

Tuscaloosa City Council
Pre-Council Briefing
1:00 p.m. May 10, 2011

Present:

Elected: Walt Maddox (WM), Cynthia Almond (CA), Bobby Howard (BH), Lee Garrison (LG), Harrison Taylor (HT), Bill Tinker (BT), Bob Lundell (BL)

Staff: Tim Nunnalley (TN-legal), Jimbo Woodson (JW-legal), Bill Snowden (BS - economic development), John McConnell (JMc - planning), Phillip O'Leary (PO - planning)

WM told CA that FEMA is bringing in a long-term planning expert. TN said that FEMA is trying to accelerate that. CA asked if this is in lieu of a professional planning consultant. TN replied maybe, they do offer very comprehensive services.

HT. Called meeting to order

WM. The White House Faith-Based Initiative representative is here. He thanked the staff. Discussed preparing policy directions; visiting towns with similar experiences, for example Greensburg, Kansas which was wiped off the map and is being rebuilt in a progressive manner.

HT: Hope XI and Rosedale are his concern. He wants to focus his attention on those.

LG: The Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustments and the Historic Commission want to go too but they want to pay their own way.

CA: There are various big policy issues to deal with (i.e., housing, planning) and then how we want to divide up this work.

WM: Citizens Advisory Committee - choose folks from recovery zones. Want to include a lot of people but be manageable.

BS: it was in the Birmingham News that HUD Ass't. Secretary said to expedite our CDBG which is \$853,000.

HT: We're at the top of Hope XI funds. Maybe we can do with Rosedale what we did with McKenzie Court.

PO: Handed out a document about rezoning application for Metalworks. They are going to renovate the existing building; will have three tenants. This is rezoning a piece of railroad r-o-w to BC and rezone the old junk yard for parking.

TN: Moratorium. This ordinance is a follow-up to last week's emergency moratorium. Within the recovery zone on new construction except for "restricted new construction." Delineates commercial and residential. Applies standards of Downtown Overlay to all commercial zones. Residential - don't have standards in place. Would allow building permit approved by John McConnell (planning director) if it's consistent with existing buildings in the area.

LG: Ordinance § 24-2-30 - the Downtown Overlay. He is concerned about the Alabama Historic Commission's potential withdrawal of neighborhoods' historic status. Neighbors want to rebuild.

BL: I only heard about Forest Lake.

Jmc: Update: State went back to Montgomery and decided they would be willing to give Forest Lake its historic status. Decided it would be satisfied with the Lake and plat of surrounding area as historic.

WM: It's his personal observation that Glendale Gardens appears to be about 80% damaged; the Downs about 50% and Hillcrest about 80%. Is there a threshold that would prevent re-designation?

Jmc: Historic Commission on the first blush said would have to do a new survey and re-apply according to what was lost, but has changed their mind because the status was granted on the subdivision *design* - i.e., they were the first cul-de-sac design subdivisions.

WM: so will have to be rebuilt to Historic District status?

Jmc: Each home will have to be presented at the Historic Commission. Looking to increase the number of meetings. Board members are well-versed.

TN: providing a review (appeal) procedure of John McConnell's decisions.

Jmc: Will use the Downtown Overlay standards *where applicable*. Will review each case.

TN: Transfer \$5million to general fund to deal with expenses.

WM: dropping below mandatory minimum. Spent \$109,000 on 4/15/11 tornado. Do have insurance on revenue and overtime. Spending \$50,000 a day on FIRE overtime alone.

TN: change of council committee times. A lot of stuff will not be on the agendas and we will have to proceed under suspension of rules, i.e., pre-disaster flooding mitigation grant Dirt ? Phase II; Contractor license fee - change from \$75 and incremental to \$350 for \$0-\$100,000. This is not for our local businesses who are already paying as they should.

BT: Temporary Emergency Services needs more volunteers.

Adjourn. 1:38 p.m.