



**GREETINGS FROM  
CRAIG BROWN**

**GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 2**



---

January 2017 Issue

---

**District 2 Newsletter**



With the beginning of the New Year many of us take time to reflect on the past year's accomplishments. The media usually does this by highlighting the top ten accomplishments, in many different categories, of the past year.

This is the time we see the top ten lists of the best movies, songs, books etc. of 2016.

Well, not to be outdone, here is my list of the best accomplishments by the City of Galveston for 2016. I realize this is in the eye of the beholder but the following is my attempt to highlight those 2016 decisions or projects that, in my estimation, will have positive benefits for years to come.

Before you view the list I would like to say that your input, guidance and friendship this last year has been the best thing that has happened to me personally and I would sincerely like to thank you for taking the time to make our community better.

## **Ten Best Decisions by the City for 2016**

**Planting of Trees on Broadway**

**Temporary Funding of the Police Pension Fund**

**Funding of Various Beach Nourishment Projects**  
**Employment of a New City Attorney and Chief of Police**  
**Approval of a Strategic Plan for Mobility and Parking**  
**Funding of Upcoming Rail and Rubber Tire Trolleys**  
**Funding of the Community Swimming Pool**  
**Approval of Bonds for Water and Sewer Improvements**  
**Initiation of the Curb and Sidewalk Program**  
**Funding of Phase One of the 27th Street Corridor Project**

### **Honorable Mention**

**Funding of Washington and Crockett Park**  
**Funding of Babe's Beach**  
**Increased Appointments of Citizens to  
Committees and Boards**  
**Enhanced Code Enforcement**

**Wishing Everyone a Very  
Happy and  
Prosperous New Year !**

**CRAIG**

**Beach Nourishment Funding**

**At the December 6th meeting of the City's Industrial Development Corporation three Beach Nourishment proposals were approved for funding.**

**These projects will update the Sand Management Plan for Galveston, provide for a Beach Remediation Project at Dellanera Park and develop a mechanism to support long term funding for Beach Nourishment.**

**These projects will receive final approval at the January 26th City Council meeting. To view more specifics of each project please [CLICK HERE](#).**



## **Arts and Historic Preservation**

**Recently Council discussed revisions to the ordinance governing the distribution of the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax by the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee. These revisions were developed to update the policies that guide the use of these monies.**

**Some of the proposed changes such as the change of disbursements to a dollar amount from a percentage of all money collected and the development of "seeding" money for first time events are designed to make the funding process more efficient.**

To view the Ordinance please [CLICK HERE](#), and if you have thoughts on how these funds should be allocated please feel free to contact me.

## City Council - Wharves Board Joint Meeting

On December 15th City Council held a joint meeting with the Wharves Board. The first order of business was the Wharves Board's presentation which highlighted a comparison of the 2015 and 2016 financial reports.

The Port's Plans for 2017 were also discussed which included the possibility of a Cruise Terminal at Pier 21 and the need for expanding the Ports usable space by the restoration of the docks on the west end of the harbor and possible expansion of automobile processing on Pelican Island.

For 2017 the Port is projecting 950,000 cruise passengers leaving on 258 cruises throughout the year.

To view the presentation in its entirety please [CLICK HERE](#).



**Trolley Funding**

Earlier this year City Council approved funding for the restoration of the Rail Trolleys and repair of the existing tracks. At the December City Council meeting the funding for Rubber Tire Trolleys that would travel East -West on the Seawall was approved for funding.

At this time the Rubber Tire Trolleys are programmed to begin prior to the summer season and are designed to connect with the Rail Trolleys as they come online during the last of 2017.

To view the details and view the rubber tire trolleys that will be purchased please [CLICK HERE](#).

## City By The Numbers

**\$290,000**

**Amount IDC Recently Approved for  
Beach Nourishment Projects**

**1%**

**Percentage of Total Arts and Historic Preservation Funds  
Proposed to be Allocated for New Events**

**62%**

**Percentage of Total Port Revenue Attributable to  
Cruise Activities**

**\$641,868**

**Cost of Four Rubber Tire Trolleys for the Seawall**

**\$80,000**

**Additional Amount Per Year Placed in the Police Pension by  
Increasing the City's Contribution by .83 Percent**

**\$400,000**

**Amount of Direct Spending That Could be Derived From a Single  
Baseball Tournament in Galveston**

**\$2,891,000**

**Total Amount of Neighborhood Projects Recently Approved by  
City Council**



## **Sports Tourism**

**At the December 13th Park Board meeting Mr. Don Schumacher, Executive Director of the National Association of Sports Commissions, presented his findings concerning the future of Sports Tourism in Galveston.**

**Sports Tourism is a rapidly growing segment of the Tourism market and in its quest to increase the number of high value visitors, the Park Board employed Mr. Schumacher to guide them in the development of this emerging market.**

**Recommendations such as, using the two Convention Centers for more sporting events such as volleyball and basketball and changing the baseball fields to artificial surfaces to allow play immediately following rains, are just a few of the suggestions mentioned in the presentation. I think you will find the presentation very informative since it provides Galveston's blueprint for this industry for years to come. [CLICK HERE](#) to view Mr. Schumacher's findings in their entirety.**

## **Pension Funding**

**Recently Council discussed the City's supported Pension Funds and specifically discussed the 27 million dollar shortfall of the Police Fund. To meet State guidelines, a cash infusion needs to take place immediately.**

**City Council discussed different options and elected to increase the City's monthly salary match from 12% to 12.83 % with no increase of the Police Officers contribution of 12%. Council also approved setting aside 2.3 million dollars in funds generated by the closing of TIRZ 11 to assist with pension reform for all the Pension Plans.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view the specifics of the Police Pension Fund and its funding choices.**



## **Neighborhood Projects**

**My Newsletter would not be complete without a mention of the ongoing topic of Neighborhood Projects. Council recently approved a final list of all the Projects in each District and with this final approval, each one of them are poised to move forward.**

**Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view this final list.**

**Where funding will occur in the future for new projects is a topic that Council will be discussing shortly.**



## Seawall Parking Ordinance

Due to multiple violations of recreation vehicles parking all night on the Seawall, Council recently approved a parking ordinance that prohibits overnight parking for all vehicles. The Ordinance also gives approval for ticketing and towing for violations.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the specifics of the Ordinance.

## City Council Tidbits

### New Committee Appointments

Recently Council appointed District 2 resident Dr. David Ware to the Intermodal Transportation Committee. Congratulations David and Thank You for your willingness to serve.



### Lee and Joe Jamail Park

On December 13th the Lee and Joe Jamail Park ( formerly Washington Park ) was officially opened. This partnership of County, City and private funding was instrumental in bringing this Park back to life, bigger and better than ever.

**When you get a chance, please drive by the Park at 61st and Offats Bayou and I think you will be amazed at the wonderful transformation this Gateway Park has experienced.**

### **Cavalla Historical Foundation**

**The Cavalla Historical Foundation manages the American Undersea Warfare Center and the naval vessels which are located at Seawolf Park. The Foundation is now wanting to provide access for disabled veterans and visitors to the ships which requires the purchase of lifts. If you would like more information on how you could assist with this effort please contact Colonel Kelley W. Crooks at [AUWC@gmail.com](mailto:AUWC@gmail.com) or 210-363-1773**



### **Lost Bayou Receives National Recognition**

**The City of Galveston has made application for The Lost Bayou Historic District to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. This is quite a honor for the Lost Bayou District which is**

**a wonderful example of Historic Structures, that represent the origins of Galveston's culture.**

### **CareerConnect**

**The Galveston CareerConnect program is a great way for high school students to start learning skills to be successful in life.**

**The program offers 6 career pathways in high-paying fields like engineering and EMT, all free of charge for students.**

**To date the program is serving over 500 students.**

**Everyone is invited on January 12th at 11:15 am at Galveston College to see the students in action -- demonstrating everything from their patient care skills to setting up computer networking.**

**[Contact Me](#) |**