

Summary of Ward 5 Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

- **Anything happening with the old Winn Dixie store?**

Nothing at the moment; Rouse's had expressed some interest before staying in Gulfport but the owner of the Winn Dixie store wanted to sell the entire location, not just the empty Winn Dixie store.

- **Pine Grove Ave exit from RV park expansion**

The RV park emergency exit on Pine Grove Avenue will remain closed except for emergencies. There was much discussion about the wooden privacy fence. (I would add that I arranged for a meeting, August 14th, with about 8-10 interested Briarfield residents and Mr. Creel to discuss the wooden/privacy fence at the RV park where the matter was discussed for 70 minutes.) Mr. Creel noted that the project is almost complete. Before a Certificate of Occupancy can be granted, the fence at Beach View & Pine Grove must comply with city land ordinances, e.g., there can be no visual obstruction for traffic. A section of the wooden fence has been, or will be, removed to comply with those ordinances. There is some landscaping required along the wooden privacy fence.

- **MGCCC private road, status**

There was a conversation with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College officials in October, 2018, but there have been no more communications with the Community Development office. I've communicated with the Vice President of the Jefferson Davis campus that should they decide to proceed on this project I'd like to be notified in order to arrange a meeting with campus officials and residents. If MGCCC moves forward on this project, they would make a presentation before the Development Review Committee (DRC). The DRC meets every Wednesday; you'll find a link to the DRC agenda in the Ward 5 eblast every Sunday.

- **Height restrictions, buildings & KAFB**

Height restrictions required by Keesler Air Force Base to limit structural intrusions into plane flight paths for their runway are being followed by the city. See the [Joint Land Use Study \(JLUS\)](#) for KAFB.

- **Code Enforcement in neighborhoods (parking in front yard, RVs, etc.) & process to address**

There are two conflicting ordinances that make it difficult to enforce a particular limit of personal vehicles that may be parked in a residential front yard. Commercial vehicles parked in residential front yards must comply with city ordinances... in general, parking commercial vehicles in residential yards is not permitted. To see the searchable city Code of Ordinances [click here](#).

- **Pine Grove Ave drainage project**

A pre-construction meeting for this project will be scheduled for residents in the area in 2-3 weeks. Look for that announcement in my Ward 5 eblast and on my webpage: www.tisdaleforbiloxi.com

- **Eisenhower Avenue railroad crossing, repair schedule**

Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT), CSX Railroad, and the city each have responsibilities associated with railroad crossings and their repair. The city engineering department is waiting to hear back from MDOT, who's in touch with CSX Railroad. At this point, there's no timeline available for this repair.

- **Debuys Road, north of Pass Road**

Biloxi, Gulfport, and the District 5 Supervisor have no money (designated project) set aside in this next fiscal year to repair that portion of Debuys Road from Pass Road north to the community college. But, scheduled projects may come in under budget and the monies saved may be scraped together to repair that section of Debuys. The city chief administrative officer, Mike Leonard, noted the city has sent a letter to the city of Gulfport and the Supervisor noting Biloxi's willingness to work jointly on this improvement.

- **Speed Limit sign (15 mph), Cove Drive**

The Engineering Department will check... likely, a 15 mph sign at the Runnymede/Cove Drive intersection.

- **Capital Projects in Ward 5**

(1) Pine Grove Avenue drainage line repair, and (2) Goose Pointe dredging project.

- **Saenger Theatre update**

Repairs to the roof and the fly tower are scheduled to begin in early October with a projected completion date in 300 days. Mississippi Power Company is currently relocating underground power lines.

- **Churchill Avenue ditch/pipe**

Supervisor Rockco has earmarked \$50,000 for this proposed project. If other designated/scheduled projects come in under budget (say, on the Pine Grove drainage project), those savings may be used for this project. So, the current status of this project is “iffy”.

- **Popp’s Ferry extension (Pass Road to Beach Boulevard**

Still acquiring property... CSX railroad will approve a railroad crossing for this extension.

- **NOLA camera system; homeowner participation**

Homeowners who wish to participate in this camera network, learn what the costs/benefits are, and have their questions answered should contact the Biloxi Police Department and speak with Officer Moran, 228.392.0641.

- **Cruisin’ the Coast traffic plan and Briarfield neighborhood**

The coliseum shortcut will be open; there will be no Neighborhood Passes as in past years... Orange cones will be placed in position Thursday night, October 3. Basically, no changes from last year. [See the traffic plan.](#)

- **Homeless Concerns**

If you are annoyed by a “homeless” person’s behavior toward you or feel harassed by “panhandlers”, call the non-emergency phone number for the police department, 228.392.0641. If it’s an emergency, dial 911. The mayor is working with a number of parties on a plan to reduce the visibility of the homeless, provide some shelter at night to get them off the streets, and provide support by matching them with and directing them to resources that will help them with the issues they are dealing with. More info as it becomes available.

- **Census 2020 (March-April, 2020)**

Residents have options to complete the census: by mail, online, smart phone, or by census takers going door to door. [Read more.](#) If you’d like to be a member of the Ward 5 Complete Count Committee, contact Kristi Kelly Hicks, Mississippi Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau, kristi.k.hicks@2020census.gov. It’s very important that we get an accurate census count!

- **Cleaning city lots/properties in neighborhoods... Home Owners Association concensus**

The city, from time to time, bush hogs or clears their property in neighborhoods. (Some of these properties, which had a history of flooding, were acquired through federal “buy back” programs.) Clearing was begun on such a property in Edgewater Estates and some residents were telling Public Works to clear it out; other residents were telling the crews to limit the clearing due to wildlife in the area.

- **Garbage collection fee to increase... \$0.47/month (from \$14.33 to \$14.80)**

Simple math: Basically, the annual cost of garbage collection is divided by the number of households. Council votes on this at the September 17th Council meeting, 1:30, city hall.

- I was asked why the tornado siren is no longer tested the first Wednesday of each month.

I checked with Biloxi Fire Chief, Joe Boney... The fire department has received numerous calls that the siren test is an aggravation/annoyance. Rather than monthly testing, the siren tests may quarterly in the future.

- Sitting in the Ward 5 meeting was newly elected Justice Court Judge, District 5, Nick Patano. I noticed him and planned to introduce him at the end of the Ward meeting but he slipped out before I could grab him.

● Also, there were a number of folks at the Ward meeting who weren’t residents of Ward 5. Thanks for coming... glad to have you... you’re always welcome.

- The next Ward 5 meeting is likely to occur in late February or early March 2020.