



COMMISSIONERS: Gray O. Thornburg, *Mayor* • James V. Hunt, Sr., *Vice Mayor* • Cathy Altenbern, Tomas F. Corcoran, George W. Crook, Beth Reardon, *City Manager/Treasurer* • Tim Eads, *Chief of Police* • Linda Berner, *City Recorder*

Belle Meade City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Belle Meade Police Department (615) 297-0241

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

October 2009

This is the second of what we hope will be a series of articles throughout the year written by Commissioners concerning items of interest in the City.

FROM THE COMMISSIONERS – MORE ON FINANCES:

Our city has been making great progress in our efforts to assure that we remain on sound financial footing in both the near and long term. The Commissioners met with William Haston, MTAS consultant, on September 24 to further discuss development of a Capital Improvement Plan for the City. The meeting was very informative and the resulting draft plan gives the Commissioners a working plan with which to go forward. The Commissioners are reviewing the plan as outlined below and will refine and develop it to fit the City of Belle Meade.

What is a Capital Improvements Program? A Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is a blueprint for planning a community's capital expenditures and is one of the most important responsibilities of local government officials. It coordinates community planning, financial capacity and physical development. There are two parts -- a capital budget and a capital program.

What is a Capital Budget? The capital budget is the upcoming year's spending plan for capital items (costing \$10,000 or more and having a life of at least 5 years).

What is a Capital program? This is a plan for capital expenditures that extends five years beyond the capital budget.

What is the point? Development of a CIP will insure sound fiscal and capital planning, and requires effective leadership and involvement and cooperation of all municipal departments. Benefits include some of the following:

- Facilitates coordination between capital needs and the operating budget.
- Analyzes current and future sources and uses of funds in the operating budget to ascertain amounts available for capital improvements program
- Enhances control of the tax rate and avoids sudden changes in debt service requirements, which is especially important given the City's dependence on the Hall Income Tax and property taxes
- Identifies the most economical means of financing capital projects.
- Focuses attention on the community's objectives and fiscal capacity.
- Keeps the public informed about future needs and projects.
- Encourages careful planning and design to avoid costly mistakes and help a community reach desired goals.

What are the steps?

1. Prepare an inventory of existing facilities and the future capital requirements of those facilities.
2. Determine the status of previously approved projects.
3. Assess the City's financial capacity, taking into account variability in revenues from limited sources of City funding.
4. Solicit, compile and evaluate project requests.
5. Involve financial experts who are also Belle Meade City residents.
6. Establish project priority.
7. Develop a CIP financing Plan; long term and/or short-term financing.
8. Adopt a Capital Improvement Plan.
9. Monitor approved projects.
10. Update Capital Program annually.

As you can see, the Commissioners have a great deal of work in front of them. The development of a Capital Improvements Program requires careful evaluation of the City's finances, the assumptions that drive changes in future revenues and expenses and the projects that will best benefit all of the residents of our city. The Commissioners are committed to devoting the time and energy necessary to construct a sound fiscal plan for the financial future of our City. It deserves the time that it will take, and the results will be worth the wait for the entire city.

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER: Property tax statements were mailed to each household at the first of October. Taxes are due from October 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010. A 2 per cent discount can be taken if your taxes are paid by October 31, 2009. The City uses the postmark date if taxes are received after October 31st. Please call Linda Berner at City Hall, 297-6041 if you have tax questions.

RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the September 16, 2009 meeting:

- Awarded the stonework construction on Walnut Drive Island to ALT Masonry, the low bidder, for the cost of \$9,500.00.
- Approved a special events banner for The Temple for the Nashville Jewish Film Festival.
- Welcomed new hire police officer Brian McCartherenes.

RECYCLING UPDATE: From time to time, the City's waste collection contractor, PDQ, has to make changes to the recycling program, based on what the recycle center will accept from them. The City staff will make every attempt to notify residents of these changes as quickly as possible. Below is the latest information from PDQ on acceptable recycle items. Remember, if non-recyclable items are put in the blue recycle bags, then the entire contents will be considered trash and go to the landfill.

SEWER SERVICE

ARE YOU ON GRAVITY OR GRINDER PUMP?

Approximately 800 residences in the City have sewer grinder pumps that are maintained by the City staff. The other 300-plus homes are on a gravity system and the City is responsible for maintaining these lines also. All homes with grinder pumps will have a gray control box with a red light located on the outside wall, usually on the side or rear of the house. If the red light is on, please call City Hall immediately (297-6041) and do not attempt to correct the problem yourself or call a plumber. Larry Smith or George Bartlett will follow up with a phone call or visit to the residence to determine why the red light is on. City staff has record of homes that do not have a septic tank backup system, and will make sure that these homes are serviced immediately. Two common problems that can easily be corrected by the homeowner are: 1) the holding tank lids are not clearly visible in the yard and 2) the control box attached to the outside wall is often obstructed by trees or shrubs. The City's Sewer Regulations state that the City shall endeavor to furnish continuous sewer service, but the customer must provide access to all sewer equipment and service connections.

Often during the mowing season, it becomes apparent that the cleanout caps on the sewer service laterals are missing or broken. It is the homeowner's responsibility to fix or replace these caps. Most of them are located between the house, the splitter box, and the grinder pump tank. In addition, if a sump pump in the basement is tied to the sewer line, it needs to be removed as this causes infiltration, increases the cost, and lowers the efficiency of our system.

Care and Use of Your Grinder Pump – Homeowners can provide regular maintenance to their grinder pump system by applying 1/2 to 1 cup of bleach once a week in late evening to the garbage disposal/sink drain. This prevents failure in the grinder pump due to grease buildup and will also deodorize and clear laterals in the internal plumbing.

Remember – do not dispose of waste cooking oil by pouring it down the drain and do not ever disconnect the electrical power to the unit!

MOST IMPORTANT – If you have any questions about your residential sewer system or specific questions about your grinder pump, PLEASE call Larry Smith at City Hall, 297-6041.

RECYCLING ITEMS FOR BELLE MEADE OCTOBER 2009

PAPER: office paper, magazines, junk mail, newspaper, computer paper, notebook paper, phone book, paperback books, construction paper, brown paper bags.

BOXES: milk or juice cartons (empty), cardboard boxes, food boxes (clean – no food). All boxes should be broken down.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS: #1-7: drink bottles and their caps, detergent & cleaner bottles and their caps, yogurt/cottage cheese and other dairy “tubs” and their lids (please empty containers) and plastic trays, such as the lunchable type containers (any color except black trays – optical sorting machines can't see them).

ALL METAL & ALUMINUM CANS: food and drink cans (please empty cans).

DO NOT RECYCLE: plastic bags, black plastic trays, clamshells (fast food take out), or Styrofoam, paint cans, aerosol spray cans.

NO GLASS is accepted at this time.

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Phase II of Metro Water Project – Metro Water Services has changed the start date for this project from fall of 2009 to January 2010. They anticipate the project will take about 10 months from start to finish. As we get closer to the start date and more details of the project are known, the City will hold a community meeting for the residents. Metro Water Services has assured us that the bid contract will not allow for any blasting. Please call George Bartlett at City Hall, 297-6041, if you have any questions or concerns.

Society of Ceres Donations Third Quarter 2009

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(In Memory of Mr. Abernathy "Neil" Craig, II)

FROM CHIEF TIM EADS:

THE BELLE MEADE POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL HOST ITS THIRD ANNUAL SAFE HALLOWEEN EVENT ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. We will have reflective trick-or-treat bags, goodies and safety tips for the children. We will also be taking complimentary photographs of the children for the parents, so dress those little spooks up for a neat souvenir and join us for an evening of fun!

The Officers are still making their way around the City to each residence handing out safety packets and taking the quick survey. Thank you to all of the citizens who have been so nice. We appreciate your participation and comments.

REMEMBER: always give us a call immediately (297-0241) anytime you see suspicious activity.

Have a Safe & Fun Halloween!



REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2009

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, October 20th at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED