

# City of Mulberry

## Summary of Issues

### EAR Public Workshop

March 13, 2008

The following is a summary of the issues that were expressed by Mulberry residents at the EAR Public Workshop on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and as turned in via survey. Major issues will be considered when preparing the City's Evaluation and Appraisal Report. Many of the issues presented may not be considered as major growth related issues but are of equal importance to share with the City.

#### Transportation

Do you have any concerns with the highways, streets, sidewalks, trails or streetlights in the City?

- ✓ A traffic signal, including turn signals is needed at Mulford Road and SR 37 intersection.
- ✓ Traffic delays and congestion are caused by trains at Shepherd Road crossing west of SR 37.
- ✓ Improvements are needed along Badcock Boulevard (1<sup>st</sup> Street NW) due to on-street parking creating congestion and traffic hazard for vehicles turning off of SR 37.
- ✓ Cut-through traffic avoiding SR 37 and SR 60 intersection creates neighborhood safety issues. Local streets impacted include: 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, SE; 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW; 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE between SR 60 and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ✓ A need was expressed for strict enforcement of speeding and running traffic lights.
- ✓ Sidewalks, where they exist, are in serious disrepair (e.g., cracked, narrow, overgrown), and should be improved, particularly where conditions prohibit wheelchair accessibility. Two examples cited: corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street/5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE; corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street/12<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
- ✓ New sidewalks or a path is needed all along SR 37 from Carter Road south. Better street lighting is desired.
- ✓ The character of the City needs to be better represented along SR 60.

Are you satisfied with the public transportation in your City?

- ✓ Citrus Connection bus service passes through City on SR 37 but does not stop. A need for transit was expressed to connect Mulberry downtown and senior mobile home parks with Lakeland and Bartow.

#### Housing

Are there any housing issues in the City that are a concern to you?

- ✓ The City needs to identify housing rehab programs, and to inform elderly residents of owner-occupied rehab services.
- ✓ Many yards and exterior of houses need attention, including painting.

What other types of housing would you like to see in your City?

- ✓ Mulberry needs diverse types of housing, especially affordable, workforce, and senior housing.

## Infrastructure

Do you have any concerns with the City's water system and or the sewer system? Do you have any issues with stormwater drainage or flooding?

- ✓ The City's South water plant needs repairs and upgrading.
- ✓ The ability to automatically switch wells electronically and to monitor flows is a problem.
- ✓ Most water lines are old.
- ✓ The sewer system is also aging, needing repairs and replacement.
- ✓ Many areas in the City have drainage problems. (Flooding on 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE, and 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW and other streets west of SR 37 west to railroad tracks cited as examples.)
- ✓ There is no storm water drainage plan for Mulberry. Adequate funding is not available for storm water utility improvements.

## Conservation

What concerns do you have with the protection of natural resources? (Including: lakes, rivers, wildlife, habitat, and wetlands)

- ✓ Mulberry's lakes are not accessible for public use and recreation. Boat ramps are needed.
- ✓ Protect the wetlands north and south of 5<sup>th</sup> Street NE.
- ✓ Weed control is a problem in and around natural areas and pits.
- ✓ Creeks in the City should be preserved for fishing and recreation access.

## Recreation and Open Space

Are the parks and recreation facilities adequate?

- ✓ Many of the City's several parks and recreation sites need to be better maintained and policed.
- ✓ Equipment and safety features at Spencefield park need improvement and maintenance.
- ✓ More playground equipment and tot lots are needed.
- ✓ Prohibit use of pocket parks after hours.
- ✓ A multi-purpose center for children is desired.
- ✓ Create a nature trail in the area south and west of the Civic Center.

## Future Land Use

Do you have any concerns about the future land uses planned for your City? Do you have any issues with the City's zoning and development regulations? If so, please explain.

- ✓ The desire for a charette or visioning program was expressed to guide future land use development.
- ✓ A special land use plan should be considered along the SR 60 corridor.
- ✓ Neighborhood revitalization is needed.
- ✓ More commercial and retail uses are needed.

## Additional Comments

Are there any historic or cultural resources in the City you would like to see preserved? Please identify and list the location of these resources.

- ✓ There is an expressed desire to preserve Mulberry's historic buildings, including the Mulberry theatre, the old Coca Cola building, Bethel Missionary Church; also downtown building on Badcock Blvd.
- ✓ A historical preservation ordinance needs to be enacted.

What do you like best about your community?

- ✓ Mulberry has a home town feel and small town flavor.
- ✓ The City is ideally located, not crowded but not far from - and accessible to - urban areas.
- ✓ The City has a sense of community, closeness and friendliness among its residents.

What do you want to change about the community?

- ✓ Improve the appearance and curb appeal for those driving through the city.
- ✓ Better communicate to residents about services/programs available to them, and get residents involved in enhancing elements that the City offers.
- ✓ There is a need to bring about better perception of the city by giving it a "brand".

What would you like your City to look like 10 years from now?

- ✓ Capitalize on the restoration of buildings, revitalize neighborhoods, and revitalize the town's center as a viable business core.
- ✓ Prosperous, vibrant and attractive.
- ✓ Provide for new homes plus businesses with jobs for more city residents.
- ✓ Diversify the demographics.
- ✓ Consider changes to SR60 to reduce traffic flow or reroute traffic away from the town core.
- ✓ Improve and beautify the main entrances to the city.