

CITY COUNCIL

- Lark Jones, Mayor
- Jimmy Adams
- Carolyn Baggott
- Pat Carpenter
- Phil Mottel
- Ken McDowell
- Arthur Shealy

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

are held every first & third Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers on the second floor of the Municipal Building, 400 East Buena Vista Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings.



North Augusta
South Carolina's Riverfront

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North Augusta

FORWARD

A Publication for the Citizens of North Augusta, South Carolina

ONE-CENT CAPITAL PROJECTS SALES TAX

Round Two



On November 2, 2004, Aiken County voters will again go to the polls to decide on a one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax for North Augusta and Aiken County. Since 2000 the one-cent sales tax has had a significant economic impact on the citizens of North Augusta and over the next seven years that impact will increase. Approval of the second round sales tax will not change the current level of sales tax in the county. It will remain at six cents on all retail sales except food preparation. The sales tax in Aiken County will remain less than in Augusta-Richmond County and Columbia County, Georgia.


Proceeds from the one-cent sales tax are estimated to generate \$114.4 million over the next seven years and will support a continuation of the largest local road and drainage improvement program and recreation facility expansion program in the history of Aiken County.

Earlier this year the Aiken County Council appointed a six member Capital Projects Sales and Use Tax Commission to identify and assess needed projects throughout the county. Dr. John F. Bigger Jr. and Charles Taylor of TTX Hamburg Division were appointed to represent the North Augusta area. In July the Commission submitted its report to the County Council with a lengthy list of much needed projects along with a recommendation that the County Council submit the question of continuing the one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax to the voters on the

November general election ballot.


Several members of the Capital Projects Sales Tax Commission stated that the continuation of the one-cent sales tax would allow the county, cities, and towns within the county to complete important projects that are already started and to initiate new projects that might never be completed otherwise. Projects funded in the first round and those proposed in the second round will significantly improve the quality of life for Aiken County citizens.

When approved by the voters on November 2, the continuation of the one-cent sales tax will go into effect immediately after the initial tax achieves total collections of \$54.6 million as provided for on the November 2000 ballot. That date is expected to be in the fourth quarter of 2005. By state law the one-cent sales tax will end seven years later. The \$54.6 million in sales tax revenues projected in 2000 were collected in much less, just under five years. If the \$114.4 million designated on the referendum for the second round is collected before the end of seven years or if all of the listed projects have been completed before the end of seven years, the tax will end earlier.

All the projects to be funded from the one-cent sales tax are specifically listed on the ballot. Descriptions of the North Augusta projects proposed to be funded and a summary of the projects in other parts of the county are listed on the following pages. 

ONE-CENT SALES TAX

Voters To Decide Again

When voters go the polls on November 2, 2004, they will again have the opportunity to say "YES" or "NO" on the Aiken County one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax. Since the tax was approved for the first time in November of 2000, Aiken County, the cities of North Augusta and Aiken, and the smaller communities in the county have expended the funds collected (almost the full \$54.6 million authorized) on a number of major public improvements. Roads have been paved and parks have been constructed that otherwise would not have happened. Projects completed or underway in North Augusta have been reported in previous editions of *North Augusta Forward* and are summarized again in this issue. Additionally, projects proposed for the second round of the Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax are listed and described. Every registered voter will have the opportunity to exercise his or her citizenship by voting on November 2. 

ONE-CENT SALES TAX DOLLARS


Multiply



When Aiken County voters say yes to the continuation of the one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax in November, the anticipated \$114.4 million generated by the tax for the many needed projects will likely produce a great deal more. Locally generated funds from the one-cent sales tax can be used as matching funds for a number of state and federal sources.

Funds from the first round Capital Projects Sales Tax leveraged a substantial amount of federal and state funds. The most significant example is Phase 1 of the Palmetto Parkway, I-520, extension into South Carolina. \$15 million in sales tax revenues successfully matched \$65 million of immediate funding approved by the South Carolina Transportation Infrastructure Bank Board. Phase 1 of the Palmetto Parkway is now complete to US 1. Phase 2, from US 1 to I-20, has been designed, right-of-way purchase is underway and the Infrastructure Bank Board has committed to provide an additional \$100 million to complete I-520.

North Augusta has also used the sales tax revenues to leverage funding for other projects. Sales tax funds set aside for the riverfront

extension of the Greenway successfully matched grants from the South Carolina Trails Program, Department of Natural Resources Waterway Improvement Program, and Federal Land and Water Conservation funding. Sales tax receipts will also be used to match SCDOT funds to complete Phase Two of the downtown Streetscape program. West, Jackson, Spring Grove, Pine Grove, and Buena Vista Avenues will all be streetscaped with improvements similar to those completed on Georgia Avenue in 2001. Sales tax funds have also been used to match the city's allocation of state funding for street resurfacing. Many of those streets have already been completed and others are underway. Additional street resurfacing and drainage projects within the city are needed and planned. Round Two sales tax funds will be matched with annual appropriations of state and federal funds to accelerate drainage, road reconstruction and resurfacing projects. Much in demand recreation projects will also be prioritized. North Augusta is frequently eligible for state and federal funding to expand recreational facilities if local funds are available for matching. Generally, federal and state funds provide 80% of the cost if the local 20% share is available. Proceeds from the second round of the one-cent sales tax will continue to be targeted to obtain these grants. 

ELECTION YEAR POLITICAL Signs


This November, millions of Americans will take part in the democratic process by going to the polls and voting for the candidates of their choice. Many are already participating by displaying signs in support of specific candidates or issues. Like most municipalities and counties in the United States, North Augusta has adopted ordinances that regulate the display of political signs.

The city's Zoning and Development Standards Ordinance regulates the placement, number and size of all signs within the city. Political signs are classified as temporary signs and are subject to regulations that control the time, place and manner of display.

One political sign may be displayed on private residential, commercial and industrial properties. Signs may only be displayed 10 days prior to an election and two days following the election. Elections will be held on November 2 this year, so political signs may be posted between October 23 and November 4, 2004.

In residential districts political signs may not exceed 6 square feet in size and 5 feet in height. In commercial and industrial districts political signs may not exceed 32 square feet in size and are generally limited to 12 feet in height. More than one candidate or issue may be advocated on a sign provided the maximum size is not exceeded.

No sign, including political signs, may be placed on public properties or public rights-of-way. Public properties include city parks and open spaces, street medians, and areas along public streets that contain utility poles, stop signs, directional signs, speed limits signs, fire hydrants, signal junction boxes and other public improvements. Signs placed in the public right-of-way can create a sight obstruction to motorists and difficulties for city personnel. All political signs posted in a public right-of-way will be removed by the city.

Further questions regarding the display of political signs may be directed to the Department of Economic and Community Development at 803-441-4258. 

NORTH AUGUSTA SALES TAX PROJECTS Round Two



The City of North Augusta is slated to receive \$19,350,000 over the seven year life of the second round of the one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax. The projects listed on the ballot to be funded are:

Project	Description	Amount
Public Safety Vehicle and Equipment	New fire truck and associated support equipment.	\$925,000
Public Safety Communications	Communications system upgrades.	\$550,000
Street Resurfacing Program	Repave approximately two miles of city streets per year.	\$1,120,000
Riverview Park Additions	Construct new spraypool, playground with canopy, scoring tower, restrooms, meeting rooms, dressing rooms and main concession stand.	\$2,570,000
Riverview Park Renovations	Upgrade the baseball and softball fields and replace scoring towers 1 and 3.	\$1,550,000
Riverview Park Improvements	Improve traffic circulation and entranceways and upgrade maintenance facilities.	\$690,000
Park Development	Acquisition and development of land for parks, Greenway extensions, and open space.	\$925,000
Public Safety Substation III	Construction of a new substation to serve the northwest area of the city.	\$750,000
Municipal Complex	Construct a new municipal building and related facilities to serve the city for fifty years.	\$5,000,000
Intersection Improvements	Provide intersection improvements on Five Notch Road at Pisgah Road, Celeste, Heil and Georgia Avenues.	\$1,500,000
Cultural Arts and Historical Display	Provide space for local cultural arts and history displays and presentations.	\$500,000
Community Center Renovations	Renovation and expansion of the North Augusta Community Center.	\$500,000
Intersection Improvements	Provide intersection improvements at Walnut Lane and US 25.	\$75,000
Sidewalk Construction Program	Install approximately two miles of sidewalks.	\$480,000


RIVERFRONT GREENWAY CONSTRUCTION

Begins

Clearing has begun on the riverfront extension of the North Augusta Greenway trail. The existing Greenway corridor will be linked with the Savannah River, the planned riverfront park in the Hammond's Ferry community, and loop back to the Greenway at Riverside Boulevard. Funding for the Riverfront Extension of the Greenway was provided through North Augusta's share of the first round of the Aiken County Capital Projects Sales Tax and a grant of \$250,000 from the National Parks Service Land and Water Conservation Fund through the South Carolina Parks Recreation and Tourism Department. In addition a second grant of \$87,750 was received from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. The North Augusta Riverfront Company, the developer of Hammond's Ferry, is cooperating in the design and construction.



Riverfront Park and Greenway clearing in preparation for construction.

er mile and a half. The extension will fork off the existing trail near Crystal Lake. From Crystal Lake the trail will follow Crystal Creek through the woods to the river, meander along the riverbank to the Georgia Avenue Bridge, and then return to the Greenway roundabout on Riverside Boulevard. The new section of trail will cross Crystal Creek on a bridge constructed of a 90 foot flatbed railroad car donated by TTX Hamburg Division. Removal of invasive underbrush to improve views of the river was recently completed by Empire Tree and Turf. Clearing and construction of the trail is being performed according to rigid standards to protect valuable old growth hardwood trees and the natural beauty of the riverbank. The clearing contractor is a certified arborist and is providing full time supervision of the work. The Greenway riverfront extension should be open to walkers, joggers and bikers near the end of the year. 

The Greenway, currently 5½ miles long, will be extended another

NORTH AUGUSTA SALES TAX PROJECTS

Round One Status



The City of North Augusta will receive a total of \$7,522,903 from Round One of the one-cent Capital Projects Sales Tax. The description and status of the projects funded is:

Project	Description	Amount	Status
Recycling Center Expansion	Install additional equipment to improve the capacity and efficiency of the material recycling facility.	\$150,000	Complete.
Riverview Park Improvements	New soccer field complex, add practice fields at Lions Memorial Field, install sidewalks and landscaping.	\$760,000	Design complete. Construction in 2005.
Summerfield Park Completion	Restrooms, picnic shelter, practice fields, fencing, playground.	\$130,000	Complete.
Walnut Lane Park Development	Develop a neighborhood park and walking trail to serve Walnut Place, Butler's Mill and Walnut Grove.	\$80,000	Complete.
Street Reconstruction Program	Reconstruct 2.4 miles of streets, improve drainage and increase safety in established neighborhoods.	\$1,600,000	Design complete. Construction in 2004.
Street Resurfacing Program	Repave 17.6 miles of streets in established neighborhoods.	\$850,000	Complete.
Drainage System Improvements	Install storm drainage system improvements on East Buena Vista Avenue from East Martintown Road to Riverside Boulevard and in Waterworks Park to prevent flooding, roadway erosion and property damage.	\$1,100,000	Design complete. Construction in 2005.
Sidewalk Construction Program	Install 7.5 miles of sidewalks in established neighborhoods where no sidewalks currently exist.	\$753,000	Design complete. Construction in 2004.
Greenway Extension Development	Extend the Greenway into additional neighborhoods and along the Savannah River.	\$1,500,000	Under construction.
Downtown Redevelopment	Phase II of improvements in the downtown including parking, alleys, West Avenue, Pine Grove Avenue and Spring Grove Avenue.	\$600,000	Design complete. Construction in 2005.

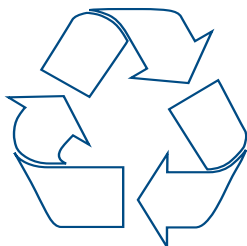
AIKEN COUNTY SALES TAX PROJECTS

Round Two



The projects proposed to be funded with the Capital Projects Sales Tax are detailed on several pages in the Aiken County resolution. The general election ballot will also include a lengthy and detailed list of projects. The countywide list of projects is summarized here.

Location	Description of Projects	Amount
Town of Burnetttown	Community recreation center, town storage building, recreation projects, public safety and waterworks vehicles and equipment, town hall improvements, sidewalks and streetscape projects, museum.	\$1,139,000
Town of Jackson	Municipal complex improvements, park improvements, Jackson Agricultural Building improvements, fire station improvements, downtown streetscape and drainage improvements, public works storage facility, activity bus.	\$732,435
Town of Monetta	Facility renovations, playground and office equipment, water system debt payment.	\$124,000
City of New Ellenton	Municipal complex expansion, recreation projects, library expansion, infrastructure improvements.	\$1,558,750
Town of Perry	Landscaping equipment, storage facility, town hall signage and improvements, computer system.	\$100,000
Town of Salley	Water system improvements, fire truck debt payment, library expansion, infrastructure improvements.	\$189,000
Town of Wagener	Fire station improvements, police and fire vehicles and equipment, water line maintenance, meter reading equipment, waterworks vehicle, street signs, community center renovations, recreation improvements.	\$1,084,500
Town of Windsor	Town hall and recreation facility renovations.	\$54,300
City of North Augusta	Fire truck, public safety communications system upgrade, street paving, additions and renovations to Riverview Park, land acquisition and park development, public safety substation, municipal complex, intersection improvements, cultural arts and historical display facility, community center renovations, sidewalk construction.	\$19,350,000
City of Aiken	New road construction, parking and landscaping at USC Aiken, public safety vehicles, public safety facilities expansion and improvements, Northside Neighborhood Renewal Project support, Citizens Park additions and improvements, Hitchcock Woods erosion control and drainage improvements, senior/youth center, Northside recreational park, environmental meeting center, public works complex expansion, utility infrastructure improvements, street resurfacing, streetscaping, drainage improvements.	\$30,000,000
Aiken County	EMS service stations, sheriff's department vehicles and equipment, street resurfacing, street paving, Horse Creek Valley brownfield restoration, Palmetto Parkway Phase 2, library and museum renovations, recreation and open space preservation, drainage improvements, county office complex, child advocacy center.	\$60,081,000



**NORTH
AUGUSTA**
Recycles

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

POLICE & FIRE EMERGENCY	911
PUBLIC SAFETY	
Non Emergency	279-2121
Administration	441-4251
Records/Court Services	441-4271
Investigations	441-4274
PARKS, RECREATION & LEISURE SERVICES	
Riverview Park Activities Center	441-4300
Activities Coordinator	441-4311
Community Center	441-4290
GENERAL SERVICES & FINANCE	
Taxes	441-4215
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing Services	441-4212
Business Licenses (Non-Contractor)	441-4214
Human Resources	441-4205
ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Engineering	441-4223
Building Standards	441-4227
Permits	441-4227
Business Licenses (Contractors)	441-4227
Animal Control	441-4227
Sanitation Services	441-4223
Sanitation - New Service	441-4219
Stormwater Management	441-4246
PUBLIC UTILITIES	
After-Hours Emergencies	279-2121
Utility - New Service/Disconnects	441-4219
Utility Billing	441-4212
Water and Sewer Repairs	441-4240
Streets and Drains Repairs	441-4240
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Economic Development	441-4221
Planning	441-4221
Zoning	441-4221
Code Compliance	441-4258
ADMINISTRATION	
Mayor	441-4202
City Administrator	441-4202
OTHER FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS	
North Augusta Chamber of Commerce	279-2323
Nancy Carson Library	279-5767
North Augusta Health Center	278-3621
Comcast (cable)	706-733-7712
S. C. Electric & Gas	442-2000
BellSouth	780-2355
S. C. Department of Transportation	1-800-442-1368
Magistrate	202-3580

**North
Augusta**
South Carolina's Riverfront

CITY OF NORTH AUGUSTA
400 East Buena Vista Avenue
PO Box 6400
North Augusta, SC 29861-6400

www.northaugusta.net

North Augusta Forward is mailed quarterly to every city water customer. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write to:

North Augusta Forward,
P. O. Box 6400, North Augusta, SC 29861-6400
or call 803-441-4221.