

Town Meeting Recap

FEBRUARY 2019 - WESTERN BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL

On Tuesday evening, February 5, members of the City Council and City staff met with more than 150 residents during the first Town Meeting of 2019. Held at Western Branch High School, the meeting followed the new, “Open House” format, with residents able to attend anytime between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Council members interacted one-to-one with residents, listening to concerns and providing feedback. Additionally, representatives from various City departments were onhand to answer both general and specific questions, share information about current and future projects, and assist residents in accessing City services. This Recap provides a brief summary of some the leading topics discussed.

Parks, Recreation & Tourism

About 30 residents asked for more information about the two recreational trails in Western Branch. These include the rails to trails project, which links Suffolk to Chesapeake to Portsmouth, and the Western Branch Trail along Bruce and Tyre Neck Roads. The latter trail is in the process of being asphalted with additional biking and bench amenities scheduled for completion later this summer. There were also a number of questions about the Splash Park, opening this summer at the Western Branch Community Center, and the recent improvements being made to athletic fields in the area. For more on current and planned projects, visit www.CityOfChesapeake.net/Parks.

Chesapeake Fire Department

Chesapeake’s Fire Chief and Fire Marshal were in attendance and answered many questions regarding smoke alarms including when to test (every 6 months), when to replace (every 5 years) and how many are needed based on the house size. They also discussed the City’s Burn Law, which prohibits outdoor burning except during certain hours. More information on safe burning and other Fire Department topics, can be found at www.CityOfChesapeake.net/Fire.

Chesapeake Police Department

Chesapeake Police Chief, along with several officers assigned to Western Branch, spoke with citizens and responded to four specific complaints. Two of these concerned speeding on Mapleton Drive and Prince of Wales. RADAR units have begun additional patrols on these roadways since the Town Meeting. Another citizen expressed concern with 911 call response for those living close to the Chesapeake/Suffolk city line. The concern was addressed and plans implemented to notify Suffolk of immediate life safety calls, to ensure timely response. The final specific question, concerning school buses, was referred to the Chesapeake Public Schools, Transportation Division. Information on the Chesapeake Police Department can be found at www.CityOfChesapeake.net/Police. The Schools website is www.CPSchools.com, where you can find a link to Transportation for bus-related inquiries.

Public Works Department

The Public Works Director and members of his team staffed the busiest table throughout the Town Meeting. They responded to more than 20 Customer Service Requests (CSRs). Of those, 13 were related to drainage concerns, including requests for clearing of ditches and other maintenance of the City’s stormwater system. Residents also presented a number of concerns about private drainage systems, which are not maintained by the City. Staff provided education on the differences in these systems. A number of the concerns came out of rainfall during Hurricane Matthew, which was an unusual occurrence, notably stronger than the drainage system design.

Traffic-related concerns made up the majority of the rest of the concerns, including requests for additional sidewalks/crosswalks, installation of speed humps, and new signs and signals. Each of these requests has or will be evaluated based on the particular situation, with a determination made based on traffic engineering best practices.

The Director also discussed how the City prioritizes paving projects across the City, based on funding available each year. Information on that process, along with reports and updates about current and future projects and initiatives, can be found online at www.CityOfChesapeake.net/PublicWorks.

City Council Members Meeting Citizens



NEXT TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 4
GREAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL