



City of St Augustine Beach November Newsletter

FUN FACT OF THE MONTH

Armistice Day is commemorated every year on 11th of November to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, for the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 (Wikipedia)

When the United States entered World War I (1914-1918) on April 6, 1917, Florida was a sparsely populated state, with only 925,641 inhabitants. Florida's abundance of open, arable land and year-round warm climate made the state an ideal location for military training, technological development and increased agricultural resource production.

Thousands of Floridians joined the millions of other Americans heeding President Woodrow Wilson's call to make the world "safe for democracy." Although the United States was involved in the global conflict for only 19 months, the war still impacted the social, economic and environmental conditions of Florida. Of the 4 million American men and women who joined the armed services between 1917 and 1918, 42,030 were Floridians.

On the Homefront, countless others performed their patriotic duty by purchasing liberty bonds, volunteering with service organizations, and conserving food and raw materials. These efforts occurred against the backdrop of the war's larger domestic side effects. A series of deadly influenza outbreaks in 1918, heightened racial tensions, intense anti-German sentiment, and the increased political agitation of woman suffragists and African-Americans further consumed the attention of Florida's civilian patriots.

Fun Fact continued on page 8

Inside this issue

- City Hall Update 2
- City Manager..... 4
- Police Department..... 6
- Fun Fact 1
- Meetings 8

City Hall Update

At its regular meeting on October 1, 2018, the Commission took the following actions:

1. Approved two proclamations: the first to proclaim October 2018 as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month; the second to proclaim October 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
2. Approved an amendment to the contract with the City's civil engineering consultant, Stone Engineering, to do design/permit work for the repairs to the hurricane-damaged dam at the city's Mizell Road retention pond.
3. Approved a resolution to have the canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots done by the Supervisor of Elections and the County Canvassing Board for the November general election.
4. Approved four budget resolutions to amend the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.
5. Consider possible regulations for medical marijuana dispensing facilities in the City and whether the City should have two commercial zoning districts. The staff was directed to bring back within 90 days a draft ordinance.
6. Discussed whether to levy an assessment on each residential property to pay the costs to collect recyclables. The Commission directed the staff to compile figures and research all the necessary information and to keep the Commission updated on the timelines to implement the assessment.
7. Approved on first reading an ordinance adopting policies for the handling of anonymous complaints.
8. Approved the contract with Fireworks by Santore for the company to provide fireworks for the City's New Year's Eve fireworks show.
9. Set October 17, 2018, as the date for a workshop with the City's planning consultant, Fleet and Associates, to review policies for the evaluation and appraisal report of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
10. Decided not to pass a resolution concerning Amendment 1 to the Florida Constitution that would increase the inequities in Florida's tax system by providing an additional homestead exemption for residential properties assessed from \$100,000 to \$125,000. The Amendment would also decrease the revenue that cities and counties need to pay for the services they provide to the citizens. The Commission's consensus was that individual Commissioners could speak with citizens about Amendment 1 and that information from the Florida League of Cities about the Amendment would be posted on

City Hall Update

the City's website and TV channel.

11. Discussed whether to approve Mayor George sending a letter to support the preservation of the Fish Island property in its natural state. Mayor George said she would see if there were any more developments concerning the property and that she would prepare a draft letter for Commission review at its November 13th meeting.
12. Discussed limiting the paving of the city's right-of-way. An ordinance is to be prepared for the November 13th meeting.
13. Discussed whether the city's regulations needed to be amended to allow the Wednesday morning farmers' market to be operate by a for-profit corporation at the county's pier park property. As the county is the entity responsible for the market, the city will issue the permit to operate the market to it.

The date for the City Commission's November regular meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. because on the first Monday of November the Commission's meeting room at city hall will have voting equipment in it for the general election on Tuesday, November 6th. For the second Monday, November 12th, City offices will be closed for Veterans Day.

Outcome

My essay a couple of months ago (“Income-Outcome”) was an explanation about property taxes and the difficulties the City’s Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Melissa Burns, was having to propose a property tax millage to the City Commission that would provide sufficient money for the city’s next fiscal year budget. Now it’s time to give our faithful readers the outcome of Ms. Burns’ efforts and the Commission’s decision to reduce the millage for Fiscal Year 2019, which began on October 1st. Surely, you’ll agree that such information will be helpful for those spirited conversations about the City’s budget that you have daily with fellow citizens at Publix’s bakery or while you’re out in the neighborhood, walking King Arthur, the family Yorkie.

Basically, the outcome is good. Good in the sense that the City will have money for essential services and major projects. The latter include replacing the city hall roof, purchasing a sanitation truck to replace a 10-year-old vehicle, replacing the hurricane-damaged dam at the City’s Mizell Road retention pond that’s crucial to the functioning of the City’s drainage system, piping the Mickler Boulevard ditch between Pope Road and 16th Street, and purchasing computer upgrades to replace obsolete equipment and keep the City current with new operating software. And good in that the City Commission approved a 2.5% pay increase for the employees and approved a medical insurance plan for the employees that offers two options: a basic plan with higher co-pays and deductibles, and a “buy-up” plan without an increase in co-pays and deductibles with the employees who select this option paying \$33.16 each pay period. And finally, the outcome of the budget adoption process is good for property owners who won’t have to pay the equivalent of an arm, leg, and one ear in property taxes.

At the end of July, when the Commission first reviewed the proposed budget, it set the property tax millage at 2.50 mills, or \$2.50 for every \$1,000 of a property’s assessed value. This meant that the city’s tax bill for the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would have been \$500. Between the end of July and the Commission’s September 10th public hearing on the budget, Ms. Burns reduced some of the proposed expenditures and reduced the millage to 2.4450 mills, or \$2.44 and ½ cent for every \$1,000 of a property’s assessed value.

Between September 10th and the Commission’s final public hearing on the budget in late September, Mayor Undine George proposed a number of reductions to expenditures, and Police Chief Hardwick and Ms. Burns found others, all of which resulted in the millage being reduced to 2.3992 mills, or nearly \$2.40 for each \$1,000 of a property’s as-

City Manager

Max Royle



Outcome

essed value. This is the millage the Commission finally approved. It's also the millage that the Commission has approved each fiscal year since 2012.

To summarize: at 2.50 mills, the tax bill for the owner of that house assessed at \$200,000 would have been \$500. At 2.3992 mills, the tax bill will be \$479.84, a reduction of \$20.16, which might not seem like much, but with many homes and commercial and rental residential properties assessed at well above \$200,000, the savings to their owners could be considerable. The City's 2.3992 millage compares very favorably with St. Augustine's 7.500, Flagler Beach's 5.390, and Green Cove Springs' 3.600.

Another outcome of the recent budget discussions is a key question: Can the millage continue to remain low in future fiscal years? The answer depends on the city finding new, recurring sources that will provide significant amounts of money, and/or the city reducing expenditures. We'll let you know in a future essay the outcome of that search.

City Manager

Max Royle



Holiday Safety from SABPD

Holiday season is here, which means that most people can become distracted planning events, travels and shopping. Your normal safety precautions are easily forgotten, or we let our guard down. Here is a list of things to keep in mind for a safe holiday season.

Home Burglary Prevention

- If you are traveling, secure your home properly and ask a neighbor to keep watch.
- Have any packages be delivered to an alternate address or have someone pick them up for you.
- Have timers on some of your interior and exterior lights.
- Stop your mail and newspaper deliveries or have someone pick them up.
- Be careful with social media. Checking in at different stores will let potential criminals know you are not home.

Personal Safety

- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Know your destination and route whether driving or walking.
- Carry a minimal amount of cash. Use checks or credit cards to make purchases.
- Do not leave your purse/wallet unattended for any amount of time.
- Avoid shopping alone when possible.
- If you see any suspicious activity call law enforcement or appropriate store personnel.
- Limit the use of your cellphone in public places.

Vehicle Break-ins

- Park in well lighted areas and near entrances when possible.
- Do not leave any valuables or packages in plain sight.
- Roll up your windows and lock your doors.
- Don't leave a GPS or mounts where it is visible.
- At the end of your shopping trip make sure to take all packages out of the vehicle If you see something, say something!

Holiday Safety from SABPD

To report suspicious activity, contact your local law enforcement agency. Describe specifically what you observed, including:

Who or **What** you saw

When you saw it

Where it occurred

Why it's suspicious

If there is an emergency, call 911!

St. Augustine Beach Police Department can be reached at 904-471-3600.

City Clerk

Beverly Raddatz, MMC

Fun Fact of the Month (Cont.)

After the November 1918 armistice, veterans from Tampa to Tallahassee began returning to the familiar comforts of home. While much of the state remained the same as it had been before the war — mostly rural with an agricultural economy — WWI undoubtedly marked Florida's transition into a new era rife with modern industrial, political, and economic possibilities (Article from Florida Memory State Library and Archives of Florida).

I hope everyone will join the City of St. Augustine Beach on November 11, 2018, Sunday, 3:00 p.m., at Veterans Memorial in Lakeside Park as we hold a commemoration ceremony for our veterans.

Beverly Raddatz, MMC, City Clerk

City of
St. Augustine Beach

2200 A1A South
St. Augustine Beach, FL
32080

Phone: 904-471-2122
Fax: 904-471-4108
E-mail:
sabadmin@cityofsab.org

City Hall Scheduled Meetings

CITY COMMISSION: The City of St. Augustine Beach will hold a regular City Commission meeting on Tuesday, November 13th, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room at City Hall. This is a public meeting and the public is invited to attend.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD: The City of St. Augustine Beach will hold a regular Comprehensive Planning & Zoning Board meeting on Tuesday, November 20th, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room at City Hall. This is a public meeting and the public is invited to attend.

TREE BOARD/BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The City of St. Augustine Beach will hold a regular Tree Board/ Beautification Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, November 15th, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room at City Hall. This is a public meeting and the public is invited to attend.