Shandon Neighborhood Council Meeting: July 9, 2018

Roll: Lois Elijah, Rich Horton, Tamra Paschal, John Meyers, Martha Johnson, Russell Jones, George Crouch, Buddy Atkins, Rick Todd, Deborah Thomas, Karen Addision.

Joe Berry arrived a few minutes late.

Steve Augustine, Michael Drennan, Kelly Hynes, and Bill McCormick were not present.

Quorum established.

Agenda was approved by unanimous vote of those present.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved by unanimous vote of those present.

Neighborhood Crime Report: Officer Frier encouraged all residents to keep their car doors locked and emphasized that residents should not keep firearms locked in their vehicles. He indicated that one person was in custody with an extensive rap sheet. That person was responsible for approximately 85% of the theft crimes over the past several months. Officer Frier spoke about the recent incident at Hand involving fireworks. He indicated that the investigation was ongoing, but preliminarily opined that he believes the incident was an accident. Officer Frier noted that there is no City ordinance in place that prevents the use of fireworks on school property on July 4 and December 31, although school district regulations may prevent such use. The Council discussed the incident and its implications.

President’s Report: Russell Jones indicated that Council will look into the fireworks incident through Committees. All residents of Shandon may join Council Committees.

Treasurer’s Report: By Russell Jones for Bill McCormick. Invoice for the newsletter was paid.

Secretary’s Report: By John Meyers. Nothing to report.

Beautification Report: By George Crouch for Kelly Hynes. Irrigation clearing beginning at the Triangle. No new plants yet. Signs are ready. Sign installation ceremony scheduled for Thursday, July 12, at 4:00 pm.

Communications Report: By John Meyers for Michael Drennan. Committee met in June. Discussed ways to communicate with Shandon residents, including yard signs announcing meetings, an email list-serv, and a Shandon Council Facebook page. Committee also discussed creating a survey to distribute to residents, which will inform Council on things that are working and things that need to change. The Committee also discussed developing a vision statement for the Committee. A question was raised about whether the minutes of Council meetings could be made available to the public at an earlier date. It was noted that the minutes must be approved by Council, even though the minutes are prepared shortly after the meeting. It was agreed to make the minutes available to the public earlier, with a notation indicating that the minutes were subject to approval by Council. Martha thanked Ron Burns for maintaining the Council website and for his hard work on the newsletter. Debra inquired into the cost of the newsletter, indicating that the cost of the newsletter continues to increase.

Events Report: By George Crouch. Shandon’s National Night Out event is August 7, 2018, at 6:00 pm at Sims Park. George and Jessie summarized all the things needed for the event. Jessie indicated that he needs help with the setting things up at 5:30 pm. Lois mentioned that folks will be needed to help clean up after the event. George discussed future events, such as a Fourth of July Parade or a Holiday Tree Lighting event. Lois inquired about the “One Man Band” for NNO.

Traffic and Safety Report: By Rich Horton. Transition to 25 mph speed limit is not moving as fast as hoped. Issue is that some roads in Shandon are City roads; others are State roads. Rich had a map on hand that will be posted on the website. The map shows which roads in Shandon are City roads and which ones are State roads. City roads can be changed to 25 mph tomorrow, as DOT approval is not needed. The reasons offered by officials for the hold-up in transitioning to 25 mph on all Shandon roads change over time, which several people indicated was frustrating. Rich suggested that his Committee explore incremental change, meaning first transitioning to 25 mph on all City roads in Shandon and then later transitioning to 25 mph on the State roads. This would result in some roads in Shandon being 30 mph, while others would be 25 mph. Joe indicated that the 30/25 mph dichotomy may be confusing to some residents. Rich indicated that most of the roads residents are concerned about are City roads. Russell suggested community involvement on the issue, to press public leaders into action.

Zoning/Ordinance Report: By Buddy Atkins. Buddy noted that a lot of sewer work was taking place in Shandon. He spoke with the City’s storm water manager. He is working with the City engineer to manage the problem. Contact Buddy if you have issues. Buddy spoke about the BOZA appeal related to the planned restaurant at 3006 Devine Street. Russell indicated that as a procedural matter the Council discussed the variance and the special exception at the March 2018 Council meeting and took no action. Debra indicated that the planned restaurant is numerous spaces short of those required by the City. Bob Hallman discussed the BOZA appeal, as he is a party appealing the grant of the variance and the special exception to state court. Bob summarized the facts of the case and opined that it was legal error to grant the variance and the special exception. He said, because the restaurant is numerous spaces short of those required, it will likely result in restaurant goers parking on neighborhood streets. He encouraged the Council to take a position on the issue, and he indicated that there is still time for the Council to do so. Joe discussed the need to explain to residents how they may bring an issue before the Council. It was noted that this information could be made available through a link on the Council website. John expressed the need to have information about zoning made available to Council members sooner rather than later to allow for adequate preparation for Council meetings. It was discussed whether the Zoning Committee could be responsible for this task. Jessie indicated that anyone can sign up to receive all zoning requests made to the City.

Old Business: Yard Signs. Yard signs for the purpose of notifying residents of upcoming Council meetings was discussed. The matter was tabled to the next meeting. The Communications Committee is tasked with developing a definitive proposal about such yard signs.

New Business: Rich raised the issue about having Council meetings in one place instead of two. The Emily Douglas facility is larger than the Sims facility, but each is limited to 25 people. Russell suggested that we explore having the meetings at the Heyward Street Methodist Church, the place where the annual meeting is held. Hand was discussed as a location, but it was mentioned that this would cost money. Rich made a motion that the Traffic and Safety Committee “explore the possibility of picking a single site for Council meetings.” Tamra seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by those Council members present.

Buddy made two motions. First, he moved that the Zoning and Ordinance Committee meet to discuss the BOZA appeal to state court concerning 3006 Devine Street and draft a letter to appropriate authorities outlining Council’s position on the appeal, with such discussion to include all interested parties, and with such letter being presented to Council for approval. The motion was seconded by Tamra and was passed unanimously by those Council members present. Second, Buddy moved that Zoning and Ordinance draft a letter, to be used in future BOZA matters, outlining how Council would like to be involved and/or participate in future cases before BOZA, with such letter being presented to Council for approval. Rich seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by those Council members present.

Lois moved that Council approve the expenditure of up to $400.00 for live music at NNO. The motion was seconded by John, and the motion was passed unanimously by those Council members present.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned.