

CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2019

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 25, 2019 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. In attendance were Councilmembers Bell, Buckhannon, Ferencz, Kinghorn, Moye, Smith and Ward, Mayor Carroll, Administrator Fragoso, Attorney Copeland and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum of Council was present to conduct business. Councilmember Rice was absent.

1. Mayor Carroll called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Following the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk Copeland called the roll.

2. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 29, 2019 as submitted; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Joe Houdek, 65 Twin Oaks Lane, thanked Chief Cornett and the IOP Police Department for "the great job they did with the problems on Twin Oaks Lane Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week." He understood that four (4) people were apprehended; two (2) were seventeen (17) years old and two (2) were not yet seventeen (17). He also addressed Council about the severity of the litter and waste left on the island's businesses; he opined that the visitors to the island do not care about for the beach, the sea life and impact on the environment. He was encouraged by the ordinance banning plastics and Styrofoam products from the beach on the Agenda for Second Reading, and he urged Council to adopt it. He wanted to see the City start fining these people who are disrespectful of the beach they are enjoying.

Ginger Campbell, 3907 Hartnett, was "excited" about the ban of plastics and Styrofoam on the beach; she said that she was an active beach sweeper. Since her nephew was nearly hit Saturday, as the storm came up, by a flying trashcan, she suggested that the yellow trash barrels be anchored in some way so that they do not end up in the ocean. She also suggested that Council consider a ban on smoking on the beach.

Michael Fiem, Tidalwave Watersports, responded to Ms. Campbell saying that "the neatest trashcans he has ever seen" are at the Pitt Street Bridge in Mount Pleasant. He said the trashcans were on a post with stakes going through them, and one must lift them up to empty – there is no possibility of their being blown over. Understanding that the request to follow could not be acted upon at this meeting, he asked that it be fast-tracked. He stated that they use a jet boat for parasailing, and, like a jet ski, it must be flushed at night. Presently they are taking it out of the water when not in use because the jet dock was relocated to comply with the Corps of Engineers' decision. He commented that, on weekends, Tidalwave has been renting a slip from the marina manager to keep the jet boat in the water and more accessible. He asked to rent/lease one (1) of the docks on the Intracoastal Waterway formerly leased to Morgan Creek Grill for the balance of the summer or until he can make other and more permanent arrangements. He also asked Council to hold a Special Meeting where a decision could be made on his request and not to wait until the next Council meeting at the end of July when the height of the tourist season has passed.

Kelly Thorvalson of the SC Aquarium thanked Council for making IOP an environmental leader, and she supported the ordinance on the Agenda banning plastics and Styrofoam from the beach. She reported working with the City for fifteen (15) years with turtle nesting and returning healthy turtles from the turtle hospital to their ocean habitat. In addition, she has participated many beach sweeps to keep them as litter-free as possible. She said that the data entered on their website about quantities of litter removed from the beach compared with data entered after the ban was in effect would show whether it has made a difference in the volume of litter on the beach. If the data proves that the bans are working, the information can be taken to the State legislature as supporting data that could lead to a statewide ban.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways & Means Committee

From the regular meeting held June 18th, Councilmember Ward reported that General Fund revenues were forecasted to be five hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$558,000) greater than budgeted at year-end, and General Fund expenditures are forecasted to be four hundred forty-six thousand dollars (\$446,000) lower than budgeted. The reduced expenditures can be attributed to projects that were delayed and re-budgeted for FY20, i.e. the repairs to the Public Safety Building, Phase III Drainage, public safety equipment, beach expenses and, at the marina, the painting of the bulkhead and rehabilitation of the docks. The Treasurer had forecasted that the General Fund will end FY19 one million two hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$1,285,000) to the good; the FY20 budget assumes that the net positive results were transferred to the Capital Projects Fund. Repeating certain highlights of the budget reviewed at the Public Hearing for the FY20 budget:

- Councilmember Ward stressed that the budget does not include a tax increase for residents;
- Rental license fees were doubled and represent the first increase to that revenue stream since its inception in 2007;
- General Fund revenues were budgeted with a 13% increase;
- Transfers-in from tourism funds to the General Fund have been reduced by 31% from FY19 to 3.5% in FY20; and
- Funding has been included for certain major projects, such as the repairs to the Public Safety Building, the final design, engineering and permitting for Phase III Drainage and for the Marina docks rehabilitation, et.al.

Consideration of 2019 merit increases

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve the merit increases for fiscal year 2019; Mayor Carroll seconded.

Since the Ways & Means Committee meeting a week ago, Administrator Fragoso stated that she and the Treasurer have calculated each employee's dollar merit increase using the mid-point adjustments approach approved at Ways & Means Committee meeting and have reviewed them with the department managers. In addition, she and Treasurer Suggs have received feedback from Councilmembers and staff members that the mid-point approach might not be the best option for the City at this time. Concerns have been voiced about the negative implications that approach could have in the current time. Since the dollar amount of difference between using the mid-point versus paying the merit based exclusively on the evaluation score and the City-wide scale presented was nominal, less than eight thousand dollars (\$8,000), and would not justify the policy

change at this time. Employees have been vocal in their concern about the elimination of the COLA next year added to a further reduction to the available merit pool, regardless of high performance, once at or over one's salary range mid-point, and this is not the message the City wants to send to employees. The monetary difference between the two (2) policies does not outweigh the negative impact to moral that could lead to employee turnover. Employees have also been vocal about the reduction in the amount of money for the merit pool; it has been between four and five percent (4% - 5%) for several years, including FY19, and will be two point five percent (2.5%) moving forward. Summarizing, the Administrator said that the citywide scale would remain in place, but no adjustments would be made to the scale based on an employee's location in the wage range for the position.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At the Ways & Means Committee meeting, Councilmember Ward moved to delay the decision on a millage increase until FY21 that was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Kinghorn then moved to approve the FY20 budget as amended, and the motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to suspend the rules to take up item 9A Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-10 at this time; Mayor Carroll seconded and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor Carroll moved to waive the reading and to adopt Ordinance 2019-10 for the approval of the FY20 budget; Councilmember Ward seconded.

Councilmember Kinghorn expressed disappointment that the budget did not include funds for moving forward with the island-wide sewer project which will impact the economy of the island and the safety and health of the residents and visitors and tourism, in general. With rising sea levels and heavy rainfalls that accompany storms, the island will continue to have septic backups pushing untreated water into the marsh and waterways encircling the island. In addition, he noted that revenue was not to cover staff time that he thought was excessive, and/or set goals and priorities. He repeated his belief that Council should commit to 2030 as the target date for having full implementation of island-wide sewer.

Voicing his agreement with Councilmember Kinghorn, Councilmember Bell also thought that it was an issue for FY21, he was certain that City Council eked out all of the additional revenue it could to cover the issues before it for FY20. He explained that the millage increase was delayed because the permitting could not be accomplished for the marina dock rehabilitation project to begin in FY20. He reminded Councilmember Kinghorn that money was put in the budget for strategic planning, and he thought Council has gained foresight into the direction the City needs to move.

Councilmember Ferencz reminded Council that Public Works Committee has proposed that the City should look again at three (3) ordinances delayed indefinitely in 2017 that would give the Water & Sewer Commission time to get their updated Master Plan completed; she recalled that these ordinances dealt with hooking up to sewer and when that would be required.

Councilmember Smith, speaking as the Vice Chair of the Public Works Committee, informed Council that the ordinances were not on the Agenda for this Council meeting because they were not vetted through the Public Works Committee in its June meeting. The discussion was delayed

until the next meeting because Councilmember Kinghorn was not in attendance. Based on her attendance at the Water and Sewer Commission meetings, the Commission appears to be more interested in meeting with Council and the Planning Commission.

VOTE: The motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-10 approving the FY20 budget PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chris Kerr, Audit Manager for McKay Kiddy, attended the Ways & Means Committee to review the findings from their look at cash receipts, cost of goods sold, financial procedures, etc. for the City's tenants at the IOP Marina to determine accuracy and proper internal controls; the businesses included were the Marina Market, Marina Joint Ventures, Morgan Creek Grill and Tidalwave Watersports. The report is on the City's website for those who might want to read it.

B. Public Safety Committee

Reporting on the meeting of June 2nd, Councilmember Buckhannon stated that the first item of business was a discussion of parking on Palm Boulevard, particularly the change to parallel parking on both sides of the street. The biggest issue was double and triple parking on the ocean side; once one (1) driver double parks and has not been issued a ticketed, the next car follows suit, and so forth. Added enforcement is needed, but Councilmember Bell suggested that the BSOs use this parking issue as an educational moment rather than simply writing a ticket. The Committee also commented about the line of cars waiting to get into the County Park at 8:00 a.m. that frequently backed up into the intersection of 14th and Palm; Administrator Fragoso was asked to contact the park manager.

The Administrator reported talking to the park manager Cynthia Wilson regarding the early morning backup, and the plan was for Chief Cornett and Captain Swain to meet with Ms. Wilson and the Administrator for a brainstorming session.

Knowing that the City has had difficulties hiring the planned number of BSOs and that much of their time is spent directing traffic, Councilmember Buckhannon told the Committee that Kiawah, Seabrook and Edisto have outsourced their beach services officers, and he asked the Administrator to investigate further and report next month.

Councilmember Buckhannon announced that the Flowbird app was up and running; it can be downloaded and a family can access the Front Beach lots and prepay for parking. The Committee was told by Councilmember Ward, the City's representative on the CARTA Board, that the public transit initiative would not start this summer as hoped; he expressed confidence that it would be available for the summer of 2020. The Committee continued its discussion about how the City could deal with dilapidated structures; the discussion ended with a request to Director Kerr to discuss the matter with the City Attorney and to have an ordinance drafted. The ordinance would name peeling paint, rotten siding and pool with a filter not turned on as prohibited on the Isle of Palms. The Chair also stated that golf carts were now allowed on the beach with a State issued handicap placard and registration with the State; if an emergency occurred causing the golf cart to be abandoned on the beach, Captain Swain said it would be treated as any vehicle abandoned due to an emergency. The Committee also discussed placement of a camera at Breach Inlet; the camera would have a zoom feature and could be re-directed to view either traffic or the ocean. The feed from the camera would be added to the panel of feeds in the Communication Specialists' work area and to the Fire Department office. After hearing the story about the child attacked by a dog on the beach that did not have a current rabies inoculation, the Committee agreed to require all dogs, resident or visitor, at the Isle of Palms to have proof of current rabies inoculation.

The ordinance amendment would mimic the language of the State code, and the new ordinance would eliminate the five dollar (\$5) fee residents pay to register their dogs with the City. When the discussion moved to bike lanes on both sides of Palm from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue, the Chair reminded the Committee that this has been a request submitted to CST and to SCDOT for several years. The Administrator said that she was going to re-vamp the request in hopes of receiving funding in the next round of project funding from CST or SCDOT. A brief discussion of requests for additional crosswalks between 41st and the second gate into Wild Dunes brought up the fact that people do not necessarily use them, but cross Palm at the point closest to their car. Captain Swain informed the Committee that SCDOT regulations state that crosswalks must be at inter-sections. The Committee decided that the City should apply for an encroachment permit for the golf cart path parallel to Palm from 20th to the Harris Teeter on the opposite side of the street; the path is heavily used but not authorized by SCDOT.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked that two (2) items be added to the agenda for the next Public Safety Committee meeting. The first was about Tidalwave assisting boaters in distress; he witnessed it firsthand yesterday when they assisted a couple dead in the water due to engine trouble; without hesitation, they left the marina to aid this couple. The gentleman was so amazed by their help that he submitted a letter to the editor, a copy was given to the City Clerk to add to the minutes. The second matter was the result of an email he received from a man who organizes free bike rides; he has a group who ride every Sunday, and about three (3) weeks ago, one (1) rider was leaving the island via the Connector, slipped on trash and broke his hip requiring surgery and rehabilitation afterward. The email noted the need for additional bike lanes and proper maintenance to keep existing bike lanes in good condition and free of debris.

Councilmember Smith commented that she found the new dog ordinance to be missing some things she would like to see changed, for example, the colored collar system used at Sullivan's Island, but she would support this one.

C. Public Works Committee

With the Chair travelling, Vice Chair Smith gave the report of the meeting on June 5th when Katrina Limbach expressed her desire to work with the City on an official trash/litter themed beach campaign to educate residents and visitors about the new prohibition of plastic and polystyrene products on the beach. She already has some ideas to involve the Front Beach businesses and, with her public relations background, she wanted to be a part of whatever the City decides to do to educate the public about keeping the beach clean. She also voiced interest in lidded trashcans for the beach; the lidded cans cost about three hundred dollars (\$300), and with one hundred fifty (150) deployed on the beach, they were cost prohibitive. Director Pitts reported that SCDOT was on the island fixing sidewalks on Palm and Waterway Boulevard, and Eadie's was on the island with their vacuum truck cleaning ditches. She welcomed Robert Asero to the Public Works Department as the Assistant Director of Maintenance and Facilities. One (1) of the Front Beach restaurants put one hundred fifty (150) bags of garbage at the compactor; the restaurant was contacted by Captain Swain to clean it up and to provide instructions to the new employee(s) on the operation of the compactor. Thomas & Hutton has identified several small but impactful drainage projects and will provide the Committee with the cost estimates in four to six (4 – 6) weeks; she stated that the FY20 budget has earmarked five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for these smaller projects. After a meeting with SCDOT where they made site visits to several small drainage problems; their solution to the problems on 25th Avenue was more comprehensive than staff anticipated and could positively affect the drainage problems on Tabby Lane. Mr. Garrels who now has the contract for emptying trashcans on the beach was present and told the Committee that people were frequenting the beach between midnight and 3:00 a.m. They take

what they might want or need to the beach, frequently liquor, and when they decide to go home, they simply get up and leave without taking anything they brought to the beach. The Committee also discussed the trash generated by contractors who were doing small renovation jobs and who did not have dumpsters; their debris was left for the Public Works Department to haul away. When the contractor was on-site, Director Pitts would go to the job site and inform him that he was expected to remove the debris he created. As stated earlier, the Committee did not discuss the sewer ordinances on the Agenda because Councilmember Kinghorn was absent.

Councilmember Kinghorn suggested that any committee that has a quorum should deal with every item on the agenda.

Councilmember Ward expressed agreement with Councilmember Kinghorn; he opined that was the theory behind having a quorum.

D. Recreation Committee – no meeting in June

E. Personnel Committee

Councilmember Moye reported on the Personnel Committee meeting on June 4th that opened with a discussion on the criteria for selecting appointees to boards and commissions. The Committee asked for input from the current members of boards and commissions prior to making a recommendation and some of them have not yet responded. The Personnel Committee received an update on the status of the Assistant Public Works Director and the implementation of a new policy for paying merit adjustments. He stated that Administrator Fragoso has requested an employment contract, and he has been working with legal counsel and the Municipal Association to insure that the contract represents the interests of the parties fairly. Councilmember Moye anticipated having the contract available for Council at the August meeting. City vacancies include one (1) Communication Specialist and another opening in the Police Department was being evaluated Chief Cornett and the City Administrator and in General Government the vacancy was for an Assistant Administrator; the Fire Department, Public Works and the Building Department were fully staffed.

F. Real Property Committee

From the Real Property Committee meeting of June 6th, Councilmember Bell announced that the removal and installation of the underground storage tanks at the marina has been completed. Councilmember Bell noted that Council was moving forward with the engineering, design and permitting for the Marina docks rehabilitation project, but, based on the length of time the regulatory agencies usually take to permit the project, construction was not expected to begin until FY21.

Administrator Fragoso stated that whenever the City or Marina Manager was informed about safety issues, they were addressed immediately.

The City was also moving forward with the rehabilitation of the Public Safety Building; the forensics of the building have been completed, and the City needs to contract Trident for the second phase of work. The construction is expected to begin after the first of the year. The status of Agreed Upon Procedures for marina tenants was covered in the Ways and Means report. The RFP, more correctly referred to as a Call for Offers, for the marina restaurant has hit the streets and has generated a lot of interest according to the City's real estate consultant; the City will be accepting offers through the end of August. The following task has two (2) steps; the first step

was accepting the proposal that will benefit the City the most and the second will be negotiating a contract. The Committee did discuss with Lee and Associates whether the City would be willing to participate in funding, and the Committee's response was that the City would not preclude participation by the City. According to Councilmember Bell, the City would not exclude any offer that was creative in nature. The Committee also discussed Tidalwave relative to their activities and the boundaries of their lease with the City. The Chair also noted that all tenants were current in their obligations to the City.

Since Tidalwave Watersports was discussed in the Real Property Committee, Councilmember Kinghorn asked that Council consider their request made during Citizens' Comments for the use of one (1) of the docks formerly leased to Morgan Creek Grill for the balance of the summer. He was told that since the topic was not on the Agenda as an action item, Council could vote on the issue at this meeting.

Councilmember Ward stated that he was concerned that Tidalwave would not get any relief if they could not get an answer from Council until the end of the month, by then, two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the summer will be gone. He would like to give them an answer before July 4th.

The Administrator recommended that the City follow normal procedures to enter into a lease agreement with Tidalwave for the dock even if it will be for only a few months; the lease would be a written understanding of what the City was allowing them to do. She stated that Attorney Copeland would need time to draft the document and to present it to Council, and they could do it quickly.

Attorney Copeland confirmed that the City could not take action on this matter at this meeting; she stated that the City must provide the public twenty-four (24) hours' notice in order to take action on an issue.

5. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

- A. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – no meeting in June
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
- C. Planning Commission** – minutes attached

6. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – none

7. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – none

8. Bills Already in Possession of Council

The Mayor noted that a Public Hearing was held on this ordinance prior to the Council meeting.

- B. Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-11 – An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Planning and Development, Chapter 4, Zoning, Article 2, District Regulations**
(lot coverage and pervious surfaces)

MOTION: Councilmember Moyer moved to adopt Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-11 as amended and to waive the reading; Mayor Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-12 – An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Licensing and Regulations, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Beach and Marine Recreation Regulations (filming permit)

Administrator Fragoso stated that Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-12 must be deferred to the July meeting; a Public Hearing was required because the film permits would have a fee attached to them generating revenue for the City.

D. Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-13 – An Ordinance Amending Title 3, Public Works, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4, Single-Use Plastic Bags (Prohibition of plastic bags, straws, lids and polystyrene products from the Beach)

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to waive the reading and to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2019-13; Councilmember Moye seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations

First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2019-14 – An Ordinance Amending Title 6, Health and Sanitation, Chapter 2, Animals, Article B: Dogs, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances, to Recommend all Dogs, Resident and Non-resident, to Have a Written Permit From the City at No Cost and State Issued Tag to Serve as Proof of Rabies Inoculation and to Adopt Language in the Ordinance to Require Proof of Current Rabies Inoculation

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to Approve Ordinance 2019-14 for First Reading, by title only; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Miscellaneous Business – none

Update on 2020 Census

Administrator Fragoso reported that she and the Mayor met with the state 2020 census representative for the region as they prepare for the census to be taken next year. They recommended that the City consider establishing a volunteer committee to educate the residents that they will have three (3) ways to respond to the census, i.e. phone, on-line and a paper form.

In the coming months, the City will be disseminating a lot of information to citizens in an effort to beat the island's neighbors in getting a record number of respondents; the information will be posted to the website and to social media.

Next Meeting Date: 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 23, 2019 in Council Chambers

11. Executive Session in accordance with S.C. Coe Section 30-4-70(1)(2) to receive legal advice and consideration of settlement proposal by Jonathan Gandolfo concerning violation of tree removal ordinance on property located at 408 Carolina Boulevard

Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to go into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m.; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Council returned to open session at 7:27 p.m., and the Mayor announced that Council did not take a vote or any other action while in Executive Session.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to reject the settlement proposal; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.; Mayor Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk

From: **BJP** bpap5@aol.com
Subject: Great addition to IOP
Date: June 24, 2019 at 7:12 PM
To: tidalwavewatersports.com

BP

To The Editor,

Today my wife and I faced a boating challenge that we could not solve on our own. We were returning our boat to the Marina at IOP. Preparing to haul my boat out of the water I suddenly realized my engine would not respond as I tried to raise it up. I was unable to disengage the mechanism and manually lift the engine on my own. How fortunate we were that the staff at Tidal Wave Water Sports volunteered to help. They were generous with their time and tools and gracious with their assistance. The Marina complex is fortunate to have them as part of the IOP boating community. We use this facility often during the summer season and it represents to us and many of our boating friends one of the pleasures and assets of living in the low country. The idea that it could all be sold off or changed would be a great loss to this area and we are in full support of allowing it to remain as is with the current businesses intact. Improvements are always welcome but the IOP Marina experience as is, is a treasure that we should all support.

Basil Papaharis
2717 Sarazen Drive
Mount Pleasant SC

Mike,

I sent the above letter to the Post and Courier. I hope they publish it. Thank you again for your assistance today. My wife and I really appreciated your kindness.

Sincerely,

Basil Papaharis

"Marie Copeland"

From: kinghorn.ted@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2019 5:23 PM
To: Ted; "Marie Copeland"
Cc: "Desiree Fragoso"
Subject: Fwd: road debris

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

For inclusion in tonight's minutes. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: <rmarkisello@bellsouth.net>
Date: June 22, 2019 at 9:13:17 AM EDT
To: "'Ted Kinghorn'" <kinghorn.ted@gmail.com>
Subject: road debris

Ted, as a council member on IoP and a cyclist, I'm sending this email suggesting that you raise the awareness of your fellow council members to the responsibility to be vigilant regarding conditions for cyclists within their control.

As you know, one of our club riders, Ted Morriss, was seriously injured when he crashed due to plastic debris on the IoP Connector last Sunday, 6/16. The result was urgent partial hip replacement surgery, which will now require many days of rehabilitation in a hospital before Ted can even return home, and still more before his life returns to normalcy. Ted is an experienced cyclist, having ridden for years and completed a cross-country ride a couple of years ago, and one who adheres to traffic laws. So, an event of this type can happen to any cyclist regardless of experience and cycling ability.

The Isle of Palms is a particularly popular place to cycle, so there is significant use of bike lanes and shoulders by local residents and visitors year-round. Frequently, government organizations are guilty of only taking action after a disaster when everyone asks "How could

this have been allowed to happen?!". Smart, proactive public servants recognize that providing bike lanes and ensuring that they are maintained in good condition and kept free of debris is a plus for residents and visitors, is easily done, and while having some cost, is not nearly as expensive as paying settlements to injured persons because public use areas have not been responsibly maintained. And then there is the major pain and suffering endured by the injured person and deserved criticism aimed at the individuals who allowed the deterioration of the road conditions leading to an incident.

As a chemical production plant manager, I kept a sign on my desk that said "Anticipate and plan". Anticipating what could go wrong and planning to take all reasonable action to prevent it was a very successful strategy for me, leading to excellent safety records, and it applies to anyone in a position of authority. I suggest that the Isle of Palms increase the number of bike lanes, actively evaluate the condition of all bike lanes and shoulders being used by cyclists and take the necessary action to be able to assure the public that the IoP is a safe place for cyclists. That planning will pay dividends in many ways.

Bob Markisello

Cell 863 216 4143

"You're old when you stop doing the things that generate vivid memories."