



City of Southport

January 2024 Newsletter

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How the Democratic System Works by Rich Alt, Mayor



In Southport the Board of Aldermen (BOA), in their legislative role sets policy and other legislative actions.

The City Manager, and staff provide analysis and recommendations to the BOA, as well as execute policies. The City Manager is the Chief Administrative Official for the city and is solely responsible for the hiring, promotion, disciplinary actions, to include the firing of most city staff.

City committees and Boards are an additional source of targeted analysis and recommendations to the BOA. By state statute, the BOA appoints members to the various committees and Boards. The BOA can remove any committee or Board member.

The citizens, especially the highly motivated citizens of Southport, provide yet another level of analysis and recommendations to the BOA. The citizens, via their vote, elect or un-elect the BOA members after careful consideration regarding carrying out the will of the people. Your city government began the task of 'doing the peoples business' twelve hours after the new BOA was sworn in. Here are some of the actions underway:

- 1) In conjunction with the City Manager and our local State House Representative, discussions took place on a commonly accepted draft policy of how a legislative package should take form. The entire BOA will fully participate in this process, and it will eventually be voted on by the BOA sometime in March.

Southport City Hall, 1029 N. Howe Street, Southport, NC 28461

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How the Democratic System Works *continued*

- 2) The city is fully participating in the local Six Mayors' monthly meetings.
- 3) In January the city will fully participate in the quarterly Brunswick County Nineteen Municipal Mayors' meeting.
- 4) The city has re-established its in-person and full participation in the Rural Planning Organization (RPO), the regional transportation analysis and planning organization Southport supports.
- 5) An ad-hoc subcommittee of aldermen has been established to draft policies and procedures that govern the BOA.
- 6) The city is developing a draft set of internal controls to govern the city when working with the private sector regarding fundraising efforts. An example would be the weather tower initiative.

We close with a shout-out and kudos to the Public Service Department, for they installed the rip-rap along Bay Street, saving the city considerable money, and the project was completed just in the nick of time.



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Meet... Frank Lai

New member of the Board of Aldermen



We have lived in Southport for 23 years we have owned property in Brunswick County for 46 years so I am very familiar with the area. I have seen Southport grow from a small fishing village to a highly sought-after place to live/retire. We are now faced with finding ways to accommodate the growth. We need to have systems in place to meet our needs. Items such as infrastructure. We have a tourist economy. Employees are hard to find. One of the biggest problems there is affordable housing.

I spent over 30 years working in industry. The vast majority of my time was spent working on the people side of the business. I served as an internal change agent on 3 new facilities startups. My job was to help people who were transferring from other company locations to change their mindset on how business was done. We had to sell them on a new way to perform their jobs. My team also had to educate local hires on how we were going to operate. We had to develop new evaluative tools to better find employees who would meet our needs.

In 1987 the company had too much capacity. We had to make a decision on closing a facility. A facility was chosen, mine. The biggest problem we faced besides displacing 1,300 people was that the facility was at the top of the list when it came to productivity, quality of product produced, and other measurable item. Because of the way the facility was laid out it was not suitable for accommodating new manufacturing layouts. On the people side of the equation. How can you help employees. I was able to locate approximately 50 landing places for management personnel/engineers/chemist/IT. Problem was that we had more than 50 good candidates. They went for interviews. Some were chosen, some were not. Some decided they had enough service to retire. Strategies has to be developed to assist the people who were not chosen. They were needed for the 6 plus months it would take to close the facility. It made for a very tense period of time.

The other aldermen have vast experience and knowledge concerning issues facing our city. I plan on "picking their brains". Learn from their experiences. I am on a steep learning curve. I have got to hit the floor running. We have many issues that need to be addressed. Another alderman showed me the list of 40 projects on the books now.

Southport has grown into a city inhabited by people with different ideas, interests, habits and expectations. I have to go into this position with an open mind. Listen to what people say. Balance expectations with needs and what can be accommodated. We must strive to meet needs. Hopefully whatever decisions are made will satisfy the vast majority of our citizens.

What makes Southport special? Wow, where do you begin. Laid back life style. Numerous things to do. Great restaurants. If you are a golfer, lots of places to play. Close to the ocean. Great climate, not too hot, not too cold. Very friendly open people. People who care about the community. Of course we do get harsh weather occasionally. That's the price you have to pay to live in such a great place.

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SOUTHPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Accessing Your Department's Page From the NC Police Departments App

1



SCAN QR OR SEARCH
FOR THE "NC POLICE
DEPARTMENTS APP"
IN YOUR APP STORE

2



INSIDE THE APP,
TAP ON
"GET STARTED"

3



SEARCH FOR
YOUR DESIRED
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Sunday, Dec.3rd, from 2-4, the Police Department and our Animal Protective Services division sponsored "Pet Pictures with Santa". This event was held at the Indian Trail Meeting Hall. The event was a huge success photographing 79 fur friends and we collected \$550.00 in donations for Pawsability. Special thanks to ChyAnn Ketchum, our City PIO, and Allison Scouler, our "Chief Elf" who photographed and organized each session. Of course, we couldn't have held this annual event without help from Santa, we appreciate you helping us out during your busiest time of the year.

Monday, Dec.4th, from 6-8, the Police Department held our "Shop with a Cop" benefit concert in Franklin Square Park. The Back Porch Rockers again donated their time to play the concert for us, and we greatly appreciate their generosity and support. Because of them, and the gracious giving of our community, we collected \$3,171.00. All monies collected will be used to support our program making a kids' Christmas a little brighter this year. We are still accepting donations. Money can be dropped off or mailed to the Police Department, 1029 N Howe Street, Southport NC. Southport Police Officers will shop with kids on Saturday, December 16th, from 9-11 am, at our local Walmart Store, 1675 N Howe Street.

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Spt Public Services

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A Glimpse of History: **The Eventful Life of Abraham H. Galloway** by Daniel Almirall

from The Whittlers Bench, Southport Historical Society Newsletter, January 2006

Abraham Galloway was a catalyst in the progression towards civil rights in southeastern North Carolina. Galloway was an African American who, in 33 short years, grew from being a slave to becoming one of the most influential black political activists of his time.

Abraham Galloway was born in Smithville (later known as Southport), North Carolina in 1837. He had a white father and a black mother and was born into slavery. He spent the first 20 years of his life serving his white masters in Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. At the age of 20, he stowed away on a schooner to Philadelphia and escaped slavery by running to Canada. Despite the risk of being returned to his "owner" under the Fugitive Slave Law, he crossed the border into Ohio and became a key advocate against slavery. He gave antislavery speeches and developed ties with abolitionist leaders in New England. (Cecelski, -Waterman's Song 185) These experiences nurtured the leadership skills that he would later call upon as an African American activist in North Carolina.

In 1862, Galloway returned to North Carolina to the city of New Bern and initiated his first chapter in North Carolina civil rights history. He began his work in espionage as a chief intelligence agent or what would today be called a "spymaster". The superintendent of Negro affairs, Vincent Colyer, reported that the black operatives "were invaluable and almost indispensable," in the Union's war effort in that area. (186) Galloway was a conduit for communication between thousands of refugee slaves and Union commanding officers in New Bern. His network extended thirty to three hundred miles behind enemy lines. (Cecelski, Abraham H. Galloway 51)

Galloway's power as a leader grew with his demonstrations of patience, intelligence, and prudence, coupled with fiery yet steadfast convictions. "Black Carolinians crowded around him as if he were prophet." (53) Galloway became a grassroots organizer, a coalition builder, and one of the most powerful orators of his time. The freedmen and women he personally instructed in politics in turn became key political activists during the Reconstruction. (Cecelski, Waterman's Song 188) He assiduously worked with refugee slaves to help organize schools, relief societies, self-help associations, and churches. These organizations would become the cornerstones of black political life and sow the seeds for the black civil rights movement a hundred years later.

Galloway organized one of the first black militias in New Bern during the Civil War. This achievement was especially incredible because it took place before President Lincoln sanctioned black military membership in the Union Army. The more than 5,000 African Americans assembled in New Bern became the core of the 35th, 36th and 37th regiments, and of the United States Colored Troops, or African Brigade. (Cecelski, Abraham H. Galloway 45) Galloway made bold claims about the might of the black population, proclaiming that the Union had "failed to take Richmond with 200,000 white soldiers," but they "would soon take it with twenty thousand Negroes." (Cecelski, Waterman's Song 189) Galloway envisioned America during the Reconstruction period, at a time when the war was far from over. Galloway demanded political rights for blacks, including the right to vote. He boldly declared, "if this should be refused them at the ballot box they would have it at the cartridge box!" (190) He organized a state chapter and five local chapters of the Equal Rights League in North Carolina and achieved political recognition on the national level.

After the Civil War, Galloway was chosen by the former slaves in southeastern North Carolina to represent them in the statewide Freedmen's Convention in Raleigh. At this new

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A Glimpse of History: The Eventful Life of Abraham H. Galloway *Continued*

post, Galloway drew up a series of resolutions calling for education and equal protection under the law for the freedman. (Powell 272) His aggressive style of debating and the "personal influence given him by his fearlessness and audacity, always secured him a hearing," claimed white reporter John Dennet. He was also said to be "perhaps the most remarkable person among the delegates." (Ceceiski Waterman's Song 194)

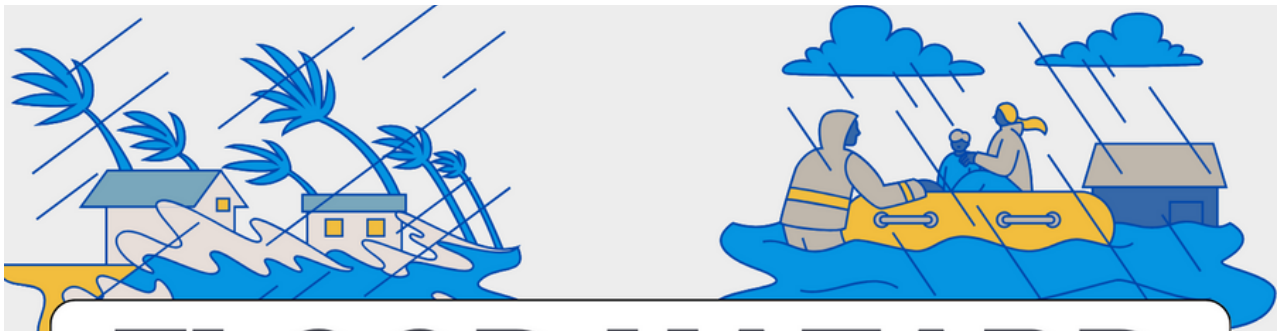
In 1867 the Reconstruction Acts were passed. These acts required that former Confederate states guarantee universal male suffrage as a condition of Union membership. During this transition period, Galloway leapt back into political action, in Wilmington, with renewed vigor. He addressed the people, inspiring and mobilizing the crowds. He secured a position as one of the thirteen elected delegates from the seven Cape Fear Counties to serve at the 1868 constitutional convention. He became one of only 13 blacks of the 120 elected representatives. In the eyes of many, the black contingency was considered a disgrace and a joke. In a supremely derogatory manner the Raleigh Newspaper the Sentinel [1866-1876] declared that true North Carolinians would blush "that a set of apes and hybrids should be holding a brutal carnival in her halls of legislation." (Martin) Despite this rampant racial prejudice, historian W. McKee Evens noted that Galloway was one of "a small group of active delegates who largely dominated the life of the convention." (Cecelski, Waterman's Song 196) Furthermore, Galloway did not limit himself to the job of delegate. He also served on the judiciary committee, as well as the committee for local government. Galloway championed popular election of the judiciary, deriding the existing local judiciary as "a bastard, born in sin and secession". He denounced railroad companies for not employing a single colored man and called to task organizations such as the Young Men's Christian Association, which drew distinctions between the races in their membership. (196)

In the spring election of 1868, Galloway was elected to the State Senate to represent Brunswick and New Hanover Counties. Soon after, he became the first black elector to a presidential convention in North Carolina history. When Galloway returned to Wilmington after the convention he found that the white supremacists in New Hanover had not been idle. The Ku Klux Klan was terrorizing African Americans to frighten them away from the polls. In 1868 another black militia was formed to protect blacks from this victimization. It seemed obvious to appoint Galloway as commander. Under this leadership, the Klan was kept discreetly quiet in Wilmington even as it raged out of control in the Carolina Piedmont.

Galloway did not limit his campaigns for rights to the racial group with whom he identified. He gallantly introduced bills to amend the North Carolina constitution to allow women's suffrage, to grant women's rights, such as signing deeds, and to protect women from abandonment and neglect by their spouses.

The people's political hero died suddenly of fever at the young age of 33 on September 1, 1870. He had just been reelected to the state senate and was currently a steady member of a biracial coalition in the local Republican Party. His funeral was that of a hero's. A half-mile long line of six thousand people on foot, horseback, and in hundreds of carriages led a procession through downtown Wilmington up Market Street to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church. (Proquest) "It was the largest funeral in the state's history," (Ceceiski, Waterman's Song 201) and the people who could not cram into the church overflowed into the nearby streets. Abraham Galloway was the people's hero, a man who fought valiantly against racism and prejudice. His visions of civil rights would not be fulfilled for another whole century, but the story of his fight against tyranny and the foundation he laid for change should never be forgotten.

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FLOOD HAZARD

Living near the water is a blessing, but it can also be a challenge. Do you own property in Southport, and within the designated Special Flood Hazard Area? If you have questions about your property's elevation or any special development standards that might be required, please contact the City of Southport's Certified Floodplain Manager, Dorrie Dutton at (910)457-7900 ext. 1010 or ddutton@cityofsouthport.com

Or view these online resources:



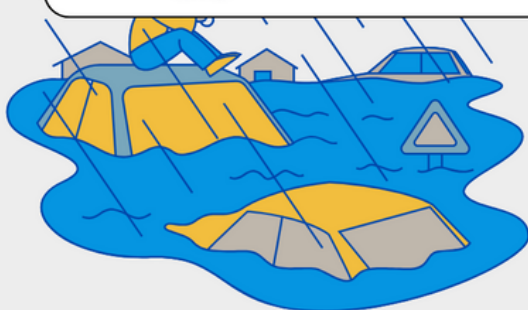
Brunswick
County
GIS



Flood Risk
Information
System



FEMA
Flood Maps



We're Hiring!



COME
JOIN
OUR
TEAM



Scan or click here to apply.

OPEN POSITIONS:

- **City Clerk**

Performs high level administrative, technical, and professional work in coordinating and facilitating the administration of City Government. This individual serves as the City Clerk for the Board of Aldermen, Board of Adjustment, and others as needed.

- **Planning Services Director**

Performs difficult management, administrative and professional work in planning, organizing and directing the activities of the City's Planning Services Department. This includes Planning, Inspections, Permitting and Code Enforcement.

- **Police Officer**

Performs general duty law enforcement services and call response as an integral member of the community to protect life and property in the City.

If you are interested in applying for a job with the City of Southport, be aware that we utilize the NEOGOV platform. We do not accept paper or walk-in applications.

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January

Years of Service

Heather Hemphill, 25 Years – 1.20.1999
Parks & Recreation Director

Paul "Ellie" Pittenger, 21 Years – 1.21.2003
Electrical Superintendent

Tanya Shannon, 7 Years – 1.31.2017
Deputy City Clerk

Matthew Burgess, 4 Years – 1.28.2020
Police Detective Sergeant

Connor Davis, 2 Years – 1.11.2022
Public Service Tech

Kevin Rainey, 2 Years – 1.11.2022
Public Service Tech

Justin Taylor, 1 Year – 1.3.2023
Public Service Tech/Backflow ORC

James Morsch, 1 Year – 1.10.2023
Police Officer

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Chili-Roasted Black Eyed Peas

<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/sweet-potato-rolls>

Ingredients:

- 2 (15.8-oz.) cans black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425°
2. Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl.
3. Transfer mixture to a lightly greased 17- x 12-inch jelly-roll pan.
4. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until crispy and dry, stirring every 10 minutes.
5. Let cool 20 minutes.



Mini Cranberry-Cheesecake Pies *Bonus!*

<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/sweet-potato-rolls>

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup fresh or thawed frozen cranberries, divided
- 2 teaspoons pure maple syrup
- 1/2 cup white sanding sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated orange zest plus 1/3 cup fresh juice (from 1 large [10 oz.] orange), plus more zest for garnish
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar, divided
- 2 3/4 cups finely crushed crisp gingersnap cookies (from about 12 oz. cookies)
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 2 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions

1. Place 1/2 cup of the cranberries in a bowl; add maple syrup, and toss to coat. Place sanding sugar in a separate bowl. Working in batches of about 2 tablespoons each, add cranberries to sanding sugar; toss to coat. Arrange cranberries in 1 layer on a plate. Set aside to dry at room temperature, at least 1 hour or up to overnight.
2. Meanwhile, stir together orange zest, orange juice, 2 tablespoons of the granulated sugar, and the remaining 1/4 cup cranberries in a small saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium. Cook, stirring occasionally and mashing cranberries with the back of a spoon, until mixture is slightly thickened, 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Using a fork, mash cranberries until mixture is almost smooth. Cool completely, about 30 minutes. (If needed, stir in up to 1 tablespoon water, 1/2 teaspoon at a time, until mixture has consistency of loose jam.)
3. Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a 12-cup muffin pan with cooking spray; set aside. Stir together gingersnap crumbs, melted butter, 1/3 cup of the granulated sugar, and 3/4 teaspoon of the salt in a bowl. Spoon into muffin cups (about 3 1/2 tablespoons each); press into bottom and up sides.
4. Bake piecrusts in preheated oven until set, 12 to 16 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack. Use the handle of a wooden spoon to press hot crusts back into a cup shape. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.
5. Combine cream cheese, sour cream, vanilla, and remaining 2/3 cup granulated sugar and 1/4 teaspoon salt in bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Beat on medium-high speed until light and smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer cheesecake mixture to a piping bag fitted with a large (3/4-inch) open star tip.
6. Carefully remove cooled crusts from pan. Pipe filling into crusts (about 3 tablespoons each). Before serving, top each pie with about 1/2 teaspoon cranberry compote. Top with sugared cranberries and orange zest. Serve remaining compote on the side.

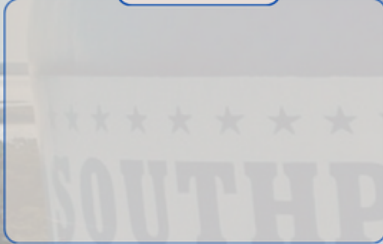


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2024 in Southport

Mark your calendars for these exciting events all throughout the year!
Disclaimer: Events are subject to change

JANUARY



FEBRUARY

5th-7th Southport Woman's Club Art Show, Southport Community Building
9th-11th 12th Annual Brunswick County Black History Symposium, Southport Community Building

MARCH

10th Opera Sunday, FOLSOL, 1 p.m., Southport Community Building
12th Southport Symposium, Southport Community Building
23rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Southport Parks and Rec, 10 am Franklin Square Park & Garrison Lawn
28th SHS, Stede Bonnett, Tom Milner, 6:30 p.m. Southport Community Building
29th-30th Downtown Southport Inc, Kiwanis, Spring Festival

APRIL

8th Partial Eclipse Pary, Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn, 2:45 - 3:30 p.m.
26th-27th Southport Arbor Day & NatureFest
27th Cape Fear Cruisers Car Show, 10 am - 4 pm, Downtown Southport

MAY

1st DSI, Southport Summer Market, 9 am - 2 pm
2nd-4th Up Your Arts, The 2023 Southport Plein Air Festival
5th Southport Concert Series 2-4 pm, DSI, Up Your Arts, City of Spt, Begins
8th DSI, Southport Summer Market, 9 am - 2 pm, Begins
13th Hurricane Expo, Southport Fire Dept

JUNE

11th Southport Symposium, Southport Community Building
28th NC Fourth of July Festival Begins

JULY

4th NC Fourth of July Festival, Ends
9th Southport Symposium, Southport Community Building

AUGUST

3rd Food Truck Rodeo, Community Relations, Garrison Lawn & Bay St.
13th Southport Symposium, Southport Community Building
28th DSI, Southport Summer Market, 9 am - 2 pm, Ends

SEPTEMBER

3rd Crab Derby, Parks and Rec, 8:30 am registration. 9:30 am race. Fort Johnston Garrison Lawn
26th SHS, Capt. John Newland Maffitt Bob Maffitt, 6:30 p.m. Southport Community Building
26th-29th King Mackerel Tournament, 10 am - 8 pm, Southport Marina, www.usopenkmt.com

OCTOBER

5th Captain Charlie, Parks and Rec, 9-12, Pier
6th Southport Concert Series 2-4 pm, Ends
8th Southport Symposium, Southport Community Building
19th Spook or Treat, 6 pm, Parks and Rec
19th SHS, Living Voices of the Past, 2:00 - 4:00 PM Old Smithville Burying Ground
26th Classic Car Show, 10 am - 4 pm, Downtown Southport
31st Trunk or Treat, Spt Fire Department Southport Fire Dept Headquarters

NOVEMBER

2nd 15th Annual Southport Wooden Boat Show, 10 am - 4 pm, Old Yacht Basin - free
7th SHS, Chris Fonvielle, 6:30 p.m. Southport Community Building

DECEMBER

6th-14th WINTERFEST activities



Discover more at www.cityofsouthport.com/events





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JANUARY AT A GLANCE



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City offices Closed for Holiday
January 1

Historic Preservation Commission
January 3 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Meeting
January 5 @ 9:00 am - ITMH

Forestry Committee Meeting
January 9 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH

ABC Board Meeting
January 10 @ 6:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Meeting
January 11 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Beautification Committee Meeting
January 15 @ 6:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
January 16 @ 6:00 pm - ITMH

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting
January 18 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Cemetery Committee Meeting
January 24 @ 2:00 pm - ITMH

UPCOMING EVENTS

"This is Our Town" Cleanup
Beautification Committee
January 6, @ 9:00 am - Old Jail Annex

SHS: Second Tuesday Program
January 9 @ 10:00 am - Harper Library

NC Maritime Museum at Southport,
Third Tuesdays
January 16 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Southport Community Building

Southport Historical Society General
Meeting with Cape Fear Explorers
January 25 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Southport Community Building

City meetings are open to the public. The City of Southport does not discriminate based on disability. If you need an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation to attend or fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's office as far in advance as possible so that your request can be considered.

Southport Community Building (SCB)
223 East Bay Street

Indian Trail Meeting Hall (ITMH)
110 West Moore Street

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