



**GREETINGS FROM  
CRAIG BROWN**

**GALVESTON CITY COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 2**



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March 2017 Issue

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**District 2 Newsletter**



**This coming May City Council will begin their annual appointments to the various Boards and Commissions. As is always the case, having a diversified applicant pool that represents the demographics of Galveston is so very important when these selections are made.**

**One segment of our community that is always important to consider is that of our younger residents.**

**Recently I read a review of a new book by Shauna L Shames, *Out of the Running*, which highlights the status of our younger generation and their perceived lack of interest in joining the "establishment".**

**As an example, Ms. Shames says for years Millennials have avoided becoming political. But contrary to popular stereotypes, it was not because the generation born between 1982 - 2002 didn't care about changing the world; it was because they cared too much.**

**She goes on to mention that the tides are turning and there is proof that Millennials will work within the political system when properly inspired.**

**These young leaders of tomorrow will grow to be the voice of our community and set the tone for Galveston's future. What better way to introduce someone to our political system than by participating with a City Board, Commission or Committee.**

**Thank you to all those who have donated their time and expertise in the past and if you feel the calling, I would like to extend an**

invitation to everyone, no matter your age, to participate on one of the City's Boards and Commissions

**Wishing you a Wonderful and Inspiring March !**

**CRAIG**

## **Porretto Beach**

Recently City Council participated in a very interesting discussion concerning the question of ownership of the City "right of ways" in the Porretto Beach property. In 1978 an application requesting the City abandon these properties to the land owner was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. The approval stipulated that the abandonment would not be official until a preliminary and final plat of the property was filed with the City and written approval was obtained from the adjacent land owners.

Herein lies the question. Even though representatives of the current owner have some circumstantial evidence that the plats and approvals were given to the City, the City has no record of them. Not having the records does not necessarily mean they were not given to the City since record keeping 38 years ago was not the best, especially considering the destruction that accompanied Hurricane Ike.

City Council has deferred this item to a future date to allow more research and to more fully investigate the legalities of this item.

To view the proposed Abandonment Resolution please [CLICK HERE](#).



## Island Transit

At the February 23rd City Council Workshop Rick Beverlin, Director of Transportation, presented to City Council the current status of Island Transit and recommendations to make Island Transit more financially efficient, while providing the highest quality of Public Transportation as possible.

Currently Island Transit runs a deficit of approximately \$800,000 and, with projected loss of future grants, this deficit is projected to grow considerably in the future.

Changes such as reducing routes and hours of operation as well as exploring an expanded demand - response program or a taxi voucher program were discussed. This topic is a very important one for our community especially since a growing deficit impacts the City's ability to fund other projects.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this very informative presentation.

## Operating Budget

At the last City Council meeting in February City Council approved over 4 million dollars of amendments to the City's

**Operating Budget. These amendments are for the current fiscal year and are mainly designed to support the recent changes to the Police and Fire Pension funds, the use of Hotel Tax for the rail and rubber tire trolleys and the transfer of monies to establish a Pension Fund Contingency account.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to update yourself with the specifics.**



## **Legislative Update**

**I and other City Council members will spend the day at the Capitol in Austin March 1st, discussing items with State Legislators that can greatly affect our community.**

**Storm Suppression Systems, Pension Fund Legislation, Revenue Caps and Legislation governing Transportation Network Companies are just a few of the topics before the Legislature.**

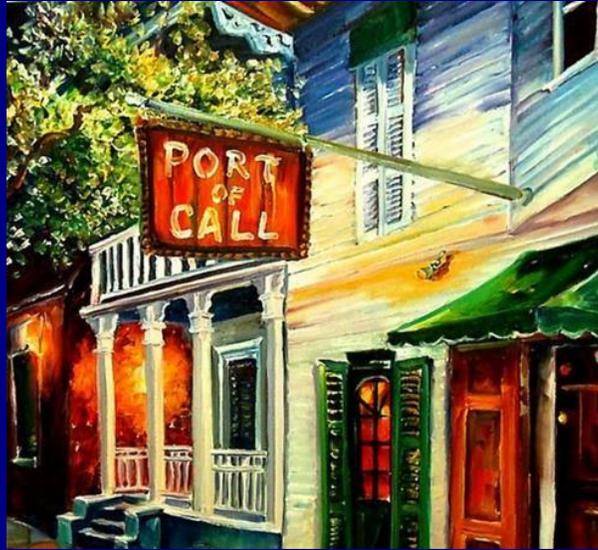
**To view the entire list of Legislative items that may directly affect Galveston [CLICK HERE](#).**

## **Body Cameras**

**Recently City Council approved the purchase of 103 Body Cameras and associated server and storage for \$133,920.**

**These cameras will be partially paid for by a state grant with \$43,000 in local match to be assumed by the City.**

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



## Port of Call

Recently I made a presentation along with Councilman Maceo and Wharves Board Trustee Ted O'Rourke to the Tourism Development Advisory Committee of the Park Board. Our presentations highlighted the need to reinstitute discussions with the various Cruise Lines that frequent our Island to establish Galveston as a Port of Call.

The Park Board has been looking for ways to expand their relationship with the Port and establishing a Port of Call will require a collaboration of the City, Park Board and the Port to make this a reality.

This topic will be discussed more thoroughly by all three entities shortly and I will keep you updated as this topic moves forward.

**City Manager Report**

**Yes, the most recent City Manger's Report has been released in a brand new format that is more informative and easier to view.[CLICK HERE](#) to acquaint yourself with the most up to date happenings with the City.**



## **Little League Baseball Complex**

**At the February 7th IDC Committee meeting funding was approved for the construction of a State of the Art Little League Baseball Complex. The Complex will be on the recently obtained lands at 53rd and Avenue S with the initial phase of construction to be approximately 3.5 million dollars.**

**If City Council approves the IDC agreement at their March meeting construction could begin as early as this July with the completion of the project by the first quarter of 2018.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view more specifics of the Complex.**

## **Texas Music Festival**

**At the last Park Board meeting the Board approved up to \$75,000 for marketing assistance for a Texas Music Festival to be held here in Galveston.**

**The event will be a four day event in the Spring of 2018 highlighting different genres of Texas Music and taking place in multiple venues throughout the Island.**

**This event could be the beginning of establishing Galveston as a focal point for Texas Music that would attract a national audience. This is very exciting for the Island and to view all the specifics of the event please [CLICK HERE](#).**

## ***City Council Tidbits***



## **Arts and Historic Preservation Committee**

**Council is still taking public input concerning possible changes to the allocation of funds by the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee. This has been a topic of discussion among many organizations and further discussion will take place at the March 23rd City Council meeting.**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to view the most current version of the document and as always, please feel free to send me any recommendations or suggestions you may have.**

## **2528 Broadway Update**

**Recently I reported the City was in negotiations concerning the purchase of the old Dairy Queen property at 2528 Broadway. Funds for this purchase were to be from a generous grant from the Moody Foundation. Unfortunately this purchase will not happen. The asking price for the property was much more than the appraised value of the property and, due to State Law, the City cannot pay a considerable amount more than the appraised value for any property.**



## **Seawall Interpretive Trail**

**At the last City Council meeting Artist Boat was recognized for their unparalleled success in many different areas of environmental and natural preservation projects. The project highlighted at the City Council meeting was the restoration of 70 benches on the Seawall with wonderful tile artwork. Please join Artist Boat, participating artists and dignitaries to officially recognize this wonderful accomplishment on March 4th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at the bench across from the Galveston Island Convention Center at 53rd Street.**

## **Temporary Overnight Camping at Apffel Park**

**City Council has approved overnight camping at Apffel May 19 - 21 for those in attendance at the Jeep Go Topless Event. Overnight camping is not permitted at the Park but City Council approved a request by the Park Board for a temporary change in the ordinance to support attendance at the event. To view the specifics of the change please [CLICK HERE.](#)**



## **Potential Change of Ownership of Ashton Villa**

**The City has owned Ashton Villa for many years and the Park Board and the Galveston Historical Foundation have managed the structure for the City during this time. Recently discussions have been ongoing concerning the sale of Ashton Villa to GHF, since they have been the steward of this wonderful home and grounds for many years and have utilized it for the betterment of the community. Also included in these discussions is GHF taking ownership of the Historic Firehouse on Market street.**

We are very fortunate to have GHF in our community and once these negotiations are successfully completed both structures will be protected to serve as a reminder of our glorious past.

[Contact Me](#) |

**Proudly Representing the Citizens of:**

San Jacinto

Kempner Park

Silk Stocking Historic District

Lost Bayou Historic District

Lasker Park