

**East Ward Talk of the Town Meeting
 Mayor Allen Joines and Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson
 Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.
 Willows Peake Community Center, 1350 Eller Way, Winston-Salem, NC**

Highlights / Minutes

Call to Order and Welcome – Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson, East Ward

Opening Prayer – Pastor Johnnie Taylor

Introductions of Neighborhoods and Citizens: North/East W-S Association, East Winston Restoration Association, Winston Lake, Morningside, New Walkertown Road, Reynoldstown, ESR, Winston-Salem Housing Authority, 14th Street, Mr. Patterson, Mable Johnson and others.

Introduction of City Staff: City/County Planning Department, City Manager Office, Winston-Salem Police Department, Winston-Salem Fire Department, Recreation and Parks Department, Neighborhood Services, Human Relations, Housing and Neighborhood Development, Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistant Specialist, Sanitation, Marketing & Communications, Inspections, Mayor’s Office and City Secretary’s Office.

Comments.....Mayor Allen Joines

- City’s economic review
- Good growth in Tax Base
- Added 20 Winston-Salem Police Officers
- The City Manager has come forward with a balanced budget
- Ball Park – the project finances itself \$24 million – City \$5 million
- One of the most wired cities
- City received an award for the most Intelligent (#7)
- End Chronic Homelessness
- Adopted a new greenway and open space plan
- Summer Feeding Program for 2008

Question/Concerns from Citizen	Response from Mayor Allen Joines
What was the outcry from citizens that we needed a new ballpark?	<i>The ballpark project was a good investment and the city would own the field after 20 years.</i>

Presentations from Community Organizations and City Staff:

Housing Authority of Winston-Salem.....

Mr. Larry Woods, Executive Director of the HAWS and Ms. Redman

- Housing opportunities
 - HAWS is forming partnerships with different organizations
 - looking to work with neighborhood associations and to meet with the public and the City. We have worked with Mr. Ritchie Brooks and Mr. Lee Garrity, Mr. Paul Norby and Atkins CDC; particularly in the East and Northeast area of Winston-Salem
- Cleveland Avenue Homes
 - will be mixed neighborhoods in the future and retail opportunities
 - HAW is footing the bill for the master plan
 - Atkins CDC is working with HAWS
- Federal money – handouts
 - Ms. Redman stated, there is \$279, 000 that has to be used by the end of August 2008
 - the requirements for this program: a W-S residents, purchase (not lease), first-time homebuyer, first come/first serve.
- Eliminated zero rent
 - residents have to pay at least \$50.00 per month

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers Mr. Larry Woods, Executive Director of HAWS
What about people on Section 8 that do not keep the area there clean, can they be evicted? When I call HAWS I always get an answering machine.	<i>HAWS are not responsible for the tenant's selection, we can only cite for housekeeping problems and not paying rent. The landlord is responsible for any problems. We are working on that issue.</i>
Did HAWS purchase Rolling Hills?	<i>Rolling Hills is a lease (we have not purchased Rolling Hills).</i>
A resident of New Walkertown Road expressed concern about drug activity at Rolling Hills Apartment Complex.	<i>Violators would be reported to the Police Department, placed on a ban list and could be arrested for trespassing. The tenants who have been arrested for drugs are evicted. Assistant Chief Rountree confirmed the process. Some of those drug dealers do not live in Rolling Hills.</i>
Could HAWS put up a privacy fence?	<i>Can not use Federal dollars to put a fence.</i>

Development.....Mr. John Allen, Director

- Sawtooth Center – creating some additional art space
- New restaurants downtown - four
- Kingz Grocery Store – a new grocery store downtown on Liberty Street
- Special summer events – Summer Music, RibFest, Hispanic Festival and Rock the Block
- Research Park – relocating and removing some railroad tracks
- W-S Business Park – has several businesses including; Snyder Tire and a Lumber Company

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers Mr. John Allen
Why was there a \$15.00 cover charge to attend Jazz concerts at Corpening Plaza?	<i>There was no charge for the City sponsored concerts, only for private promoter's concerts.</i>

Citizens asked further questions regarding the summer activities. Mr. Allen turned comments over to Mr. Ed McNeal, Director of Marketing & Communications & Mr. Tim Grant, Director of Recreation & Parks.

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers Mr. McNeal and Mr. Grant
Will we have "The Drop" this summer?	<i>Mr. McNeal, stated after completion of teen surveys, it was more beneficial to accommodate teenagers. He continued that plans for this year include a partnership with Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center and that multiple activities every Friday, excluding July 4, are being discussed. Mr. Grant added that the youth task force was developed to promote positive activity. Some activity suggestions include motivational speakers and poetry night. A meeting will be held on May 21st and he encouraged teens to attend.</i>

East Ward Talk of the Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

<p>How can teens get involved, volunteer and/or help out directly with City staff during the summer events? Do you have anything that the kids can get involved? Do you have anything going on in the local neighborhood for kids that can not get to Hanes Hosiery? Also, what facilities are available for neighborhoods?</p>	<p><i>Mr. Grant welcomed adults, teens and local agencies to volunteer their services at the center and the upcoming meeting, reiterating positive teen role models are needed. Mr. Grant stated if you are looking for a summer job see him afterwards. Mr. Grant added yes, we will have activities they can get involved in. Mr. McNeal advised that Recreation Centers are open and available citywide and that kids can get to where they want to get to. Mr. Grant added that the centers will offer extended hours. I may not be as long as Hanes Hosiery, but we are looking into extending the time.</i></p>
<p>Teens should be allowed to be in mainstream society and interact with professionals. During the last Black Theater Festival a negative experience involved a group of teens.</p>	<p><i>Mr. McNeal remarked downtown is for everyone and not to force teens out. The objective is only to create a safer environment.</i></p>
<p>A citizen inquired if there were any other recreational facilities, other than the YMCA, available at no charge?</p>	<p><i>Mr. Grant stated the recreation centers are available for rental purposes at a low charge. A requirement is that the person is at least 21 years of age that rents the facility.</i></p>
<p>What is the targeted age group for the events and what about computer usage at the center?</p>	<p><i>Mr. Grant responded the activities would be for teenagers 13 to 18 years old. He also stated all of the recreation centers offered computer usage and encouraged adults to volunteer/monitor/assist.</i></p>
<p>How many people will Hanes Hosiery accommodate?</p>	<p><i>Mr. Grant responded he is working with the Fire Department to utilize the facility indoors and outdoors. He stated the facility accommodates approximately 250-300 people and there is a possibility of opening other sites. Mr. Grant stated, youth will have to sign in, and have parent permission.</i></p>

Statement/Comments from Citizens
<p><i>Ms. Twana Wellman, Executive Director of Experience in Self-Reliance, offered ESR as a site to distribute information regarding activities sponsored by Recreation and Parks. She also suggested Hanes Mall as another distribution site.</i></p>
<p><i>A citizen remarked there is a need for parental involvement and parents need to be more accountable.</i></p>
<p><i>A citizen remarked we have to involve the parents in things like the Drop.</i></p>
<p><i>A citizen commented on driving safety in the downtown area and shared a personal experience.</i></p>
<p><i>A citizen added Teen Force was started in 2007 and part of the plan to grow is to recruit teens and teach leadership qualities so that they become more positive and effective.</i></p>
<p><i>A citizen remarked there is not anything for the youth to do. When I was a youth we had plenty of activities. The cities like Durham and Greensboro have activities for everyone in their city.</i></p>

Recreation.....Tim Grant, Director

- WePlay East brochure Spring/Summer 2008 - handout
- Opening of the pools
- Swim lessons run for a 3-week period and will run from June 7th, June 28th, and July 19th
- Pool safety
 - our youth need to learn how to swim, if you have children that can not swim; sign them up for pool lessons
 - inform your children/grandchildren about pool safety and if they don't do what they are told you will come to get them, talk to the pool lifeguard about your child at the pool
 - purchase a coast guard approved vest

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers Mr. Tim Grant
We would like funds to regain one more pool in NE Winston-Salem and have the youth to learn to swim and use our pools? We have lost four swimming pools over the years. Are there any funds available for a pool in East Winston?	<i>Mr. Grant encouraged pool usage in an effort to increase and secure funding.</i>

Housing Neighborhood Development.....Mellin Parker, Director

- Goler Manor Independent Living Facility
 - an elderly facility that just recently opened up
- Habitat for Humanity
 - new construction, down payment for first time homebuyers – a lot of growth
- New Green built Habitat
 - first greenhouse built with Habitat
- Global CDC – Atkins CDC
 - off of 10th Street 5 single house have been built – 4 have been sold – 1 is under contract
- Kensington Village (formally Forest Ridge Apartment)
 - open house on June 21st
 - was awarded an up front grant from HUD – market rate apartments – affordable
- Partnering with Atkins CDC
 - building some single family homes off of Old Greensboro Road
- East Ward is a very active ward and has a lot of things going on - you should commend yourselves

Police.....

Assistant Chief Barry Rountree, Captain Connie Southern, Sgt. Mike Weaver, Gang Unit

- Currently have a robbery task force - distributed / discussed handouts
 - business robbery and person to person robbery
 - if you are being robbed then don't resist - get the best description you can get
 - mark your valuables, we have a pen in the WSPD that you can use to mark your valuables.
 - National Night Out – Tuesday, August 5, 2008

FireDeputy Fire Chief John Lucas and Norman Mitchell

Safety Summer Tips - distributed / discussed handouts

- Be sure to call 911 if you have an emergency and know what to say when you call
- Make sure you drink plenty of water this summer
- Check on your neighbors this summer
- Cookouts
 - use of the grill: apartments and condo - at least 10 feet from combustibles or close to the house, have water hose or fire ext.
- Call 911 first, don't try to fight the fire
- For more information on Fire Prevention Tips contact, Mary Fergusson at 773-7965

WSTATina Carson – Wilson

- Launched our new website: <http://www.wstransit.com/>
 - can print off any schedule and just make you more familiar with WSTA
- TransAid
 - has a new service - Call Ahead Schedule – still working out some bugs in the program so please let us know if you are having in trouble with this new computer call system
- Transit program for you or a group
 - we will teach you how to use our transit system to relieve some of the fear, encourage you to leave your car at home a day or two

- WSTA sponsors Assessable Festival (wheelchair assessable) - Bolton Park on July 11th

Transportation.....Mr. Greg Turner Public Works/Assistant City Manager

- Business 40
 - pavement rehab closing ramps and bridges
 - the project is about 5 to 7 years out
 - may close one lane at a time
 - Salem Creek Connector
- Hwy 52
 - Closure 3rd and 5th Streets entrance and exit ramp – not bridges, just ramps – there is about one accident a day at those locations
 - taking the vehicle brake down lane into a travel lane
- MLK
 - in the study phase of the project

Historic Resource Commission.....Michelle McCullough

- May is Historic Preservation Month
- Congratulations - Reynoldstown is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Historic Marker – Maynard Field Marker
 - the marker is on Kernersville Road opposite the intersection with Maynard Drive
 - place about two markers a year
 - there is a selection committee through the Historic Commission
 - markers enable us to remember sites that are no longer existing

Community Concerns:

Questions/Concerns from Citizens	Response/Answers Mr. Greg Turner
Annexation regarding fixed WSTA routes?	<i>In the annexed area where there is demand.</i>

Statements / Concerns from Citizens
<p>A citizens comments:</p> <p>Not enough grant spending in East Winston</p> <p>○ <i>about 20 years ago I was told by city staff that the hill on New Walkertown Road was going to be cut down – it has not been cut down.</i></p> <p>High grass in trench at Bowen Boulevard, never gets cut</p> <p>○ <i>addressed by Neighborhood Services Director, Ritchie Brooks, after the meeting</i></p> <p>Drug activity on Bowen Boulevard, I commend the WSPD for their help</p> <p>○ <i>Police Department addressed the concern</i></p> <p>New owners of Lakeside Apartments have not made noticeable improvements (doesn't look nice). Lakeside has been re-purchased under a 5 year plan</p> <p>○ <i>addressed by Mr. Brooks after the meeting</i></p> <p>Boarded business (three service stations) on New Walkertown Road are eyesores to the community</p> <p>Inoperable Street lights took 3 months to repair</p> <p>Would like to see a nicer entrance sign to Winston Lake Golf Course</p> <p>“I would like to see action versus just ideas. If you can please remember that the people that live in East Winston – people want to come back, but when you hear of Lakeside, people want and don't come back. We are tax payers and we want more. If you have the funding, do the things that the neighborhood needs.”</p>
<p>A citizen suggested a future meeting with Mayor Joines, Council Member Johnson, and Winston-Salem Police Department to discuss the concerns of the Lakeside area not at this meeting.</p>
<p>A citizen stated they grew up in the East Ward. Glad to see that Council Member Johnson, the Mayor and staff are here at this meeting. We need to hire 20 more WSPD to get handle the drug problems. In the Holland Homes area do the WSPD patrol that area? Help us live in our community.</p>

East Ward Talk of the Town Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

A citizen remarked the Weed and Seed community must do a better job. This is too much (referring to the paperwork she has in her hands) you (CM Johnson) and Burke (Council Member) should do a better job in this community.

A citizen remarked that Waughtown is the worst town in this community.

Problems on New Walkertown Road – Rolling Hills need to be stopped period.

A citizen stated he would like to commend everyone for their efforts, and the community must get actively involved in their own issues to better the society. He stated individuals must take responsibility. Love casts out all fear.

Mayor Joines thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. There were 50 citizens and staff in attendance at this meeting.

Yolanda G. Taylor, Recording Secretary
City Secretary's Office