

# Special Meeting 2018-05-07

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

6:54 PM

Call to order: 7:07PM

No regular officer reports, will be given at regular meeting in June

Major Changes recap:

Dues is now \$10 per household

Association Officers now have 2-year terms

Expansion of Neighborhood Boundaries to include St. Elizabeth's to city borders to S Broom St.

Special City Officials Speaking

Mayor Mike Purzycki

Highlights of Administration so far

4-year budget passed, tax increase in 2017, but not 2018, positive outlook on city budget

1150 city employees

Hired Police Chief Tracy after conducting a nationwide search, and he has transformed the department

Calls for service in certain neighborhood have increased 50% due to increase in community comfort level

Shootings are down close to 70% over last year

Economic Development - 1000 new apartments being built in the city

3 hotels (1 open now, 2 under construction)

Possibility of Delaware Law School to move into the city with campus and apartment building

To be done:

Blight Ordinance

Too many people living in sub-standard rental properties - proposed a 'burdensome' law that have minimal impact to homeowners, targeting only landlords.

Restarted inspections after 10 years - 85% of 400 inspections so far failed

Sports stadiums - revisit Baynard Stadium, Eden Field, Canby discussions

Rebuild Rodney Square as city center ("pathetically tired" and does not reflect the city) - too many empty buildings/offices, business feedback was negative view of the bus hub

"Awful" in city hall at serving the public - structural issues with government to resolve in order to improve (staffing/union/salary)

Too much poverty, too many broken neighborhoods, too many prisoners with too little reformation

Question:

On Finance Department web site - seeing non-payment of water/sewer bills, leading to tax increase, what can be done about it?

Mayor:

Bad systems for tracking and collections

Finance Department overloaded

Sheriff sale/foreclosure is an option but a last resort

Does not affect resident taxes

Pat Carter, former head of revenue for state of DE, for a pay cut is now Finance Director who is working to turn that around

Question:

What about the state of city roads (potholes)

Mayor:

Met with Delmarva Power, who often digs holes but patches poorly

Question:

What about trash in the city (it's everywhere)

Mayor:

Hiring employees to pickup trash in the neighborhoods (16 recent)

Better city cleanup crews/equipment at "Gateways"

Police Chief Robert Tracy

Worked in in Chicago and New York City

Children go to St. Elizabeth's

Held Press Conference Today - working against 2014 "Murder Capitol" article and negative perception

Violence is committed by 1% of 1% of people in poor neighborhoods

Keys to Success: Organization Discipline, Accountability, Communication, Community Engagement

Working to keep same officers working in the same area each shift to establish rapport and familiarity with neighborhoods

Ensuring those officers are on foot patrol

Breaking up the city into Sectors - we are Sector 3 - each with a sector Captain who has authority to solve problems in the sector - ours is Captain Campos

Police officers attending community meetings

View Comm Stat Report on City Web Site for crime specific numbers

Proposing instituting "Crime View" service to provide visibility/map of crimes by neighborhood

Question: Is the city still assigning Nuisance Points to properties based on report of nuisance incidents?

Yes, but those points are only assigned to properties under specific conditions and incidents must occur on the property.

Question: Are there regulations and restrictions to vehicle parking in the city?

Yes, but limited to large vehicles (box trucks).

Question: What is the standard for when police show up vs. a phone report?

A lot of factors, including availability of officers, contribute to this.

Police Sector Captain Wilfred Campos

Phone number 302-932-0680

Officer Jake Potts

Lives at Rodney & Beech Sts

Phone number 302-388-9808

Chief Inspector

Director of Parks & Recreation Kevin Kelley

City Councilwoman Yolanda Murphy

Bayard School and Christina Superintendent will be invited to the August Meeting