

MAYOR • Rusty Moore VICE-MAYOR • Haley Dale COMMISSIONERS: Marty Dickens • Louise Bryan • Neal Clayton • Jennifer Moody, 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 JANUARY 2024

NEW
UPDATE

Belle Meade ZONING ORDINANCE

Updates to the Belle Meade Zoning Code

The Belle Meade Zoning Code is the set of local standards that help create the quality and type of residential development envisioned by the Belle Meade community. This part of city code typically regulates land use, building size and placement, parking, landscaping and parcel size. These regulations use “districts” to

allow different standards that best fit the existing character of different neighborhood areas within Belle Meade and define how property within the city limits may be developed or redeveloped. Currently, there are two zoning districts, a Residence “B” and a Residence “A”, but in the new update a new Residence “C” district is being considered that would aim to create standards for residential structures built on smaller lots within Belle Meade.

The existing zoning regulations have not been comprehensively updated since 1997. In the past few decades, development patterns and building trends have changed in some significant ways. The current Zoning Ordinance needs to be rewritten to better fulfill the vision to preserve the “thoughtfully curated” character and distinctly “beautiful city in a meadow” described within the Belle Meade Together Plan.

An internal review team was formed consisting of

Commissioner Haley Dale, Municipal Planning Commission member Larry Wieck, City Manager Jennifer Moody, Planning Director Mary Samaniego, in consultation with City Attorney Doug Berry. This taskforce of city officials worked for several months to complete a comprehensive rewrite of the code that uses plain language, illustrations, and simple charts when applicable, and definitions of key words so that there is less variability in interpretation of how to carry out permitted activities within the code.

A formal presentation of the Draft Zoning Ordinance will be given during the Municipal Planning Commission on January 16, 2024 at 4:00 PM. The public and design professionals are encouraged to attend this meeting to see the presentation. The draft ordinance is now available on the city’s website for review and comment by the public and design professionals. Please provide all comments to Planning Director Mary Samaniego, msamaniego@citybellemeade.org or (615) 297-6041.

After all public comments are taken into consideration, a Final Draft Zoning Ordinance will be considered by the Municipal Planning Commission and then it will proceed to a public hearing and consideration for approval by the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners must vote on new ordinances on two readings, meaning at two separate board meetings, prior to the amendments or new ordinance taking effect. According to the anticipated timeline, a new zoning ordinance could be in effect this spring.

Please check the city’s calendar on our website for updates: www.citybellemeade.org and, once a draft is complete, it will also be available on the website. Questions or Comments? Contact Planning Director Mary Samaniego, msamaniego@citybellemeade.org or (615) 297-6041.

BELLE MEADE AUDITED FINANCIALS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

The fiscal year 2022-2023 audited financial report has been approved by the Board of Commissioners following a comprehensive meeting of the auditors with the Budget and Finance Committee. The City’s financial records are audited annually in compliance with state law. The City received a clean audit, meaning that there were no significant concerns or deficiencies were found. Our audit reports that Belle

Meade’s financial statements have been presented fairly and accurately, that the agency has complied with applicable laws, regulations, and grant agreements, and that financial operations are conducted properly. City staff are dedicated to the highest standards for financial accountability and hope that the audit process helps to maintain your confidence in the City of Belle Meade as good financial stewards of your public tax dollars. The full report is available at www.citybellemeade.org/finance/ or Leigh Mills or City Manager Jennifer Moody.

Belle Meade Newsletter

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas trees are usually collected in the first few weeks of January. Trees will be collected curbside by Clean Earth, our brush and chipper service, on your regular collection day. Please place trees separate from trash and without lights and decorations. No stands and no plastic bags. Flocked trees, with artificial snow or frosting, cannot be accepted.

TREE RECYCLING

Additionally, the Nashville Department of Transportation has teamed up with Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation and Living Earth to offer Davidson County residents an environmentally friendly and convenient way to dispose of their Christmas Trees. Trees must be cleaned of wooden stands, watering bowls, ornaments, lights, wire, string, and other decorations before drop-off. The Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-off program will run until February 13, 2024

at Edwin Warner Park (additional locations listed at <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/parks/news/christmas-tree-recycling-drop-program-2023>). No artificial trees will be accepted. Artificial trees may be donated or taken to any of the four Metro-Nashville convenience centers for disposal.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS

BELLE MEADE OFFICER AWARDED FOR CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY PROGRAM

On December 7, 2023, the Tennessee Highway Safety Office recognized Master Patrol Officer Wes Bowker as the Middle Tennessee Child Passenger Safety Technician of the Year. Chief Williams nominated Officer Bowker and the award committee selected Officer Bowker to be the recipient. In 2023, Officer Bowker installed 64 car seats for families. This is the second year in a row that Officer Bowker has received this recognition. The Middle Tennessee District consists of 97 agencies within 23 counties. If you wish to have Officer Bowker, check your child's car seat, please contact Belle Meade Dispatch at 615-297-0241, and the dispatcher will help schedule a time.



Belle Meade Police at 2023 Tennessee Highway Safety Office Award Ceremony (Right to Left): Chief Charles Williams; Officer Wes Bowker; Sergeant Chris Roark



The City Hall staff wishes to thank all our residents who generously sent in Employee Fund donations and many delicious treats throughout the holiday season.

We truly appreciate your kindness! It is a pleasure to provide services in Belle Meade and please do not hesitate to call on us for assistance.



boxes or other items are left on the ground outside the containers. The collection vendor charges the City a significant additional fee each time that these dumpsters are blocked and unserviceable. Please help us to avoid these additional fees and keep our community looking clean and green by not leaving any cardboard or other items outside the cardboard dumpsters. If you find the dumpsters to be full, you must either come back another time with your items or consider taking them to the trash dumpsters located nearby behind the fences.

Recycling is a way to reduce the amount of waste we create. These two cardboard dumpsters help us divert tons of recyclable materials from going into the local landfill. With your help, we can ensure that all cardboard intended for recycling makes it into the dumpster and doesn't become trash again. Anyone needing assistance with handling their items should call City Hall at 615-297-6041.

RECYCLING CARDBOARD

Belle Meade residents have two convenient dumpsters behind City Hall for recycling cardboard. However, these dumpsters cannot be emptied when any



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the, **December 13, 2023** meeting:



- Special Presentation recognizing the 23 years of dedicated service of retiring Public Works Director Larry Smith. A public reception was held immediately prior to the board meeting, where State Representative Caleb Hemmer presented a proclamation honoring Larry Smith as well.
- Approved an addendum to the scope of work with Benesch Engineering to provide additional services on the Harding Pike Sidewalk Project in the total amount of \$13,533.62 to support a cultural resources survey required by the TDOT multimodal grant program.
- Approved an annual service agreement with SkyCop, Inc. for a public safety video surveillance system, in the total amount of \$44,500, for 2024.
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:

1) CEC (Walnut Dr Project)	\$ 6,486.00
2) Kraft CPAs	\$ 9,000.00
3) Wascon Inc.	\$ 7,689.56
4) Wascon Inc.	\$ 8,003.92
5) Benesch Engineering (Harding Pk Sidewalk)	\$20,900.60
- Approved the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 Financial Audit Report, per the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation, and received a presentation from Finance Director Leigh Mills at the meeting.
- Held a Public Hearing and approved ORDINANCE No. 2023-10, on second and final reading, an Ordinance to amend Title 14, Chapter Two of the Belle Meade Zoning Code to repeal the power of the Board of Zoning Appeals to grant special exceptions and clarify the jurisdiction of the Board to grant variances and conditional use permits and to approve non-conforming uses and structures.
- In other matters, the Board adopted a meeting calendar for 2024 and held discussion about the 2023 Holiday Parade.
- The Board of Commissioners' next regular meetings will be held on Wednesday, December 13th at 4:00 p.m. with a public reception for retiring Public Works Director Larry Smith will be held immediately prior at 3:00 p.m. in honor of his 23 years of service to the residents of Belle Meade. All meetings are open to the public and public comments will be accepted.

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – December 2023

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY-\$500-\$999

Mr. Thomas Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Glisson

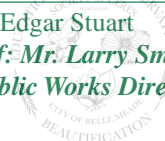


TULIP SOCIETY-\$250-\$499

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson Leeper
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Ortale

AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Stuart
In Honor of: Mr. Larry Smith
(Retired Public Works Director)



Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, February 21st at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, March 20th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, February 13th at 3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 12th at 3:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 20th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, March 19th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, February 20th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, March 19th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

PROPERTY TAXES are due by February 28, 2024. If you mail your payment, make sure it is postmarked no later than Feb. 28th. On March 1st, taxes are considered delinquent and incur an additional 2% interest fine each month until paid. You may pay by e-check, credit card or PayPal utilizing our new online portal at www.citybellemeade.org and, for assistance, contact Belle Meade City Recorder Rusty Terry, rterry@citybellemeade.org or 615-297-6041.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested