

# The AIKEN Report

A Publication of the City of Aiken

March, 2012

Character Trait: Compassion

The Aiken Report Continued....



significant improvements,” said Pearce. “The City of Aiken and its representatives have pushed for them for a number of years and we hope motorists will enjoy these improvement projects when they are completed.”

## CITY COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2012 AND 2013

During their annual retreat on February 3 and 4 at the City’s Rye Patch meeting facility, Mayor Fred Cavanaugh, and the members of City Council along with City Manager Richard Pearce discussed a series of short term and continuing goals for the City of Aiken and ratified them at their Council meeting on February 13.

### SHORT TERM GOALS:

1. Explore and implement best methods for improving city communication and sharing information by utilizing various media tools including social networks, as well as broadcast and print media as appropriate.
2. Prepare a design for a multiuse senior/youth center at Eustis Park.
3. Conduct a review of our City solid waste program operations to determine opportunities for additional efficiencies.
4. Prioritize our water, sewer, storm drain and roadway repairs as part of our annual budgeting process.
5. Identify opportunities to work with at risk individuals in our community.
6. Perform a comprehensive review of the Aiken Municipal Airport operations.

### CONTINUING GOALS:

1. As part of developing an overall strategy for abating Sand River storm water runoff problems in Hitchcock Woods, pursue the next phases for installation of bioretention, bioswale, rain garden, and other stormwater runoff containment measures. Also, continue to study other projects that will work in tandem with these installations.
2. In Edgewood Neighborhood Subdivision, continue construction of new homes. Seek opportunities for developing property in other Northside Revitalization target areas.
3. Support current and future of the Savannah River Site through annual visits to Washington, by receiving periodic updates on Site strategic plan goals, missions, and plans, and identifying opportunities to support these goals, missions, and plans.
4. Support and strengthen our Character First program by encouraging employees to attend the monthly City Character meetings. Encourage our academic communities and local businesses to adopt and implement this program at their work places for their supervisors, employees, administrators, and other staff.
5. Continue strategies to redevelop and stabilize Aiken’s Northside neighborhoods.
6. Expand our Wellness Initiative with appropriate public programming. Encourage our citizens toward better health.
7. Continue our Succession Management Program.
8. Investigate the best plan for building a connecting roadway from Dougherty Road to the Publix Shopping Center.
9. Undertake the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey recommended projects as funding becomes available.
10. Preserve equestrian areas and open spaces when opportunities arise to do so.
11. Expand existing city bike pathways and pedestrian walkways.
12. Work in cooperation with local academic campuses — secondary, post secondary, and technical — to show faculty, staff, and students what City of Aiken volunteer opportunities are available to them.
13. Identify and utilize opportunities for the city vehicle fleet to include alternative fuel and all electric models.
14. Proceed with the redevelopment of our City Recycle Center into a multi-use and passive city park facility.
15. Develop a policy for future street lighting installations throughout our city.
16. Determine the appropriate procedures and projects to strengthen the integrity of our utility infrastructure including timelines for inspections, repair, maintenance, replacement, and installation of new and improved utility infrastructure as well as the feasibility of a downtown area camera system.

## MASTER CORPORAL SANDY ROGERS

We thank the citizens of Aiken and our many friends elsewhere for the support they have shown our City and our Department of Public Safety after the tragic death of one of our own. The fatal shooting of Master Public Safety Cpl. Sandy Rogers has greatly saddened us, but certainly brought us all together as a community as we cope with this loss. We join with the family of Cpl. Rogers to express our appreciation for the outpouring of love and support this community has generously given. As we all return to our duties, please know we do so knowing our City remains a great place to live, work and enjoy. We are inspired by your many acts of kindness at this difficult time.



Aiken Public Safety  
Anonymous Tip Line  
642-7799

City Manager  
642-7654

Engineering and  
Utilities  
642-7610

Finance  
642-7603

Human Resources  
642-7654

Parks, Recreation  
and Tourism  
642-7631

Planning  
642-7608

Public Safety  
642-7620

Public Services  
642-7613

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CityofAikenSC.gov](http://www.CityofAikenSC.gov) or tune in  
to cable Channel 4.

### Meeting Schedule

All Meetings are held in the  
Council Chambers at the City  
of Aiken Municipal Building  
unless otherwise indicated.

### City Council Meeting

Mon. Mar. 12, 7 pm  
Mon. Mar. 26, 7 pm

### Design Review Board

Tues. Mar. 6, 7 pm

### Planning Commission

Tues. Mar. 13, 6 pm

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tues. Mar. 27, 5:30 pm

## TWO LONGTIME CITY WISH LIST ITEMS COMPLETED

### INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM ACTIVATED AT AIKEN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

A major goal of City leaders over the past two decades was realized in early February when a newly installed Instrument Landing System (ILS) was activated at the Aiken Municipal Airport and successfully tested in a ceremonial takeoff and landing. Aiken General Aviation Commission Chairman Don Barnes and Vice Chairman Craig Jarvis flew the first aircraft that took off using the beam-guided instrumentation on Feb. 9. Behind them was a plane piloted by City Councilman Steve Homoki with Mayor Fred Cavanaugh aboard.

An ILS provides navigational guidance – both horizontal and vertical – allowing aircraft to land in poor weather conditions. Many corporate aircraft are not insured to land at airports not equipped with ILS technology. This system will allow many more aircraft to land in Aiken. Until last month, those aircraft were often diverted to Columbia Metropolitan Airport and Augusta Bush Field.

“Our new ILS is a significant safety and economic impact upgrade to the Aiken Municipal Airport,” said City Manager Richard Pearce about this long-awaited technology. The ILS project cost slightly more than \$1 million, funded partly from a federal grant with the City’s share around \$300,000, according to City Engineer, Larry Morris. The system is the latest in a continuum of airport improvements. Over the past 12 years, an attractive and spacious new terminal has opened, one of the runways has been lengthened, and both have been resurfaced and strengthened to support larger aircraft, a much more secure fence has been erected, more parking space for planes has been added and a modern lighting system for runways and taxiways was to be completed within weeks of the new landing system.

Even in good weather conditions, the presence of an ILS speaks to pilots, Chairman Barnes said. “They can be assured of a higher quality runway and other safety and convenience issues upon arrival. It tells knowledgeable people that this is a secure location. We didn’t know who they were at the time, but last year we hosted a group of business people who examined our airport and who asked about an ILS system. They were very pleased when we told them that we had been approved and funded for one and it would soon be in place. We learned those were executives from Bridgestone-Firestone who later announced a \$1.5 billion facilities expansion within ten minutes of our airport.”

### STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK APPROVES UP TO \$13.5 MILLION FOR AIKEN ROADS

Aiken City Manager Richard Pearce announced in February that, with the help of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation, Mayor Fred Cavanaugh, City Council, city and county voters and the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce, Aiken has been approved to receive up to \$13.5 million for three significant road improvement projects. Matching funds committed by approval of the voters in the latest Capital Projects Sales Tax played a key role in obtaining this commitment from the S.C. State Infrastructure Bank.

Pearce said this state bank, which exists to prioritize and fund infrastructure projects across South Carolina, approved up to \$900,000 for turn lanes at Dougherty and Whiskey roads, up to \$3 million for the widening of University Parkway and up to \$9.5 million for the widening of Hitchcock Parkway from U.S. 1 to Silver Bluff Road.

Pearce said the South Carolina Department of Transportation has begun consultation with engineers for the design of the Hitchcock Parkway widening, which will be presented to the public once completed.

Pearce thanked State Senators Greg Ryberg and Shane Massey and House members Roland Smith, Tom Young, Bill Taylor, Bill Clyburn, and Bill Hixon for their significant support for these three important improvements for road safety and convenience. The Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce also provided much welcomed assistance. He said there were too many variables to estimate a completion date for the projects. “These are