

CITY COUNCIL

- Lark Jones, Mayor
- Jimmy Adams
- Carolyn Baggott
- Pat Carpenter
- Ken McDowell
- Arthur Shealy
- Jason Whinghter

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

CITY COUNCIL PURCHASES LAND FOR MUNICIPAL COMPLEX




Preliminary architectural concept of future municipal complex from Georgia Avenue. The design process has been initiated and alternative final design concepts will be received by the City Council during 2006.

In October the City Council formally decided to purchase 1.8 acres of land from North Augusta 2000 to locate a new municipal administration and service complex. The land is located south of Bluff Avenue between Georgia Avenue and the planned extension of Georgia Avenue into the North Augusta Riverfront and Hammond's Ferry. The newly acquired property is adjacent to a 0.6 acre parcel the city purchased a number of years ago. The combined 2.4 acre site is more than adequate for a state of the art municipal complex.

The City Council selected the site because of its visibility and accessibility upon the recommendation of The Boudreaux Group, the Columbia, South Carolina, based architecture firm hired by the city in 2003. To date The Boudreaux Group has completed a space needs analysis and the

site selection evaluation and has started on the design of the complex. Boudreaux will also provide project construction supervision. Funding for the \$448,678 purchase was budgeted in the city's Riverfront/Central Core Redevelopment fund.

North Augusta 2000 is a non-profit community foundation established to promote community improvement in North Augusta. As part of its mission North Augusta 2000 created a public purpose land bank to acquire critical redevelopment and environmentally sensitive properties. Properties acquired for redevelopment purposes may be sold to the city for public projects or to private interests for desired redevelopment projects. Proceeds from the sale of land are used by North Augusta 2000 for the acquisition of additional redevelopment land. 

2006 CITY BUDGET ADOPTED

The 2006 Consolidated Municipal Budget totaling \$25,290,541 was approved by the City Council on November 21, 2005. The city's mill levy for 2006 (2005 tax year) is 81.08, unchanged from 2005. In 2006, 72.13 mills will be collected for the General Fund and 8.95 for the Capital Projects Fund.


The major funds and functional areas of expenditures for 2006 are:

2006 CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPAL BUDGET						
Fund	Personal Services	Operations & Maintenance	Lease Purchase	Capital Service	Debt Service	Total
General Fund	\$7,277,348	\$3,076,353	\$423,884	\$236,605	\$0	\$11,014,190
Stormwater Utility Fund	137,615	67,011	15,350	315,500	0	535,476
Sales Tax 2 Fund	0	0	0	2,735,000	0	2,735,000
Sanitation Services Fund	1,597,227	1,035,680	235,416	12,000	0	2,880,323
Street Improvements Fund	0	24,500	0	395,000	0	419,500
Capital Projects Fund	0	260,000	0	432,000	0	692,000
Water & Sewer Fund	1,996,568	2,776,582	93,327	187,000	1,823,575	6,877,052
Other Funds	0	137,000	0	0	0	137,000
TOTAL	\$11,008,758	\$7,377,126	\$767,977	\$4,313,105	\$1,823,575	\$25,290,541

BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWALS DUE SOON


Calendar year 2006 business license renewal applications will be distributed to current licensees during the last week of December. Completed applications are due back to the Finance Department no later than February 1, 2006. A delinquent payment penalty of ten percent will be added to any application received after February 1. The penalty will increase by five percent each month until received.

Business licensees should carefully examine the information on the application to confirm that it is correct. Corrections or additions should be written directly on the application form. Once properly completed and signed, the application should be returned to the city with the correct fee. Turn around time on a properly completed business license application is usually within ten days.

Questions about business license renewals can be answered by calling 803-441-4214. 

WINTER BASE PERIOD IN EFFECT

The City of North Augusta uses a "Winter Base Sewer Rate System" for calculating sewer service charges. Three months of actual water usage are used to calculate sewer charges for the remaining nine months of the year. The three month base period covers the three water meter readings taken between December 10 and March 9. Water meter readings are based on the actual water usage for the month preceding the reading.

Each utility customer is billed a sewer service charge based on actual water consumption during the three winter base months. The average consumption of these three months is then used for the remaining nine billing periods of the year. New customers with no winter base history are charged an amount equal to the average of all residential sewer customers. For more information about the Winter Base Period, please call 803-441-4212. 

TAX NOTICES

Tax notices on real and personal property and on merchants' inventory for the 2005 tax year will be mailed to property owners in January. Tax payments are due by May 1, 2006. For those property owners whose taxes are escrowed by a mortgage company, tax notices will be mailed directly to the mortgage company.

For questions about property taxes, please call 803-441-4215.

GREENWAY TRAIL RECEIVES STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION


North Augusta's Greenway Trail received significant recognition in 2005. In November, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) recognized the Greenway with its 2005 Stewardship Development Award. The Stewardship Development Award recognizes projects that demonstrate thoughtful stewardship of the environment through careful planning and construction.

In announcing the award, SCDNR Land, Water & Conservation Division Deputy Director Freddy Vang commended North Augusta's livability and its leaders' plan for future growth. According to Vang, "Their foresight and dedication is admirable, and should serve as a model for other municipalities as they plan for their futures. The Greenway is just one example of that dedication."

In June, the United States Department of the Interior designated the Greenway a National Recreation Trail, one of only 37 such trails in the country receiving the designation in 2005. The goal of the National Recreation Trail Program is to promote the use and care of

existing trails and stimulate the development of new trails to create a national network. To date, over 900 public use trails ranging from less than a mile to 485 miles in length and located on federal, state, municipal and private land, have been included in the National Recreation Trail system.


According to a Department of the Interior press release, "National Recreation Trail designation is an honor given to existing trails that have been nominated and meet the requirements for connecting people to local resources and improving their quality of life. The national trail designation is part of a continuing campaign to promote community partnerships and to foster innovative ways to encourage physical fitness."

The North Augusta Greenway is listed on the American Trails website at www.americantrails.org and on the SCDNR website at www.dnr.sc.gov. 

FULL GREENWAY TRAIL OPEN AGAIN



The new Greenway pedestrian bridge crosses the Crystal Lake Drive extension into the Hammond's Ferry development. The installation of storm drains along the roadway extension is currently underway.

The section of the Greenway that was closed for most of the summer, between Riverside Boulevard (Georgia Avenue tunnel) and Hammond's Ferry Road, has been reopened to Greenway users. The Greenway was closed to relocate a major water line and construct the extension of Crystal Lake Drive into the Hammond's Ferry development. A new Greenway pedestrian bridge, a smaller version of the bridge over Martintown Road, now crosses the Crystal Drive extension. 

GREENWAY RULES ADOPTED

The Greenway Trail system is one of North Augusta's most popular recreational amenities. It was designed for recreation use only and is fully accessible to the public.

In response to recent citizen concerns and in an effort to ensure the continued safe and enjoyable use of the Greenway, the City Council adopted rules and regulations for the use of the trail.

The following list is a summary of the rules. A copy of the resolution containing the complete list of Greenway rules and regulations is available online at www.northaugusta.net.

GENERAL GREENWAY RULES

- Travel in a consistent and predictable manner.
- Keep right and pass left.
- Pedestrians have the right of way.
- Walk no more than two abreast.
- Give an audible warning at least two seconds before passing.
- State law requires bells on bicycles and helmets on all riders 14 and younger.
- Pets must be on a leash and pet waste must be collected and deposited in an appropriate receptacle.
- Leave No Trace: Take out what you take in.


TTX DONATES RAILCAR FOR GREENWAY BRIDGE OVER CRYSTAL CREEK




The new 1.5 mile riverfront extension of the Greenway features a 90-foot flatbed railcar that has been modified to serve as a bridge across Crystal Creek. The railcar was donated to the city by TTX Hamburg Division. A plaque acknowledging the donation was presented to Charles Taylor (l), manager of TTX Hamburg Division and TTX President Andy Reardon by Mayor Lark Jones.

CENTENNIAL EVENTS PLANNED

April 11, 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of North Augusta. A calendar detailing the events planned to celebrate the city's first 100 years was recently enclosed with monthly utility bills. Scheduled events range from picnics and parades to tours and dedications. Don't miss any opportunities to join in the celebration.

A centennial website, www.northaugusta100.com, was developed for the occasion. The site highlights centennial activities and will be frequently updated with historic photographs, articles and other information about the celebration. Those who prefer to telephone can obtain centennial information by calling 803-441-4315. 

CENTENNIAL SOUVENIRS AVAILABLE

Centennial souvenirs are now available. Souvenirs include t-shirts, golf shirts, golf towels, ball caps, coffee mugs, umbrellas, prints and more. A pewter coin is in production and other items are on the way. The souvenirs make great gifts and keepsakes and may be purchased at the North Augusta Chamber of Commerce, 302 Georgia Avenue, the Riverview Park Activities Center, 100 Riverview Park Drive, and at centennial events throughout the year. Visit either of these locations or go online to see what's available. Don't wait! Many items are limited editions and won't be available long. 

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	441-4295
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



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.