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Sent: 8/9/2015 2:46:18 PM

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Cc:

Subject: Fwd: City of Aiken fails all residents, Please attend Council Meeting  
Aug 10th @ 7:00 P.M.

All,

My thanks to Bill and all others for taking up the torch.

Bill has hit the nail on the head when he quotes from the Aiken Building Inspection Division, which in part states, ***"The Building Inspection Division is responsible for ensuring that new construction, renovation, and other improvements to structures in the City of Aiken conform to the requirements of the International Building and Fire Code."***

Residents and others have for years faced a battle with a city which has often tried to buffalo their way through the real issues, while Citizens were erroneously thought of as being "the problem." If only the pesky Citizens would listen to the disinformation or wrong information then everything would be fine and dandy. It is indeed tiring and pathetic that the City of Aiken would not have already made a decision to get on with fixing the roads, made a decision and started the work. And, there can be no doubt that without continuing and constant pressure that we would not even be where we are today.

Yet, even now, and to the best of my knowledge, there is still no binding resolution that the city will repair the roads, and we seem to be stuck on, "We want to know the costs before we will agree to fixing infrastructure." It is a bit confusing trying to figure out what this means, but maybe, "The city will fix things if they like the costs and not if they don't?" At best, what we have is a sorta yes, sorta now answer, but no firm and binding commitment.

Most of us were taught that when we made an error that we should promptly do our best to fix it, and that we should accept responsibility and do our best to cause no further harm. In other words, that we step up to the plate.

Many of us would like to know when the city will step up to the plate and produce a formal resolution to fix the roads, with an accompanying budget item to cover the costs ... no matter what they are!

Thanks for the information, Bill. I had never read that section before, but it surely says it all, and makes one wonder if the staff in that division have read it of late.

And, again thanks for your help and support, and that of others,

Rich

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** City of Aiken fails all residents, Please attend Council Meeting Aug 10th @ 7:00 P.M.

**Date:** Sun, 9 Aug 2015 06:45:11 -0400

**From:** William Busser <gemlakeswatch@aol.com>  
<mailto:gemlakeswatch@aol.com>

**CC:** [FCavanaugh@CityofAikenSC.gov](mailto:FCavanaugh@CityofAikenSC.gov)  
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bcc: Gem Lakes residents, ACON and misc

The following email describes Gem Lakes Extension resident's problems over the City's lack of following State and City code and building inspection.

All Aiken residents have this same problem. Email the mayor and council, plus, attend the council meeting to voice your concern over the City's lack of following State and City code. This City of Aiken's lack of code concern and poor building inspection impacts all residents. Are there any suggestions on how we get the City to follow State and City code and improve building inspection?

Aiken Building Inspection Division: *"The Building Inspection Division is responsible for ensuring that new construction, renovation, and other improvements to structures in the City of Aiken conform to the requirements of the International Building and Fire Code. To protect the public's safety and the integrity of the property owner's investment, the Division issues permits for construction to contractors who are properly licensed and then conducts on site inspections during construction to ensure code compliance. Upon completion of construction, the Building Official issues a Certificate of Occupancy to allow a building or residence to be permanently*

occupied."

There are two items on the agenda that will partially discuss the problems listed below.

PRESENTATIONS:

(4) Presentation by Rick Toole on Results of Soil Boring Tests on Gem Lakes Extension Roads and Cost Estimates of Options for Repair..

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

(9) Request for City Attorney to Identify Developers of Houses in Gem Lakes Extension.

Thanks  
Bill Busser

-----Original Message-----

From: gemlakesaiken <gemplakesaiken@gmail.com> <mailto:gemplakesaiken@gmail.com>  
To: undisclosed-recipients: ;  
Sent: Sat, Aug 8, 2015 1:29 pm  
Subject: Upcoming Council Meeting Aug 10th @ 7:00 P.M.

Bill and Everyone Who Has Helped,

I cannot speak for others in the development, but doubt that anyone would disagree about appreciating the support that you and others have given us as we attempt to get the roads and other issues addressed. Hopefully, that support can extend to the August 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Residents, who invested over \$10,000,000 dollars of past and future hard earned money into Gem Lakes homes and the City of Aiken, deserve more than the terrible roads they must daily drive on or the continuing ongoing problems with some of the builders. While accurate and truthful, this statement is not inclusive enough as it does not include both residents living on the periphery of this development and those in other areas of Aiken who suffer by extension.

In failing the citizens in Gem Lakes, the city fails all Aiken residents.

Problems noted in this development are neither isolated nor unique, having occurred in other areas as well. They have grown over time and are now a festering boil that cannot be ignored, and, however painfully, must be lanced. Apathy around assigning responsibility and accountability for poor performance and enforcement, which ultimately has lead our present dilemma, can no longer be ignored with impunity. Hopefully Mr. Klimm will be the person who will bring about desperately needed changes in the way that the city operates.

When in Gem Lakes the City Licensing Department cannot easily provide a list of all the subcontractors who were involved in building our homes, they state, "There are approximately 4,000 business license applications filed with the City every year. however. Unfortunately, they are not categorized in a manner that can distinguish which ones pertain to the Gem Lakes Extension Subdivision as requested." Is it difficult in the computer age to organize records in this manner? No, not at all, it takes a small database or spreadsheet into which one puts that information.

In Gem Lakes we are told that the city has no clue as to who all the subcontractors were when they state, "A residential contractor is not required to get a separate permit for a siding contractor. Therefore, if a residential contractor hired a sub- contractor to perform work on a site, then the City would not be automatically aware of their presence." Another words, the city did not know who was doing work in the city, did not care to find out, and, therefore, had absolutely no idea if there were unlicensed, unregulated, unentitled contractors working in the city. And, no surprise, there were! It is odd that the city would take this position in light of the fact