**ACoN Minutes**
January 26, 2016
6:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg., First floor conference room

Present:
Gary Yount, President Roger Brock Hattie Lloyd
Ann Dicks, Vice President Betty Myers Mary Yarborough
Diane Saunders, Treasurer Bill Busser Shelby Saunders
Beth Copenhaver, Secretary Betty Gyles Michelle Harper-Merriwether

The meeting was opened by President Yount at 6:30 p.m. He distributed the agenda, minutes from the September meeting, list of 2016 ACoN meeting dates, and proposed changes to the bylaws. Everyone was asked to introduce himself/herself.

President Yount said that he and Mrs. Dicks had to leave soon for the City of Aiken visioning meeting but he would proceed until then with items on the agenda.

President Yount said that Elizabeth Harm, Senior Public Relations Specialist at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, had asked to be at our meeting to extend an invitation for a tour of SRS. However, Mrs. Harm was not present. Mr. Yount asked Mrs. Copenhaver to contact Mrs. Harm to see if she wanted to send us information via email.

Mr. Yount asked those present to read the proposed changes to the bylaws. He said that the changes were to allow neighborhoods or homeowners’ associations who wished to be included in ACoN to do so, whether or not they were technically in the City of Aiken. Mr. Yount asked for a vote to accept the bylaws change. The change to the bylaws was approved unanimously.

Mr. Yount stated that the current ACoN officers have agreed to serve until November 2016. However, current representatives were asked to consider who would like to serve as an officer, as well as groom new representatives from our neighborhoods to serve on ACoN also.

As an informational item, Mr. Yount said that ACoN (along with other city groups) has been approached to assist in crafting possible ordinances on rental property and youth protection. There was discussion that it might be good also to consider ordinances on abandoned properties at the same time. There was no timeline given for these ordinances to be written.

When serving as chairperson, Mrs. Saunders handed out the treasurer’s report and asked that each give an update on our neighborhoods or express any concerns or positives that we wanted to share.

During the Community Roundtable, each attendee spoke regarding his/her neighborhood issues or concerns, as well as gave ideas for other neighborhoods to consider. Topics included:

* Gangs with camouflage pants and black shirts (“600 Gang”)
* Neighborhood holiday decorating contest with prizes
* Current and future events by Hope for the Community, America Walks webinar, and the AARP livability index
* Asking the ADPS to hold an annual meeting on crime statistics (as they did a year or two ago) and to suggest how crime watch captains might better work with investigators/detectives
* Being proactive about carefully screening candidates for new Habitat for Humanity housing
* Security devices to deter break-ins
* Upcoming self-defense classes
* Chat with the Chief session in December.
* Suggestion: Having a 2016 goal-setting session at our next ACoN meeting in March.
* Suggestion: A group bus tour of Aiken neighborhoods by ACoN representatives

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. **The next ACoN meeting will be March 22, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 214 Park Avenue SW (first floor conference room).**