

Planning, Building & Zoning Department

August 2020 Monthly Report



Permits / Inspections / Plan Review Information

Staff business report:

- ❖ 118 permits were issued in August, slightly down from last year's 124
- ❖ Performed 125 inspections (2019 had 131)
- ❖ Permit fees were up from 2019 (\$9,312.93)
- ❖ July 2020 numbers are as follows:
 - Total Permits Issued: 158 (2019: 148)
 - Total Fees Paid in July: \$17,263.05 (2019: \$19,981.70)
 - Total Inspections: 152 (2019: 132)

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Type of Permit	Number Issued
New Business	4	New Construction (Residential)	2
Plan Reviews	6	Additions	1
Renovations	1	Re-Review Fee (corrections required)	2
Stormwater Permit	2	New Construction (Commercial)	0
Stormwater Plan Review	2	Mechanical (Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC)	35
Remodel	2	General Repairs	5
Roof	9	Accessory Building	0
Deck	0	Pool	2
Sign	3	Pool Plan Review	4
Open Display	0	Sign Plan Review	2
Fence	5	Tent / Banner	0
Survey	2	Tree	22
Permit Fines	0	Bulkhead/Seawall	0
Tree Fines	0	Encroachment Driveway/RoW	3
Maint. Approvals	1	Grading/Landscaping/Drive	2
Solar Panels	0	Demolition Permit	0
Move	0	CBA	1
Zoning Yard Sale	0	Minor Subdivision	0
		Total Permits Issued in August	118
		Total Fees Paid in August	\$12,402.65
		Total Inspections	125

Numbers are still down, likely due to the effects of COVID-19. New businesses continue to choose Surfside to begin or expand operations. A number of new businesses have located in town and are in the process of opening up. The department has fielded calls from a multiple businesses wishing to locate in town as well, and staff is working with them to see if their plans can meet zoning and the requirements of the design overlay. One property owner is applying for a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow for a new business. The Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals continue to offer teleconference meetings and they are transitioning to traditional in-person meetings which meet the CDC's suggestions for social distancing. Public input is taken in the form of emails right up until about an hour before the meetings begin to allow for opinions to be shared with appointed and elected officials regarding potential ordinance changes.

We are in the middle of HURRICANE SEASON (JUNE 1ST through NOVEMBER 30TH, 2020).

We're only about halfway through the 2020 hurricane season, and it's a record breaker. If you have been keeping up with Ed Piotrowski and Jim Cantorre, you will know that as of September 14, the National Hurricane Center had named **twenty storms** in just over three months (an average season produces twelve storms in six months). Once forecasters identify a storm past Wilfred (the last letter of the alphabet used), they will turn to names based on the the Greek alphabet, beginning with Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and Delta. That's only happened once, in 2005. Although there are 26 letters in the English alphabet, the WMO does not use names that begin with the letters Q, U, X, Y, or Z because the options are so limited. This graphic shows how incredible the 2020 season is.



It is imperative to be prepared, as we are only now getting to the heart of our hurricane season in South Carolina. Note the most damaging storms in the modern era and when they struck:

- Hurricane Hugo September 1989
- Hurricane Floyd September 1999
- Hurricane Joaquin October 2015
- Hurricane Florence September 2018



Plan ahead – know what you’ll do if a hurricane could impact your area, how to contact your family, and familiarize yourself with any community emergency plans.

Stay tuned for the latest information. **Follow the guidance of your local officials** and check media and weather reports via official sources, including social media.

Keep important documents in a safe place or create **password protected** digital copies.

Protect your property. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves in plumbing to prevent backups. Consider hurricane shutters. Review insurance policies.

Plan how you will communicate with family members if you lose power. For example, you can call, text, email, or use social media. Remember that during disasters, sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded or down. It is a good idea to keep back-up power sources so that phones, tablets, or other means of communication can stay charged if the power is out.

In these days of COVID-19, also be sure to have an adequate supply of any medications you or your family members may need (including pets). Recent storm damage in other states shows us how long it takes to get services up and running again.

