



# The City News

www.atlantisfl.gov

## THE MAYOR'S CORNER

### August 2013

Summer, as defined by the rest of the country, is rapidly coming to an end. Other than the beginning of school and football returning to television, I don't see much change in Atlantis. If a catastrophic hurricane season can be avoided, I would assume that most would agree that this year has been quite successful. Two years ago I was reminding everyone that we were in a drought and to be sure that everyone was complying with the regulations. I guess that event is far in our rearview mirrors! This has certainly been a rainy season so far. You don't think 150% of normal is rainy? Think what all that water would do to those areas with record fire seasons. Also two years ago the space shuttle Atlantis made its, and NASA's, final flight. Now the exhibit showcasing this vehicle is opening at the Kennedy Space Center. I tried to get some recognition for our city and citizens to compliment the opening but NASA does not run the exhibit. The private company who does is not reaching out through our federally elected officials like NASA used to. Regardless, should you

visit, the remembrances from those exciting launches of "our shuttle" should be exciting.

Your city is operating as expected with the end of another fiscal year only two months away. In an effort to better address future financials I have elected to break tradition and put those comments in a separate section this month. I definitely want to thank everyone who has supported our efforts and hope we can live up to your expectations. As always, we are aware that the desires for a safe, well-kept, successful community are everyone's priority.

Whether returning from a wonderful summer vacation, preparing for a fall vacation, or awaiting the return of seasonal guests, I hope you share my excitement and enthusiasm that its great to be in Atlantis.

Yours truly,

Mayor Mike Dahlgren

City of Atlantis  
260 Orange Tree Drive  
Atlantis, FL 33462

The City News

AUGUST 2013

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#### Next

#### City Council

#### Meeting

**Wednesday**

**AUGUST 21, 2013**

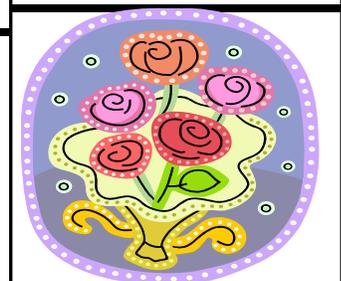
**7:00 pm.**

**Council Meetings  
are held the third  
Wednesday of each  
month in the  
Council Chambers**

#### **GET IT FIRST!**

OUR NEWSLETTER IS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE.  
[www.atlantisfl.gov](http://www.atlantisfl.gov)

**2013 Resident Decals Are Available at the Police Dept. 24 hours a day.**



## August 2013 – A Taxing Situation in Atlantis

This time of year always brings a surge of municipal and county financial information to the media's attention. Sometimes this is a surprise to citizens but, for anyone associated with government, it is the culmination of a quite long process. In Atlantis, our staff begins the process in early spring planning, refining and investigating all areas of city operations. Once preliminary valuations are received from the county, the projected revenues are compared against the projected operational expenses and the process of determining the tax rate begins.

For the last 9 years, the goal and guidance given has always been to prepare the budget assuming that we will be setting a rate at or very near rollback. This year was no exception. After initial investigation and study, it became apparent that this would not be possible next year if essential and current levels of service were to be maintained.

So, "You're proposing to increase my taxes a half mill?" "What happened?" "How did this occur?" All good questions and we hope a brief synopsis will help for a better understanding than an article in the paper showing how our future taxes compare percentage-wise to everyone else.

First, it must be understood that the mileage rate proposed is the maximum it can be next year. This is done according to State Statute. The rate can be decreased but not increased from proposal to final approval. That being said, the proposal of a less than 0.5 mil increase was deemed to be an amount that would cover necessary expenses. If found in excess once final income and expenses are obtained; it could be lowered.

Second, property taxes are by far the majority but not the only revenue sources for our city. We receive rebates, for lack of a better term, from the state and county for items such as sales taxes, gas taxes, revenue sharing, and telecommunication taxes to name a few. In nearly every case, as the economy declined so did these revenues. These are mostly beyond our control as people adjust their lifestyles to current economic situations, like your city. For example, who has purchased a new car that did not get better gas mileage than the previous model? Gas prices have increased and expenses also. But we are rebated on a per gallon basis, thus a decrease. Just about all of us had a "land line" and a cell phone or two a few years ago. Each year more people are dropping their landlines and using only cell service, hence a decrease for the city. If the bill for the cell phone goes to an address not in Atlantis, such as a business or a residence up north, we lose the revenue. Each item is arguably small but they all count up. Furthermore, what about interest earned? Is anyone getting more than a miniscule amount for their savings account? Or worse yet, getting charged fees that are more than or equal to the returns? Our city shares your pain. The decreases experienced in just these items since 2012 is approximately equal to the new revenue generated by the proposed rate increase.

Third, we have done a great job of continuing to hold expenses at budget levels every year. Even though the council has been severely restricting expense increases, staff has managed to successfully manage and comply. A huge congratulation is frankly owed to all for their efforts. Regardless, city expenses have been increasing in most areas. Last year we absorbed an increase in the fire rescue contract nearly double our projected tax increase this year. Fuel costs, as previously mentioned have increased each year. Insurance premiums, even though carefully monitored and held to the minimum, will increase. Contract services have increased annually for gate guards, trash and vegetation removal, as well as utilities. Our employees have not had an increase for the past four years, and mandated employer insurance rates are increasing also. Capital budgets have been nearly nonexistent and repair bills are going to increase as a result.

Fourth, we have maintained a policy that all city revenues would be included in a single line item on the tax bill. In actuality, we are probably one of the few cities doing this. Many cities have separate trash removal fees. This item would change annually according to the existing contract. Drainage fees and fire surcharges are additionally added by some cities. If we currently used the county for our fire/rescue services, this would appear as a separate line item. Incidentally, the current county fee would increase everyone's taxes an additional 0.4733 mils and we would have no control over the increases year to year.

Continued on page 3 ...

**...Continued from page 2**

We could institute a security fee and charge our security contract and the costs of maintaining and improving our boundaries to it. What we show is the honest and total cost of operating your city. Communities that have what appear to be abnormally low mileage rates are probably separating out numerous items as fees that are not published in the media mileage rate and rate increase tables. Even though cities have to account for them, their mileage appears low. We have compared taxes on an "apples to apples" basis many times and have shown that our taxes are very comparable if not lower than some.

Please understand that this is not intended to be a shield for the council or our city's management to hide behind or defend any actions. We are still presenting a very tight budget for the coming year. Including all the increases, our total expense budget is projected to be an increase of less than \$55,000 over three years ago. We have another month and a half to fine tune our numbers before final adoption and hopefully preserve our expectations as well as offer an outstanding value for the money.

With a closing addition of a small editorial, I would like to thank City Manager Mo Thornton and Councilman/Treasurer Manny Fernandez for their input, scrutiny, and understanding in preparing the financials for the city. We are financially sound and in excellent position to prosper. Great people make a great city. Thanks for everything.

**Serving Proudly!!!!**

**Mike Dahlgren**

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### **Manager's Notes August 2013**

I will make my remarks brief this month to give space to the Mayor for an explanation of the proposed tax rate. We have not had a tax increase in quite a number of years. Throughout the Great Recession, we have held the line on expenses and done more with less to continue to operate at pre-recession tax levels. At the same time, state shared revenues have declined. The culmination of ever increasing operating expenses made it impossible to produce a balanced budget this year based on existing revenue. Last year our fire contract with Greenacres increased substantially. Please keep in mind that we continue to enjoy a high level of service from the City of Greenacres at a much lower cost than other sources. As the Mayor points out all of these services are included in our tax rate.

School starts in just a couple weeks. Please play it safe and watch for the children. Traffic is heavy in school zones. It is always better to err on the side of safety. As always if you need to reach me you can call City Hall during business hours or email me at [mthornton@atlantisfl.gov](mailto:mthornton@atlantisfl.gov).

**Mo Thornton  
City Manager**

**City News...June 2013**

The City of Atlantis Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 19, 2013.

Resolution 13-11 passed 4-0. This is an inter-local agreement with Palm Beach Gardens for Sun-guard OSSI Software for a substantial upgrade for the Police Department records management software. This investment should see us through for the next 20 years.

Resolution 13-12 also passed 4-0. This authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement with Phillips and Jordan for debris removal after a hurricane or other disaster.

In Miscellaneous Business, The Mayor read a proclamation declaring the month of June as Palm

Beach County Guardian Ad-Litem Month. This program provides adult advocacy for abused and neglected children.

Mayor Dahlgren was appointed by the Council as the voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities Conference by a vote of 4-0.

In closing, Treasurer Manny Fernandez reported that Atlantis is in a good financial position for the fiscal year.

Councilmember Catherine Higgins requested to have the lighting resurrected at the main entrance on Clubhouse Blvd. She has received many complaints about our Main Entrance looking dark and uninviting at night.

**William Mitchell**

**(official minutes at [www.atlantisfl.gov](http://www.atlantisfl.gov))**

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**City News...July 2013**

The City of Atlantis Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 17, 2013.

Resolution 13-13 passed 4-0. This authorizes the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Palm Beach to participate in litigation against Florida Public Utilities to collect payment of franchise fees due to the proper classifying of customers.

Resolution 13-14 failed 0-4. This resolution would have authorized the Mayor to sign an agreement for the renovations of the Kintz Park building and approve the scope of work for the project. After discussion, Council was not in favor of the proposed costs and items chosen. A revised Scope will be presented at a future meeting.

Resolution 13-15, authorizing the Mayor to sign a proposal with Xylem Water Solution for lift station #3's pumps and electrical panel passed 4-0.

In Miscellaneous Business; the tentative millage rate of 7.9000 passed 4-0. This would be an increase of 8.33%, if given final approval. The first budget hearing was set for Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 5:01 p.m. in the Atlantis City Council Chambers. It was stressed that this is a provisional millage tax rate, not necessarily the final one.

**William Mitchell**

**(official minutes at [www.atlantisfl.gov](http://www.atlantisfl.gov))**

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Robert G. Mangold

## Community Safety through Community Awareness and Involvement:

The **BABY IN BACK!** program is sponsored by The Safety Council of Palm Beach County Inc. and the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office. I brought this program to the attention of our community in December of 2012, but due to the importance of the message and the tragedies it addresses I am again providing the information.

**BABY IN BACK!** Is an educational campaign designed to inform parents and caregivers of a very real danger: hyperthermia. This danger has even more of a potential for fatal consequences in the South Florida heat.

**BABY IN BACK!** is a simple low tech way to remind parents that they are transporting children. It consists of a silicone band bracelet that is to be worn **ONLY** in the car when they are transporting their children.

Hyperthermia has killed 584 children since 1998. It has happened to fanatically organized parents. It has happened to all ages and ethnicities. In the last 10 years, it has happened to a dentist, a police officer, a soldier, a clergyman, an assistant principal and a pediatrician.

Cars can rapidly climb to more than 120 degrees, sometimes in just minutes. Even on "winter" days in South Florida. Also, a child's core overheats five times faster than an adult!

Here's how **BABY IN BACK!** works:

- Obtain the bracelet with the information card, and because many are *not* aware of this problem read the card.
- Parents and caregivers must wear the bracelet each and every time their child is in the back seat.
- When the child is taken out of the car, leave the bracelet in a designated place — in the same place — *in the vehicle*.

If this bracelet works even once — out of the thousands that are being distributed through this campaign — it will be worth it.

These bracelets are available at the Atlantis Police Department 24/7

### TRAFFIC

TOTAL CITATIONS:      **00**  
 CITATIONS:              **00**  
 WARNINGS:               **00**  
 PARKING CITATIONS:   **00**

### CRIME STATISTICS (June)

BATTERY                      0 (Commercial)  
 THEFT (Grand & Petit) 0 (Commercial)  
 BURGLARY                    0 (Residential)

News & Happenings



Atlantis  
Golf Club

Improvements to the first tee and ninth green on the South Course are virtually complete, as are improvements to the practice area. The results are shown in some of the photos. The asphalt cart paths have been removed from the North and South Courses and coquina has been installed. Joel's team will pack down and groom the paths over the summer.



We still need to re-grade the cart parking area and to construct a grass swale behind the ninth green on the South Course to capture water coming off the paved area during heavy rains. Joel, Bill O'Connor and the contractor will decide the timing for the work to allow for Interclub matches and the July 4<sup>th</sup>



Tournament and BBQ.

Joel and his team have had some struggles completing all improvements and aeration of the greens, tees and fairways on the three courses with the 27 inches of rain between May 1st and the first week of June. The courses are now recovering and should be in good shape for the balance of the summer.



The annual application of Curfew to control nematodes will be done on July 11th. Nematodes are tiny creatures that suck water from the roots of our grass. Joel is continuing to apply a supplemental nematode control agent and soil enhancements to about six acres of the course that were problematic last winter. Grass from the first tee of the South Course has been installed on six North and is growing well. A continuous monitoring of progress during the growing season should assure that problem areas have recovered and that the courses will be ready for play in the Fall.

*Bill Harsh, Green Committee Chair*



Not only did the team win low gross but we all had such a good time together. The picture was taken at the Yacht Club party given by the Puerto Rican team who hosted the Kitty Michael this year. A truly wonderful group of girls on our team and such a pleasure to play with.....not to mention how good they really are!

Left to right: Maisie Barlow, Carol Patmore, Donna Brown, Sue Rice, Marianne Webber, Laurie Little, Mindy Lawrence, Sandy Lawrence, Mary Lou Neagle, Carol Ratcliffe, Bobby Dicks

# ATLANTIS

COUNTRY CLUB

## Summer Schedule

*Snack Bar Open Daily 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

*Dining Room & Lounge open  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday for  
Dinner starting at 5 p.m.*

*Lounge opens at 3 p.m. for  
drinks and afternoon fare.*

*Happy Hour 4 – 6 p.m.*

**Reservations: 561-965-5788  
or [www.AtlantisCountryClub.com](http://www.AtlantisCountryClub.com)**

190 Atlantis Blvd.  
Atlantis, FL 33462  
Dine: 561.965.5788  
[www.atlantisdine.com](http://www.atlantisdine.com)  
Golf: 561.968.1300  
[www.atlantiscountryclub.com](http://www.atlantiscountryclub.com)

Open All Summer for  
Banquets

August 2013



## Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department to Flush Lines with Chlorine Starting July 15

To maintain high water quality in the County's water distribution system, Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department will temporarily modify the disinfection process used to treat our drinking water. The County will use a somewhat stronger disinfection process to produce chlorine residual instead of a chloramine residual from **July 15 to August 16, 2013**. The County will also increase hydrant flushing during this time. This is a preventative maintenance process. Customers served by the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department may notice a slight chlorine taste or odor in their tap water during this period. These temporary conditions will not cause adverse health effects.

If you are especially sensitive to the taste or odor of chlorine, keep an open container of drinking water in your refrigerator for a few hours to allow the chlorine to dissipate.

**Users of home dialysis machines, owners of tropical fish and managers of stores and restaurants with fish and shellfish holding tanks are advised to seek professional advice as the method for removing chlorine residuals differs from removing chloramine residuals from tap water.**

This process will not affect Glades Utility Authority customers in Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay.

Should you need more information on this change in the water treatment process, please call the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department at (561) 740-4600, option #3.

### Important Reminder...GARBAGE INFORMATION

**Curbside Pick Up - YARD WASTE AND BULK ITEMS— MONDAYS ONLY – placed curbside after 5 pm on Sundays.** \*Exception, on the first Sunday of each month items may be placed at the curb after noon for Monday pickup.

**Backdoor Services- HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE– MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS – RECYCLE ON THURSDAYS.**

**Landscape Debris-** Generated by a paid landscape maintenance company must be removed on the day of generation by the maintenance company. (City of Atlantis Code of Ordinances 8.3-9) Questions, Call City Hall at 965-1744.

### Please take a moment to update your Atlantis City Directory Listing

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Atlantis Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with the best phone number to reach you. If it is a cell number please indicate who it belongs to. If you check Unlisted we will use your number internally and not publish it in the directory.

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Listed \_\_\_\_\_ Unlisted \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Directory Listing for Northern Address and Phone Number (Leave blank if none or no publish)

Northern Address \_\_\_\_\_

Northern Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# Community Activities



**ALL AMERICAN TEAM TENNIS:** Youth Team Tennis, meets Tues & Thurs from 6 –7:30 pm at Sunset Park. For more information contact Coach Ken at 561-578-9914.

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF PALM BEACH COUNTY:** Meets the first Saturday of each month. Contact Simma Sulzer for details at 968-7399.

**CHESS CLUB:** Meets every Monday night at 7:00 pm. Call John Schwan at 315-783-6873 for more information.

**CHILDREN'S DANCE CLASSES:** At Kintz Park. ages 2-6, Tap, Ballet and Creative Movement. Boys and Girls welcome. Call Lisa Lee at 561-317-5738

**GREAT BOOK CLUB OF ATLANTIS:** Meets in the Council Chambers. Call Dr. Bennett Miller at 561-968-2675 for further information.

**GUITAR LESSONS:** All styles, all ages welcome. Contact Diane Levine at 561-267-7921.

**JEWELRY CLASS:** Held in the Council Chambers on Tuesdays 7-9 pm. For information and dates, call Marie Claude Green at 561-736-5609 or 561-271-8967 or email her at [CLVERT@AOL.COM](mailto:CLVERT@AOL.COM)

**LITERARY SOCIETY:** Will resume in the Fall. If you have any books you no longer want, leave them in Pat Clem's office at the Atlantis Golf Club. We will be taking them to the Library in Lantana (by the Lantana Post Office). Please call Pat Clem 966-7600.

## **OUR CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATHS OF:**

Julius Kapik

Matthew Carroll

Howard Hayes

Onix Ramos

**LANTANA ROAD BRANCH LIBRARY :** Offering book and film discussions groups. Contact Susan Kelly at 561-304-4500.

**PERSONAL TRAINING:** Improve your overall quality of life. Carene Kengeter American Council of Exercise Certified Personal Trainer Call: 561-313-4026.

**REPUBLICAN CLUB OF CENTRAL PBC:** Meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:15 p.m. at the Atlantis Country Club. For further information call George Blumel at 561-543-4971.

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAKE WORTH :** Meets every Wednesday at noon for lunch in Lake Worth for fellowship and interesting guest speakers. For more information contact Peggy Vrane (561) 868-5807 Richard Beiter (561) 965-4282 or Ron Leeds (561) 969-9600.

**SENIOR TENNIS:** Mondays and Fridays from 9-11am at Sunset Park. Contact: Betty Ann Badger 561-434-4145.

**TENNIS CLASSES& SUMMER TENNIS CAMP:** Contact Coach Sherwin Anderson USPTA PRO at 561-588-4557.

**WATER COLOR CLASSES:** Will resume in the Fall. Call Joan Tiberi at 561-315-2633 for information or email her at [jmt332@yahoo.com](mailto:jmt332@yahoo.com)

## **A WARM WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS:**

Robert & Sherry Koepka      David & Lori Stump

Elizabeth Tyrell                      Douglas & Kathy Ryan

Rita Willitts                              Barry & Julie Williams

James & Susan Haldenby      Zach & Jessica Taylor

Dave Johnston                          Mitchell McCranels

Nena Gould                              Christopher & Pammi Maugham

The City of Atlantis  
260 Orange Tree Drive  
Atlantis, FL 33462  
561-965-1744

FOR THE LATEST  
CITY NEWS GO TO:

[www.atlantisfl.gov](http://www.atlantisfl.gov)

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by Sandy Thompson (313-1060)

**IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

<b>EMERGENCY (Fire, Police, Ambulance)</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Police and Fire (Non Emergency)</b>	<b>561-965-1700</b>
<b>J F K Medical Center</b>	<b>561-965-7300</b>
<b>Atlantis City Hall</b>	<b>561-965-1744</b>
<b>Building Department</b>	<b>561-965-1796</b>
<b>Police (Administration)</b>	<b>561-965-1711</b>
<b>Utilities Department</b>	<b>561-965-1744</b>
<b>Garbage Collection</b>	<b>561-965-2627</b>
<b>Atlantis Country Club</b>	<b>561-965-7700</b>
<b>Atlantis Golf Club</b>	<b>561-966-7600</b>
<b>Atlantis Realty</b>	<b>561-965-7900</b>

**KINTZ PARK SPLASH PAD HOURS:**

Monday through Thursday 11 am to 6 pm  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am to 8 pm  
· During periods of heavy rain, the splash pad hours may be suspended.  
\* Kintz Park will be closed periodically for maintenance.

**GARBAGE INFORMATION:**

**BACKDOOR PICKUP**

- **MONDAY – HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE**
- **THURSDAY – HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE & RECYCLE**

**CURBSIDE PICKUP**

- **MONDAY ONLY – YARD WASTE AND BULK ITEMS**

Please place all material for collection **BEFORE 7:00 am** on the day of service. Curbside items may only be placed at the curb after 5:00 pm on the day before collection. \*Exception, on the first Sunday of each month items may be placed at the curb after noon for Monday pickup. **Please use your underground containers.** Liners may be obtained at Ace Hardware. Recycle containers may be obtained at City Hall. For repairs and replacement contact Jim Shumacher at 561-718-5888.

**Landscape debris** generated by a paid landscape maintenance company must be removed on the day of generation by the maintenance company. (City of Atlantis Code of Ordinances 8.3-9) Questions, Call City Hall at 965-1744.