

Westbury Civic Club Annual Meeting
Sept. 27, 2017
Westbury Baptist Church

Meeting opened at 7PM by Becky Edmondson, who welcomed everyone to annual meeting. Hannah Terry, (Assoc. Pastor at Westbury Methodist), and Brandon Bell (Pastor of Westbury Baptist) offered opening prayers and reflections. Becky noted work by Susan Brock of Willow Meadows Baptist Church after Hurricane Harvey to help those who flooded.

First speaker: State Sen. Borris Miles took Chancellor Sharpe, who is overseeing the State of Texas flood recovery efforts, to tour this area, concentrating on Westbury/Braeswood. Miles says he doesn't want buyouts of flooded homes. Instead, he wants homes raised, infrastructure improved, policies improved. He was instrumental in getting mobile units to come out to our communities to help with renewal of licenses, paperwork, applications, etc.

Second speaker: State Rep. Shawn Thierry helped out with Westbury's initial efforts to cope with the storm. All agreed that we need to have a disaster plan, and she is working on this. She went to Ed Emmet to ask for money to raise houses rather than buy them out.

Third speaker: Superintendent Richard Carranza/ Trustee Wanda Adams said that HISD delivered 5000 meals to families in Westbury who had been affected by the flood. Wanda presented a proclamation to Westbury Civic Club in honor of their work after Harvey to serve the schools. Carranza said all HISD schools are back up and running after Harvey. Students are almost all back as well. They used HISD buses to carry people to shelters/safety, and also picked up kids at shelters and took them to school. Six schools were relocated. HISD is counting on our state representatives to help the state be understanding of the 21 days missed by many students. HISD may have to completely tear down some schools and rebuild. This year all students will get free breakfast, lunch, and dinner all year through HISD.

Fourth Speaker: Councilmember Larry Green spoke of what they have accomplished. Classification of Hillcroft from 6 to 4 lanes. Hillcroft bridge repaired over Willow Water Hole channel. Purchased 2 HPD speed trailers. Installed signage at HPD Storefront. Added Hager Park to CIP for \$2,000,000 out of whatever is appropriated in next bond election in Nov. Also kept Meyer Library. Formed a SW coalition to stop panhandling at South Post Oak. Monitoring Airport water line replacement. Supporting WCG, NTTSW, Westbury replacement project replacing 4 inch pipe with 6 in pipe Storm debris pickup is ongoing. No recycling. No heavy trash collection. Detention pond construction on Fondren Diversion Channel still planned by City.

Fifth Speaker: Councilmember Amanda Edwards says her office is working on connecting people with resources. Fraud and Abuse is another area they are addressing. Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund is being administered by private not public entities. Not used for city/county needs. Goes to people.

Becky: Tax increase—how do we feel about it? (Show of hands) Borris Miles says Turner and Abbott are at odds over whether we can use some of the Rainy Day Fund for rebuilding. Edwards clarified reimbursement issues as they relate to debris removal.

Q & A

One resident spoke about how she used bags of mulch to help prevent flood damage to your home.

Borris Miles spoke again. Said plans now are trying to make sure we don't go through this again. He's pushing to use all the available money for the project. "This flood is taking middle class people and putting them in another class." Federal law has to be changed to allow broader definitions; right now all federal disaster monies are directed toward low income areas.

Gary Zika, manager of Project Brays spoke. He said WWH compartments still have to be connected; this will involved piping under Willow Street and South Post Oak. Slated to be done in 2018. He noted that the intent of detention ponds is to slow down the water, not to stop it. All projects of this nature are designed to handle approximately 13 inches of rain in 24 hours, but we had over 30 inches of rain in our area and other areas of the watershed had up to 50 inches. And it rained for such a long time that everything simply filled up and overflowed.

Becky announced the slate of officers/board members for the coming year, and they were elected by acclamation. Subsequently, resident Susan Brock was nominated as Section Director for Westbury 2, and elected to that position.

Precinct 5 Constables: Sgt. Hernandez thanked the community for their support, and introduced his staff. He noted that they have stepped up patrols in the flooded areas.

Door prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders, and all donors were thanked for their generosity in contributing the prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.

Future Events:

Oct. 7 – Town Hall Meeting re Flood Issues, Willow Meadows Baptist Church