

Westbury Civic Club MEETING MINUTES
Westbury Baptist Church July 17,2024

Meeting called to order by President Chapman at 7:04 PM. Attending: C Chapman, B Droubi, B Edmondson, J Edmondson, J Hansen, A Hirshman, M Funk, and A Jefferson

Guest Speakers: *Public Safety* – Sgt Derkowski with Precinct 5 Constables gave a crime update. May and June were worse than usual, due to property crimes. One street had repeat thefts and both HPD and Precinct 5 Constables were monitoring every 30 minutes. A suspect was arrested, for another crime, and the thefts stopped. Traffic enforcement continues. Discussion about problems at a vacant commercial property that is next to residential homes; Sgt. Derkowski advised to report problems using a residential address. *Harris County Precinct Four* – Brian Pendleton handed out flyer about trash collection.

Officer Reports: Meeting Minutes - No meeting was held in June. Minutes for May meeting will be presented next month. Treasurer Report- not available.

Office Updates: WCC Office Manager, Jennifer Edmondson, provided an overview of the impacts of Hurricane Beryl here in Westbury. Beryl made landfall on Monday, July 8. More than 2 million Centerpoint customers lost power. Centerpoint provided little information about the status of power restoration, so she did a driving survey during the middle of the night of July 11. Westbury residents gratefully appreciated the useful information about the status of power restoration across Westbury, so Jennifer did driving surveys for 8 consecutive nights until power was mostly restored in Westbury. The Westbury Fire Station relocated for several days due to no power and no working generator. Westbury leadership asked for the new Dr. Shannon Walker Library to be opened as a Cooling Center, so District K CM Martha Castex-Tatum was able to get a generator installed and staffing to open up the library on Sunday, July 14 when it would normally be closed, and it continued as a Cooling Center until power was substantially restored across the area. Discussion by board on disaster issues. The June/July newsletter was distributed by email and social media, but still had not been printed by the printing vendor, so WCC will proceed with the August newsletter to be printed instead. There was 10 inches of rainfall in Westbury during Beryl, some at high intensity which might have caused structural flooding in the past, but this time there was no known structural flooding in Westbury.

New Business: Board Elections will be during the WCC Annual Elections in September. Nominations are due in early August. Due to extensive storm debris and damage, the Yard of the Month program was discussed. General agreement to do Yard of Month for Halloween decorations in October and Holiday decorations in December.

Guest Speaker: Mayor Pro Tem Martha Castex-Tatum of District K gave an update about the city and Beryl. Most homes in District K now have power, except for some small locations that need additional work. She has been in frequent contact with WCC leadership since Beryl hit Houston, and the WCC provided her with a list of questions that were discussed during a meeting between Centerpoint and local political leaders. It is important to be prepared and vigilant. She was in a meeting earlier today with the CEO of Centerpoint. They say they will do better vegetation management since so many falling limbs or trees caused damage to power lines, but residents also should consider that trees have been under stress due to a drought last year and heavy rain this year. Houston has already had two major storms this year – the Derecho in May and Beryl in July. She mentioned that both Houston airports have a good reputation, with Hobby airport the first to get 5 stars and Bush airport is anticipated to get 5 starts after its remodel is finished. There was a Q&A session with topics including: Yellow Tags followup? Done by Dept of Neighborhoods, but let District K know of problems. Recycle collection? It may be paused due to Beryl. Trash Fee? City is looking at options.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

Meeting Minutes prepared by Cindy Chapman, in absence of Secretary.