



COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., Mayor • Rusty Moore, Vice-Mayor • Bob Weigel
Louise Bryan • Haley Dale • Beth Reardon, City Manager • Chuck Williams, Chief of Police

City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Police Dept. (615) 297-0241 / www.citybellemeade.org

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE OCTOBER 2021

From Commissioner Louise Bryan

Last September, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to engage the Kimley Horn consulting firm to help guide our community in developing a master plan to preserve and protect the beauty and safety of Belle Meade. Belle Meade Together is the culmination of robust community engagement through a Selection Committee to hire Kimley Horn, a Steering Committee to determine agenda direction and outreach and multiple resident opportunities for discussion through Virtual Town Halls, listening sessions, onsite meetings at city hall and St. George's Farmers Market, as well as a dedicated website providing online mapping and a survey. I hope you had the opportunity to participate in some part the process—you are the process!

Community engagement never ends! At the next Commissioner meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 at 4pm, *Belle Meade Together* will be considered for adoption and residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to ask questions and voice opinions. In advance of the meeting, Commissioners and city staff offer the following Q&A.

What does it mean that the Commissioners are voting to adopt the City of Belle Meade Master Plan, *Belle Meade Together*?

Belle Meade Together is a set of guiding principles that are derived from extensive dialogue with residents, city staff and key stakeholders like the Belle Meade Beautification Committee. The plan is not legally binding and has no connection to zoning or building codes. Rather, the plan will be referenced when making project decisions on streets, sidewalks and other public infrastructure. The Commissioners are not obligated to enact any of the recommendations presented in Belle Meade Together, but the plan will help guide elected officials in making future decisions. The plan will be instrumental when applying for federal and state grants, as agencies view long-term master plans very favorably when awarding funding.

Why have the Commissioners and city staff spent so much time on creating a master plan?

Because we love Belle Meade the way it is, and we do not want to lose our neighborhood! *Belle Meade Together* is a plan to protect and preserve the identity of Belle Meade and also to prepare our neighborhood from advancing develop-

ment in surrounding areas. By incorporating vital elements of traffic calming, pedestrian safety, beautification, and stormwater management, the plan can integrate strategies with creative solutions. For example, a median island can signify a getaway to the city, encourage speed limits, provide safe crossing and include stormwater drainage—all in a single street design.

What does the plan recommend for Belle Meade Boulevard?

In the near term, Belle Meade Together recommends a preliminary study and design of pedestrian and landscape enhancements along with signage improvements. In the longer term, the plan recommends a dedicated pedestrian path. The idea of sharing the street with cars and pedestrians is just not safe and the volume of traffic has increased. Any major change to Belle Meade Boulevard will only be considered with full citizen input. Currently the Beautification Committee is working on a demonstration project involving two medians near Percy Warner Park. The opportunity is to create a model of a median path so that residents can experience that design and provide feedback.

Did the Commissioners raise taxes in order to pay for Belle Meade Together?

No. Since 2010, The Hall Tax has funded between 38%-57% of the day-to-day operations of the City of Belle Meade. When the Hall Tax repeal was passed in 2016, Commissioners recognized the need to raise property tax rates over time. However, the Commissioners decided to delay the tax rate increase during fiscal year 2020 due to the Covid-19 environment and drew from City fund reserves. With the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Commissioners voted unanimously to pass a property tax rate of .50 during the July 2021 meeting. The 2021-2022 budget would not be able to be balanced without a tax increase to replace the Hall Tax receipts.

What's next?

Residents are invited to a *Belle Meade Together* Open House at city hall to view exhibits and ask questions. Please stop on Monday, October 4 from 10am-2pm or from 6-7:30pm to visit with Commissioners and city staff.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



On September 20th, Officer Haley Doty started work with the Belle Meade Police Department. Officer Doty began her police career in 2018 for the White House Police Department where she worked until 2020. Before joining Belle Meade, she worked for the Dickson County School System as a first-grade teacher. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. Haley is excited to be working in law enforcement again and meeting the community.



take over the call. We need to get specific information as quick as we can in order to get officers on the way and advise them of what is going on, so they don't go into a situation blindsided.

As dispatchers, we have procedures that we follow when taking calls. We understand that certain situations can cause your adrenaline or excitement to intensify, but try to understand that we need to determine what the situation is and how serious. Keep in mind that if we interrupt you, it is to ask the questions we need answered to determine the situation and the best course of action. Hopefully, this will help to inform you and prepare you to answer our questions in a timely manner.

The questions we ask are:

1. Who is calling, who is involved, who is doing what or did what, etc.?
2. Where did this occur, where are you calling from, etc.
3. What happened?
4. When did it occur?
5. How did it occur, how many are involved, etc.

We hope this helps you understand that we need to gather the information as fast as we can because during your call, another phone line might ring, an officer might need something over the radio, someone might walk in the front door needing help or need assistance to get into the dumpsters. We also continually monitor the traffic cameras.

I would also like to say that the other dispatchers and I are deeply honored to be working for the City of Belle Meade and Belle Meade Police Department.

From Dispatcher Sergeant Toni Tomlin

What to Expect When you Call Belle Meade Police; As the Communications Sergeant, I have the responsibility to log calls, track emergency vehicles, and prepare detailed reports of activities that occur during our shifts. The most important aspect of my work is *your call* and to gather information from emergency calls and direct support to locations.

Stress is part of the job for police dispatchers, who log long 12-hour shifts answering emergency calls. Calm detailed information is critical to a dispatcher to get you the help you need. If you are experiencing an emergency, (LIFE OR DEATH), please call 911. If it is a call to inform us of something that is currently happening or just happened, please let us know up front and then *let the dispatcher*



FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: GUIDELINES FOR DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA



You can help keep our creeks, streams and rivers clean by properly draining your swimming pool or spa.

DO NOT drain the water into the sanitary sewer, you may drain the water onto grassy areas following these guidelines:

- ◆ De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated for 7 to 10 days before you drain the pool/spa.
- ◆ Drain the water directly onto the grass in your yard. Be a good neighbor – allow the water to only drain onto your property so that it does not cause erosion or flooding in your neighbor's yard.
- ◆ Drain the pool water slowly to allow it to be absorbed into the ground and to prevent erosion and ponding. Standing water can lead to mosquito problems in as little as 48 to 72 hours and may be a code violation.

Note: draining saltwater onto grass and landscape can damage plants and soil due to high salt content.

It is illegal in Davidson County to drain your filter backwash water, saltwater or chlorinated pool water, or spa directly into the stormwater drainage system or a creek unless it is de-chlorinated. (CITY OF BELLE MEADE STORM WATER ORDINANCE – SECTION 8, ILLICIT DISCHARGES).

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ High levels of chlorine in pool water can kill wildlife, fish, crayfish, and other aquatic animals.
- ◆ A saltwater swimming pool system uses pool salt to make chlorine. The chemicals and salt in saltwater pools can kill plants, wildlife, and aquatic animals such as fish and crayfish.
- ◆ Stormwater drainage systems (catch basins in the streets, ditches, etc.) drain rainwater directly to creeks and streams.

TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP OUR CREEKS, STREAMS AND RIVERS CLEAN! REMEMBER:

- ◆ Drain only de-chlorinated water onto grassy areas. Drain the water slowly.
- ◆ And NEVER drain pool and spa water directly into street drains or drainage ditches – they lead directly to our creeks, streams, and rivers.

Questions concerning pool guidelines and saltwater pools should be directed to:

THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE – (615) 297-6041

Larry Smith, lsmith@citybellemeade.org or Nathan McVay, nmcvay@citybellemeade.org

From the Zoning Department: rumor has it....



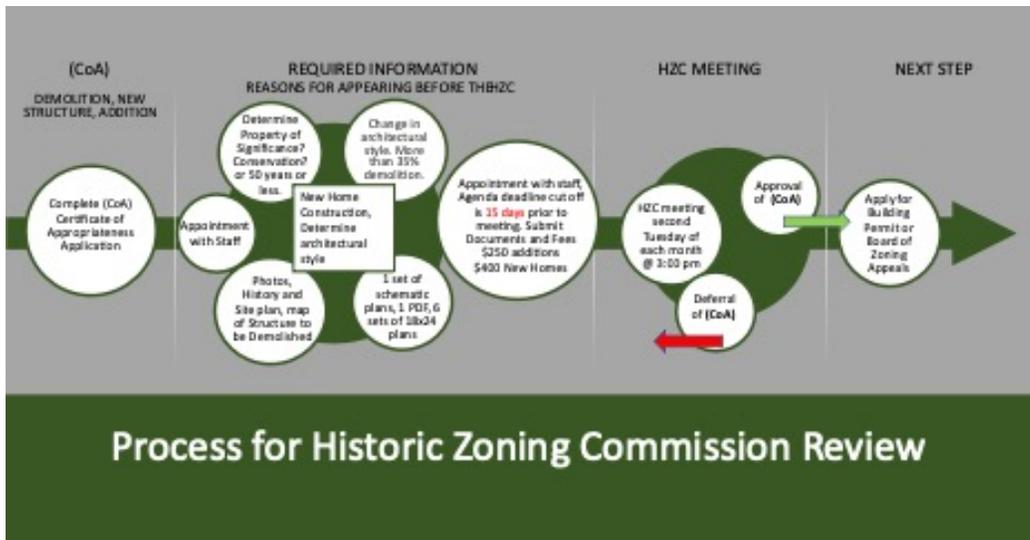
There still seems to be some confusion and rumors from real estate agents, prospective buyers, and developers about the ability to tear a home down and build new or build an addition. The first step should be to the the City website to review the Certificate of Appropriateness Application and the Conservation Overlay Interim Design Guidelines. By reviewing these, you're answering ninety-nine percent of the questions confirming, "Can a home be torn down? Can I construct an addition? Can I change the elevations?"

The office of building and zoning cannot answer the question of "Can this home be demolished", or "Can you approve these new house plans?" That decision is left solely up to the Historic Zoning Commission which is comprised of a seven-member commission of architects, landscape architect, municipal planning board member, residents with renovation experience and a developer. There are three classifications of homes within the city,

- #1. Property of significance 1901-1939
- #2. Property of conservation 1940-2000
- #3. Properties less than fifty years of age

Of those three classifications, the only property that the office of building and zoning can confirm demolition is #3 property fifty years of age or less, which will change with each passing year. Everything else must go before the HZC for approval, including all new homes. Additions and alterations can be approved by the Building Official if it is 35% or less of the total square footage of the home or existing elevation.

The HZC gathers on the second Tuesday of each month, and the cut-off for submittal is fifteen days prior to that meeting. Keep in mind that is not the day of submittal, but the cut off day. Submit all required documentation by email to the building official Lpatterson@citybellemeade.org. The application fee may be paid online to secure your place on the agenda. Instructions for submittal and documents needed are available on the City website citybellemeade.org, click on "Departments" at top of homepage, then click on Historic Zoning on the drop-down menu.



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the the **September 15, 2021** meeting:



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- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
 - o Kimley Horn \$11,725.00
 - o J. R. Associates Inv. #1 \$14,640.00
 - o J. R. Associates Inv. #2 \$15,840.00
 - o J. R. Associates Inv. #3 \$15,840.00
 - o Straeffler Pump & Supply \$14,950.00
 - o Public Entity Partners \$8,258.00
 - o Omnigo Software \$8,216.83

- Approved the purchase of 140 holiday evergreen wreaths for the street signposts from the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 6, in the amount of \$3,710.
- Approved the proposal for a new phone service contract for City Hall with RVM Communications, for a recurring monthly charge of \$273.50
- Approved upgrade of equipment and software for the voice recorder for police department telephone lines from Rev-Cord at a total cost of \$6,425.89
- Acknowledged donors of monetary gifts for purchase of police equipment.

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021 All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, November 17th at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, December 15th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, November 9th at 3:00 pm
Tuesday, December 14th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, November 9th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, December 14th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 16th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, December 21st at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, November 16th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, December 21st at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – SEPTEMBER 2021

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

Mr. Burton Frank Jablin

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Mark McDonald

Mr. & Mrs. Seamus Ross

NOTICE:

2021 PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS were mailed this month and are due on or before February 28, 2022. Please note that the City does NOT mail statements to mortgage companies.

STORMWATER USER FEE INVOICES WERE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 15TH. If you have not paid this fee, please do so promptly. The City accepts payment by check or online at www.citybellemeade.org Questions? Call 615-297-6041.



Have A Safe & Fun Halloween!



CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested