

Civic Association member meeting 3/19/2014 Homewood

7:55 pm Carol opened the meeting by welcoming Jessica Fitzwater, running to represent District 4 on the County Council. Jessica mentioned that she lives in Fredericktown Village and has been an elementary school teacher for 9 years. Education is her primary concern.

Carol then noted that the percentage of residents living in Worman's Mill who vote is declining. Information regarding the election of our first county executive will be forthcoming from the Civic Association. Carol also mentioned that the New Resident Social will be held on June 29, and that residents do not have to be new to attend. The Civic Association will have cookies at their table so all are invited.

The evening's presenters, Mayor Randy McClement, Public Works Director Zack Kershner, and Deputy Director Joel Adkins, were introduced. Each summarized current issues pertaining to the city.

Mayor McClement stressed the balancing act of budgeting for the city when property tax assessments, done every 3 years, have remained static while other costs, such as gasoline and utilities, have increased. The mayor is required to present a balanced budget. Right now, his budget is \$20 million in the hole. Next week, the budget will be presented to the alderman. A lot of requests and promises made by the other candidates for mayor will be denied.

The only possible increase in services might be a return to collecting bulk trash, but this will be done differently than in the past. Residents will be able to bring their large items to a specific site in the city where nonprofits, such as Goodwill, Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity, will be waiting to collect usable items.

This way, it is anticipated that only 25% of the items will need to be hauled to the dump at a tipping fee of \$75.00 per ton.

The Mayor stated that he will not submit a budget that raises taxes. He gave examples of how difficult this is: in Zack's department, 5 Cavaliers were "deadlines" due to being rusted out. Other cars were repaired to replace them instead of new cars being purchased. The Dept. of Public Works has also had to balance the \$750,000.00 cost overrun from the 53 inches of snow that fell in 2009. Last year, 2013, 50 inches of snow fell, and the budget is already \$300,000.00 over budget. The crew i