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Name of Group: Old Northampton Community Organization

Date: March 19, 2011

in Attendance: 7

Attendee comments:

- There is an issue with flooding on the back side of the shopping center. The center has said that it's not their responsibility. Per Mary, she will find out whose responsibility it is and make sure it gets taken care of.
- On/ near the bridge on Mercury Blvd, there was some work done and now the water backed up on Easterly Avenue during a major rain event. This has been the first time seen in over 50 years. When water gets too high, you can't see the road. This can be a project covered in the \$500k set aside in the CIP.
- More drainage is needed in the neighborhood. More drainage issues have come about more recently that hasn't occurred before. This is happening not just in Old Northampton. Some funds will be budgeted towards the issue of flood management.
- There is a wetlands area in the back of Cherry Acres. The water in this area appears to be backed up and flows into the yards of the adjacent properties. Maybe this was due to the apartments. New developments sometimes have an impact on the drainage throughout the city.
- The drains are not being appropriately cleaned, which is why there is flooding issues. Would like to see more maintenance of the drains. It was suggested to call 311 Call Center. Some of these drains may be privately owned drains and the City cannot maintain.
- Would like to see no trucks sign in the neighborhood.
- The neighborhood streets should be repaved.
- The North King Street Master Plan calls for a median on Rip Rap Road and not sure how that can happen with its current size. This will impact the traffic flow. This is not a good idea and should be removed from the plan.
- Bethel Avenue expansion to King Street should be removed from the North King Street Master Plan.
- The land between Easterly and Bethel, apartments are proposed in the North King Street Master Plan. Can this happen and how would the apartments be laid out. This is the former site of the landfill. Per Mike, previous tests of the landfill showed that there weren't any gases found. Additionally, it's suggested that single family homes be developed on that site.
- The opinions of the citizens should have more weight than City staff on designing master plans.
- There shouldn't be a tax increase.
- The City should look to reduce the number of consultants it hires as an area for cost savings. The City should look at hiring more staff than hiring consultants. Per Mary, there are times when there is a special expertise required for a project that a staff person doesn't have.
- Doesn't think a city that has a \$14 million deficit should spend \$30 million on a courthouse. The city shouldn't build another courthouse.

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- The real estate assessments in the neighborhood are too high. There are some neighborhoods that assessments are decreasing. The low income residents are carrying the burden for others in the community. Mary will ask the assessor to come out and speak to the neighborhood about this concern.
- The boat tax should be raised.
- Why are we losing population in Hampton? Per Mary, the last assessment included an overage that counted people on LAFB. The City decided not to go through the appeals process to fix the numbers. The most recent numbers show that Hampton has lost 8,000 people and actually fixes the overage from previous counts.
- Should work on social issues (crime, homelessness, etc.) so that you don't have a population that cannot afford to pay for the city services.
- There is an issue with the high number of rentals in the neighborhood. Old Northampton Community has 40% rental. There should be an increase in home ownership.
- The City should have funding to purchase blighted property.
- What is being dumped near the Police firing range? Per Maj. Lewis (HPD) there is being mulch being transported there. Additionally, some electrical work will be taking place soon.
- Would like to see Crime & Grime started back along with a consistent police officer for the neighborhood. This would help to reduce the drugs and crime in the neighborhood.

Questions for follow up:

- Who owns the street behind KFC leading out of the neighborhood? There is no name in it.
- Whose responsibility is it to handle the flooding behind Langley Shopping Center?
- Who do you contact if you're having issues with a home occupied by Section 8 tenants? (HRHA)

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