They accept patients insured by Blue Cross, Tricare, Medicare, and Medicaid and have \$4,100 billable claims a month.

Old Business

The owners of the **Lagoon Restaurant**, who spoke to us in September to get Civic League approval for live music, will present their request at the January 22nd session.

FEMA/Norfolk Flood Zone Maps. If you were not able to attend one of the several meetings the City held on the new flood maps, check our website for more information. Also check the following websites: www.norfolk.gov/FIRMupdate and www.norfolk.gov/flooding.

Holiday Events: *Christmas in the Community Garden, Brunch with Santa* at the Rec. Center, and New Life Center's Christmas and Toy Give Away were all hugely successful events thanks to all the support from our members and members of the community. Thank you so much for your group and individual support. The Civic League contributed financially to both the Rec and Church events.

New Business

The Board intends to resolve the **license plate account**, \$850.39, as the person whose initiative it was passed away and the bank that handled the account has gone out of business. The Board plans to discuss how to handle this issue.

Newsletter: the printer who we have been using, closed her doors and is no longer in business. We have found a new publisher, *Norfolk Printing*, but our publication will be delayed a bit this issue as a result of the

other shop closing. We are looking at a major increase in costs, twice what it was in the past. The new edition will be on the website next month.

From Tommy Smigiel with details to come in the coming months:

- *yes, there is a Starbucks coming in the Food Lion shopping center.

- *initial work on Bay Oaks Park, led by the BO Park committee will commence soon.

- *several developers, both local and national, have shown interest in developing the 5th - 7th Bay area. The next step is for those who are selected from the RFQ to submit a proposal that will include new housing and infrastructure improvements.

- *the Senior Center will be moved to the vacated bank site on East Ocean View Avenue.

- *The City is looking for new businesses in the East Beach Shoppes and East Beach Phase 7.

- *the East Beach Marina apartment along Pretty Lake will open in February. They are designed to attract 30 to 60 year olds, and will range in the \$1,350 to \$2,200 a month range.

- *the new outlet mall will be coming to our area.

Our next meeting will be the February 5th.

Please check our website regularly for information about our area and what is occurring here.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman

Secretary