

Update to the Community Living near Battlefield Golf Club

September 19, 2008

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September 23, 2008 Chesapeake City Council Meeting

There are three items on the Chesapeake City Council meeting agenda for September 23 concerning the Battlefield Golf Club. The items in their entirety are attached. These items pertain to exploring the possibility that the City extends water to the area.

Here is a synopsis of the three items. The items, in their entirety, are attached.

The first item is a request of emergency appropriation of \$6,000,000 from Dominion Power for design services and construction for water for neighborhoods in the vicinity of the Battlefield Golf Club. The City has selected an engineering firm, URS Corporation, and will expedite the construction bid.

The second item is a resolution asking the Planning Commission to consider changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan to expand the area that receives water. The item directs that the changes be advertised concurrently for the Planning Commission and the City Council so that the change can be considered.

The third item is a resolution requesting that the City Manager be authorized to allow Battlefield Golf Club to continue operating under the agreement with MJM Golf that went into effect in May 2008. This agreement is due to expire October 1. The request is to extend the agreement to April 1, 2009 with the same stipulations, listed below. The agreement will allow the City Manager to extend the agreement for another 6 months from April 1, 2009 to October 1, 2009.

1) Extend in perpetuity the promise of well replacement in case of failure.

2) Continue to work with the City to resolve issues relating to protection of groundwater,

see next column

surface water and the public health, safety and welfare. Such full and complete cooperation shall include access to the property for environmental testing and to the extent necessary, the owner shall provide solutions and seek remedy from responsible parties.

3) Post at least two signs indicating that the golf course was constructed by previous owners using fly ash and that the use of this material was approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

4) Prohibit the use of groundwater for any purpose. Water used for irrigation will be obtained from the stormwater lakes.

5) Refrain from using any permitted temporary structure as a clubhouse. Approved and permitted temporary structures may be used only for lawful purposes such as office, construction and security uses.

6) Maintain the golf course with a minimum of 18 inches of topsoil covering the fly ash at all times.

7) Immediately cease operations and prevent public access in the event any regulatory agency or agreed-upon expert determines that the ash poses a hazard to the golfers or adjacent residents.

8) Refrain from filing in a court of law any action or request for relief relative to, or arising out of, the issuance, delay or denial of permits and approvals by the City.

This is due in part to the cooperation of the golf course owners and willingness to allow access to the site for testing.

Will City water hurt a septic tank?

The City has not found any evidence of any damage caused to septic tanks by City water. The Chesapeake Health Department and the Virginia Department of Health confirmed that there is no adverse effect on septic tanks. The City has residents with both City water and septic tanks and no concerns have been reported.

What is a links-style golf course?

Battlefield Golf Club has a "links-style" golf course. According to Golf.com a links golf course, sometimes referred to as a seaside links, is the oldest style of golf course, first developed in Scotland. The word comes from the Scots language and refers to an area of coastal sand dunes, and sometimes to open parkland.

Many links – though not all – are located in coastal areas, on sandy soil, often amid dunes, with few water hazards and few if any trees. This reflects both the nature of the scenery where the sport happened to originate, and the fact that only limited resources were available to golf course architects at the time, and any earth moving had to be done by hand, so it was kept to a minimum.

The challenges of links golf fall into two categories. Firstly the nature of the courses themselves, which tend to be characterized by uneven fairways, thick rough (the weeds that are out there in the case of the Battlefield Course) and small deep bunkers known as "pot bunkers". Secondly, due to their coastal location many links courses are frequently windy. This affects the style of play required, favoring players who are able to play low accurate shots.

Links courses remain most common in Ireland and also in Great Britain, especially in Scotland. The Open Championship is always played on links courses.

Municipal Water Still Available for Residents

Residents may still use water from taps installed in the rear parking lot of Centerville Baptist Church at 908 Centerville Turnpike, S. Please bring your own containers.

Water is available at these times:

Saturday: all day

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: sunrise to 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. - sunset

Wednesday: sunrise to 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This information is provided by the City of Chesapeake for residents living near Battlefield Golf Club.

Please direct questions to
Lizz Gunnufsen,
Public Communications Coordinator
757-382-6241

Find Out More

www.CityofChesapeake.net/BattlefieldGolfClub
a growing resource of documents related to the
development of Battlefield Golf Club

Not online? Go to any Chesapeake Public Library
Reference Desk and ask for assistance.

Chesapeake
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