

With ten people present, Mayor Johnny Crist started the meeting by asking for suggestions to help everyone feel included. In most instances, an inner circle causes those on the “outside” to feel adversarial and leads to resistance to decisions made “for me”. He would like to create an environment of “us” in the community.

Kathy Calhoun commented that she has concerns about non-responsiveness when a complaint is made to the City: she has called to report a business run in a residential area and has seen no progress on her concerns, in spite of repeated requests for follow up. She would like acknowledgement of the request and periodic updates on the progress of the issue. The Mayor encouraged her to consider introducing herself to the homeowner, building relationship.

Mayor Crist reported that Larry Arnwine has left the position of Code Enforcement/Housing Inspection Officer.

Kathy also is concerned about the elderly who live in the area: neighbors are often not aware of their situation and could step in to help if they knew. This would be an ideal reason for forming a neighborhood watch in the area to foster relationships and encourage people to know each other on a personal level. Not only does this reduce isolation but builds community and decreases crime in the area. SafetySmart Lilburn and Lilburn Police Department are available to help neighborhoods organize a watch in their area.

The Mayor reported that there is a national shift from people sitting on their back deck to using their front porches, increasing visibility and friendliness. Unfortunately, many houses in Lilburn do not have front porch design.

When someone travels to another country, and doesn’t know the language, it feels very isolating and unfriendly. The most recent newsletter published by SafetySmart has the capability to translate to any language—through the online version, using EmailBrain.com. Margot Ashley suggested that the City consider publishing their newsletter so it can be translated to the many languages represented in the community. This would allow information to be disseminated to multi-cultural groups in the area, increasing their ability to know what is going on and to become involved.

There is a significant deficit of street lighting along Arcado, Cole and Rockbridge. Particularly with the newly renovated Lion’s Club Park, it is challenging to arrive there walking because there are not sidewalks along all of Rockbridge. The park is well lit but access to and from is hazardous. It is possible for older neighborhoods to petition the county to install lights in their neighborhood—the bill is attached to the county tax bill and each house near a light is charged a portion of the fee.

The new sidewalk along Hillcrest Road does not have lighting included in the plan.

In recent months, the City has completed a strategic plan, combining multiple studies to determine projects in need of completion. The projects have been prioritized and put into a queue for completion in the next five years.

Main Street Realignment dedication ceremony will be held at 10 am on Feb 5 next to S.M.I.L.E.S. Stakes have been placed in several yards indicating location of planned construction. At the site of the former Chiropractic office, a large aluminum box houses the controls for the traffic light. This will need to be moved once the realignment is completed—an expensive proposition. The county is replacing the water lines along Main Street as well as installing sewer lines on the opposite side of the street. The entire length

of Main Street and Camp Creek (from Hwy 29 to Arcado) will have service when the construction is completed. Homeowners can opt in to the service. The property along Main will have potential to become businesses once construction is complete. In addition, the City Council is planning to create 5' sidewalks and replace curbing along the street from Hwy 29 to downtown as the water/sewer installation is finished. Street lights will also be replaced. All construction is projected to be complete in time for the Lilburn Christmas Parade on the first Saturday of December.

In conjunction with the disturbance of dirt for the realignment construction, the County has recommended that the pad for City Hall/Library also be put in place.

The City is working to address concerns about pedestrian traffic at Bryson Park and Hood Road. Because the exit from the park and Hood Road could not be aligned due to a billboard, access to Hwy 29 from Hood is difficult, and is a liability when pedestrians try to cross the road to get to the park. No final decisions have been reached, but talks are in progress to find resolution.

The city issued a nation-wide request for proposal (RFP) for the former water treatment plant. The deadline for this request is approaching. The earnest money paid to Big League Dreams should be arriving soon.

The council would like to have a Monument Sign and Matrix Board, linked to the sign at Main and 29, at the entrance to the city on Pleasant Hill Road. They have issued an RFP for suggestions for a "Welcome to Lilburn" banner for the bridge of Ronald Reagan Parkway at the former Lowe's on Pleasant Hill.

The building on the Northeast corner of Hwy 29 and Pleasant Hill is being sought by a reputable business, with plans for a parking lot in front and the building toward the back of the property. The property has been in foreclosure for five years and the bank is now negotiating with the purchaser.

The former Café/Mazzio's building on Indian Trail near Sweetwater Creek stands empty because the owner raised the price in anticipation that Big League Dreams would be across the way. A used car lot owner attempted to purchase the property but decided against the project due to opposition.

Someone expressed concern about speeders in their neighborhood: to have speed humps installed, 70% of the residents have to agree and it is charged each year on the tax statement. Another option might be installation of cobblestones, making for a rougher ride. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

These notes are provided as a community service by SafetySmart Lilburn Inc., working to build the safest community in Georgia.

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The following article appeared in the Patch last week. It is very timely for the discussion at the Town Hall meeting:

Lilburn Neighborhood to Get Streetlights After Petitioning

The Stratford Square subdivision is the first to reap the benefits of the new petition process approved by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners last month.

Posted by [Vanzetta Evans](#) (Editor) , January 23, 2014 at 01:25 PM

After filing a petition, a subdivision off of Bethesda Church Road in unincorporated Lilburn will soon be getting new streetlights.

On Tuesday, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners approved the use for \$21,693 in 2009 SPLOST funds to install streetlights in Stratford Square. The homeowners will split the estimated annual operating costs of \$2,438 of the lights on their property tax bills.

In 1997, the county began requiring that developers install streetlights in new subdivisions. Residents in older subdivisions may now petition the Gwinnett County Department of Transportation for street lights. The money for installation will come from 2009 SPLOST funds.

"Police tell me lighting is an environmental factor that can help to reduce crime," said Commissioner Lynette Howard in a release. "So I am thankful older neighborhoods now have the opportunity to add streetlights to their communities."

<http://lilburn.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/lilburn-neighborhood-to-get-streetlights-after-petitioning?ncid=newsltuspatc00000001&evan4=picks-3-post&newsRef=true>

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