



City of Sandy Oaks

NEWSLETTER

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From the Mayor's Desk:

As the second year from the inception of the City of Sandy Oaks has now closed, your city council has requested that this issue of the newsletter be one to review the work done during the most recent fiscal year which ended September 30, 2016. As with any new endeavor, and certainly one on the scale of starting a new city, there is much to do to establish a solid foundation on which to grow the city. A great deal has been done and more is planned for the third year of Sandy Oaks.

Honorable Mayor Micki Ball

One of the first orders of business in the 2015-2016 fiscal year was a public hearing held to consider proposals for solid waste and recycling within the City. Proposals were sought for a couple of reasons, the first being limiting the number of heavy trucks traveling through the city thereby protecting the streets from damage and ultimately keeping tax rates as low as possible. By established law, the City could impose a franchise fee on any utility provider operating within the city limits for the purpose of repairing roads; however, the council was not willing to have any provider agree to a "pass-through" fee, which means they will agree to the franchise fee, but they will charge the customer (you) and then collect and pay the City. Instead, the winning proposal offered both reduced prices and increased services to residents. Trash service is not mandatory, but it is more affordable for everyone plus there are additional services at no additional cost for recycling and curbside bulk pickup. The contract for exclusive use of the roads in the city was awarded to Tiger Sanitation and approved at the November 2015 meeting.

Members of the city council were authorized to attend a session offered by Bexar County Office of Emergency Management. The class, ICS402, deals with standardized protocols to be followed during emergency situations. All council members in office at the time attended the session. The city council also approved participation in the Bexar County Hazard Mitigation Plan. More information on Emergency Management can be found at <https://www.bexar.org/672/Office-of-Emergency-Management>

During the meeting held in December 2015, a presentation was made to the city council for consideration by Mr. Ramos for plans to build a restaurant. The city council approved his plans as presented. The location is on Waterwood Pass, behind the Valero gas station and will be a restaurant, slated to open in the Spring of 2017.

The city council also approved an animal control ordinance during the December 2015 meeting. The ordinance addresses stray dogs, required care of dogs by owners, requirements for vaccinations and identification of dogs and cats, provides for capture and impoundment of animals as well as prohibiting all livestock in the city. The City has inter-local agreements with both Elmendorf and Selma for the removal of stray dogs.

In January 2016, a presentation to the city council was made by Damon Gibbs of EDGE Construction for plans to build a strip shopping center at New Mathis and Mathis Rd. The plans call for phased construction of 30,000 sq ft of retail space with the first units available in the Spring of 2017.

The city council approved a resolution accepting the billing from CPS for the street lights billed to Waterwood Park Property Owners Association (WPPOA). The city council also authorized the Mayor and City Attorney to negotiate and execute all documents for the transfer of the park properties from WPPOA to the City. The City now has ownership of the two park areas located within the Waterwood subdivision.

In February, the City received two vehicles donated by Bexar County. One is a Ford Expedition to be used by the City Marshal and the other is a Ford pickup to be used for public works and/or animal control within the City.

In May, the city council selected a contractor from bids received for the repair of roads. The contractor receiving the award was Wagner Materials and work began very soon after. The work included repair of the many potholes along New Mathis, major repair of intersection at Wild Fox/Waterwheel, and many edge/intersection repairs along Waterwood Pass, New Mathis and Mathis roads.

Also, in May, the city council met to approve the demolition of the clubhouse in the park and the purchase of a building to replace it for municipal purposes. The clubhouse was damaged during the storms the year before and was not repairable. The modular building was delivered in July and has been undergoing set up and clean up to ready it for use.

There was a resolution passed in July establishing the Office of the City Marshal. As part of the process in establishing the Marshal's Office, an agency code from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement will be needed along with many operational policies and specific requirements on building, equipment, etc. As of this writing, the City is awaiting a final inspection from the State before granting the agency code. The Marshal's Office will be located in the municipal building, currently located in the park where the previous clubhouse was located. Bexar County will provide dispatch services and will still respond to calls.

As the end of fiscal year 2015-2016 came to a close, a public hearing was held to solicit input from the public on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. Among the items discussed and approved were the creation of positions for the Marshal's Office, staffing for public works employees, city clerk and court clerk. Check the city website for job postings. Also discussed was the swimming pool in the park. It was decided by all in attendance that the pool was too costly to repair and maintain; therefore, it was removed from the budget. The final approved budget includes the purchase of property SAWS has declared as surplus that will be used for municipal growth to included animal containment facilities as part of the animal control program, growth for a fire department, location of the Marshal's Office and municipal offices thereby allowing the building in the park to be used as a community center.

There was also a property tax reduction approved by the city council of \$.24125 per \$100/valuation over the previous year rate of \$.25. With new businesses being established in the City, sales tax revenues will continue to keep property tax rates low.

Additional ordinances approved during the current fiscal year include:

- Prohibiting parking of vehicles in the right-of-way (ROW)
- Ban the sale and storage of fireworks within the city limits
- Established fines and penalties and abatement procedures for littering and illegal dumping
- Prohibiting reckless discharge of firearms
- Establishing noise control rules, regulations, and fines
- Establishing procedures for vacant/abandoned/burned buildings
- Regulations on travel trailers, recreational vehicles, campers and tents
- Establishing authority to replace missing street signs
- Adoption of 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code

Additionally, the City entered into an agreement (inter-local agreement) with the Bexar County Fire Marshal which means that all permits, codes and regulations in place with Bexar County apply to our City.

In summary, it has been a challenging and productive year for the city council. Much has been accomplished this past year. I want to thank the members of the city council for volunteering their time to serve the community. It is a thankless job requiring an investment of time and energy with no pay, and one that invites much criticism. One resident described it this way: "I imagine serving on the council is much like trying to diffuse a bomb in the dark while wearing oven mitts, while those behind the blast shield are telling you that you are doing it all wrong". That is an accurate analogy.

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