

Hickory Withe Community Association Minutes
6 February 2020

The Hickory Withe Community Association met on February 6th at the Hickory Withe Presbyterian Church. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Becky Sue Evans. Jim Mitchell offered the opening prayer, and the pledge to the flag was led by Phil Mitchell. There were 42 in attendance including Fayette County Mayor “Skip” Taylor and County Commissioner Jim Norton.

Discussion was held about the “Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction”. Becky Sue passed around signup sheets to volunteer for assistance during the dinner: decorations, serving, clean up. The members present were encouraged to reach out to folks in the community to supply silent auction items. Invitations were distributed for members to invite friends and to place in appropriate venues.

Our speaker for the evening was Fayette County Mayor “Skip” Taylor. Mayor Taylor began by indicating that the first few months of the years are relegated to gathering budget ideas and requests to put on paper. He also announced the very welcome news that Hickory Withe will be receiving a new Pumper Truck for the fire department. The mayor pointed out that Hickory Withe has access, through county resources, to 24-hour ambulance service (staffed for higher daytime demand) available to transport emergent cases to emergency rooms for care. (emphasis on EMERGENT). Information is being gathered to consider a “Stand Alone” emergency room in Fayette County. Mayor Taylor’s “sweet spot” is at Highway 196 and Highway 64! Baptist Hospital is building a “Stand Alone” emergency room in Arlington at the intersection of I-40 and 205 (Northeast corner).

Mayor Taylor discussed several “Hot Button” issues:

- City and County Taxes. Several, if not all, of the larger Fayette County cities may raise taxes this year. Close to home, Oakland is one...considering up to a one-half percent raise. Oakland has had significant population growth since the last census, as have some of the other cities in the county. With growth, comes a greater demand on city services...as well as county services. Due to the directives associated with the relationship between county and city taxes, if a city (or cities) raise taxes and the county doesn’t, the county will not receive a share of those tax proceeds; in order to share a portion of those proceeds, Fayette County would have to raise taxes also. With the same growth impacts as the cities, and with the “share” provisions of current guidelines, it becomes prudent...if not compelling...for the county to consider making appropriate increases to county taxes. The cities are considering those tax raises this year. Depending on that outcome, the county will have time to propose potential raises in time for the start of the next fiscal year. Perhaps predictably, the discussion of taxes stimulated much interest, many questions, and an abundance of informative comments.

- Adequate Facilities Tax – This is a “one time” tax (\$1/square foot) levied on new home construction. Our tax rate is the lowest in the state of Tennessee.

- Litter. A corrections officer is being trained to take prisoners out on litter pick up details. Civic groups are encouraged to “Adopt a Road” in the effort to curb the litter problem.

- Voter Registration. Everyone is encouraged to register to vote in the upcoming election. Go to www.fayetttn.us for information.

- CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease) – The local deer population has been suffering with CWD and Fayette County has been designated the location to bury the infected carcasses. State legislators are working to get financing to build an incinerator to appropriately dispose of the animals.

The next General Meeting and Pot Luck Supper will be held on March 5th.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Klepko, Secretary