

## CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017

The regular meeting of City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, 2017 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Carroll, Ferencz Harrington, Kinghorn, Rice and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Mayor Cronin 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. Clerk Copeland called the roll after Mayor Cronin gave a brief invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. Appointment and Administration of Oath to New Employee Wynette DeGroot

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bettelli moved to accept Ms. DeGroot into the position for which she was hired; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Cronin administered the oath and welcomed Wynette into the IOP team.

### 3. Reading of the Journal of the Previous Meeting

**MOTION:** Councilmember Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### 4. Citizens' Comments

Mayor Cronin noted that each member of Council had new water bottles that were not plastic, and a new water fountain has been installed in the hallway to fill them; this is an effort to reduce the City's carbon footprint.

The Mayor then recognized the Isle of Palms Police Department for a recent achievement of another accreditation by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA), a national organization that looks at the standards and policies that the department uses, including their duties, record keeping and all other performance standards.

The members of the City's accreditation team were Chief Buckhannon, Captain Usry and Sergeant Baldrick, and the Mayor invited them to join him and Councilmember Bettelli, Chair of the Public Safety Committee at the front of Council Chambers.

Chief Buckhannon thanked the City leaders for allowing the Department to go through the CALEA process. He reported that in 1999 the Department applied and was approved for its first accreditation; every three (3) years since, the City has been re-accredited for proof of its adherence to CALEA's four hundred eighty-five (485) standards. The most recent process began in December 2016 with assessors on-site; they held a public hearing before they left, and many citizens attended and spoke to the accomplishments of the Department. In March of 2017, the CALEA team appeared before the CALEA board for a hearing in Mobile, Alabama where they

answered several questions before the commissioners deemed the Department worthy of re-accreditation. This was the City's sixth accreditation and fifth re-accreditation; the sixth accreditation is referred to as a meritorious accreditation because the City has been accredited for fifteen (15) years. He also thanked Captain Usry and Sergeant Baldrick for their efforts to insure that the records were properly kept, and then the balance of the Department for the dedication and hard work necessary to carry out the standards and policies that have allowed the City to achieve its Meritorious CALEA Accreditation.

Mayor Cronin commented that much larger agencies with far more resources than the Isle of Palms, like Atlanta and Seattle, were accredited in Mobile, and it is a credit to the IOP Police Department that they uphold the same standards and meet the same criteria as these agencies.

Councilmember Bettelli stated that Chief Buckhannon had also received personal recognition at the Mobile conference; he was given the Ergon Bittner Award for overseeing an accredited Department for over fifteen (15) years.

Joe Petro of Coconut Joe's asked that arrangements be made to turn the portalets around so that they no longer face his business. He also voiced his opinion that the speed limit on Ocean Boulevard was too high at the height of summer weekdays at fifteen miles per hour (15 mph); the only speed limit sign was at the south end of the street. He would like to see it lowered to ten miles per hour (10 mph) and maybe a speed bump installed. Having heard that the public restrooms would be closing for renovations, he asked that the closure be delayed to after Labor Day. Mr. Petro also expressed his opposition to adding two (2) weeks to the front and back of the time the parking kiosks are operational; he indicated that it would cost him business. He stated that some of his customers wait to come to the island to eat until the kiosks are covered and that the bulk of his business was from March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. In his opinion, adding those weeks would make it harder for him to make a living on the island since some of his regular customers do not come to the island when the kiosks are operational. On the subject of boondocking, he stated that he anticipated security issues as well as people who would dump their water and run generators all night and/or party all night.

Andy Hunt, 3305 Cameron Boulevard, said he has been a resident of the island for forty-one (41) years; he stated that, in recent years, he and his wife fell upon financial hard times and chose to turn a portion of their home into a short-term rental property. He indicated that he followed the City's codes and ordinances meticulously, received his short-term rental license and refurbished the two (2) bedroom apartment. He reported that recently he received a call from the Building Department telling him that he could not live in the house at the same time as renters were occupying the apartment; he then went back through the ordinances pertaining to short term rentals and could find nothing substantiating what he had been told. Despite not locating the regulation in the code, he was assured that what he was told was the law and that he must comply. He also spoke with Douglas Kerr, the Director of Building and Planning, who told Mr. Hunt that he must shut down his rental operation if he intended to continue living in the house when a portion was rented to vacationers. A major issue for Mr. Hunt was that he has already booked the apartment for the summer; cancelling them now would create a hardship on the Hunts as well as the renters, but Mr. Kerr informed Mr. Hunt that he either had to cancel the reservations or move out of his home for the period the apartment was rented. When he asked for a grace period to decide the fate of his short term rental business and, if necessary, find a new home, Director Kerr

told him that the City would not take legal action at this time. After explaining his dilemma to Councilmember Ward, Mr. Hunt was directed to go to the Planning Commission to inform them of his circumstances and to ask for any assistance they might give him; since he was not on the agenda, the Planning Commission did not discuss his situation. Unsure of any action the Planning Commission might take, he spoke with Councilmember Carroll who directed him to make his appeal to City Council; he asked Council to change the ordinance that prohibits him from staying in his home in his favor.

Mayor Cronin assured Mr. Hunt that he would be on the Planning Commission Agenda for their May meeting; the Mayor said that this situation has occurred before and that, in his opinion, this was a zoning matter related to single family residential designation.

Councilmember Ferencz noted that no mention of Mr. Hunt's comments were included in the minutes of the Planning Commission's April meeting.

Elizabeth Campsen, 32 Intracoastal Court, stated that she was attending the meeting to state her opposition to allowing boondocking in the municipal parking lot in the off-season because she does not think it would be a good for the island; in her opinion, to do so would not be beneficial to the island but detrimental. She also opined that boondocking in the parking lot would put a strain on the Police Department. Based on her understanding of the newspaper article, she thought that this was the first step to turn the municipal lot into a recreational vehicle (RV) park.

Randy Bell, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, stated that the solar speed sign has had a positive impact on reducing the speed on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and he apologized for being a "doubting Thomas." He stated that, in his opinion, the real solution to the issue would be installing a STOP sign at Wildwood and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue because it would force people to slow down. He stated that he was not fixated on this one issue; in his opinion, the primary issue is overall residential livability on the island and where the island is heading. From his days in business, two (2) key elements were authority and accountability, which "go hand-in-hand" in his opinion. He stated that he saw a lot of authority but would like to see more accountability to the residents in decision making. In the four (40) years he has lived on the island, the changes he has seen "are not great." He stated that a thirty (30) year lease is unheard of in the business world, and he has now heard that the City is considering to do the same thing for Morgan Creek Grill. He continues that, as assets of the City, they need to be treated responsibly for the people of the island with full transparency and discussion with the residents before decisions are made by City Council. He commented that residential livability and quality of life are the Number One priority of the governing body.

Mary Stone, 1111 Edgewater Boulevard, expressed her support for building a fitness room at the Recreation Center; she thought it would be great for the citizens and that it would be heavily used.

Jeff Evans, 3301 Hartnett Boulevard, thanked Council for what they do for the community. He added his voice in support of a fitness center; he commented that prolific information supports that fitness leads to longevity and better health.

Stuart Colman, 10 Live Oak Drive, commented that, with the boondocking idea, he thought the City was going to compete with Myrtle Beach and its RV parks. Since boondocking does not provide for electricity, sewer or water, he expected the next step for Council to propose to be the

addition of permanent restrooms and showers. In his opinion, the City should have other considerations, for instance, he felt an attendant should be on-site to monitor arrivals/departures and sight assignments, plus insure the adherence to regulations that would have to be established, personnel for on-line booking, noise from outside generators and TVs, trash removal, etc. He urged Council not to rush to a decision. He also thought that this idea would hurt the hotel/rental business on the island and be a drain on City services and an eyesore in the middle of the commercial district.

Deanne Fanning, a twenty-one (21) year resident at 5 Seahorse Court, also gave her support to the fitness space at the Recreation Center. She asked that the facility have an outer door kiosk system to allow access after normal business hours; she also suggested that, if the City decided a fee should be charged, that it consider the many island residents who live on fixed incomes.

Julia Tucker, 2303 Hartnett, stated that she thought the addition of a fitness center to be “a fabulous idea.” She commented that the “marina is a mess;” and encouraged the phasing in of changes and improvements; she described it as an embarrassment to the City. She said that she was a regular use of social media to keep up with what was happening on the island and the attitudes of residents toward those things. She realized that some were already campaigning for the November election, but she noted that recently she has noticed “some very, very negative comments about what the City is doing and how they are going about it.” Ms. Tucker added that she thought it created a negative environment on an island” where everyone was proud of it and worked together. For her, the negative comments suggested how these persons might govern in the future; she saw “no reason to air dirty laundry or to throw staff under the bus;” she indicated that she was distressed by individuals who want a leadership position behaving in that manner in such a wonderful City.

Patricia Ryan, 6 Forest Trail Court I, told Council that she was a fiscal conservative. In her opinion, there were two (2) approaches to budgeting, i.e. the first was separating the needs from the wants. She said that the City has a large amount of debt and the spending continues with no thought to the impact to tourism of a serious weather event; she recalled that the brush from Matthew “decimated the beach” and that the beach meant tourism money for the City. She stated that, without tourism funds, the residents would end up paying the City’s debt and, with the few year-round residents, the bill would be “pretty steep.” She thought that constructing a fitness center would add more debt to existing debt and that to do so “was inexcusable.” She noted that the citizens supported the referendum for the marina to keep developers away and save it for residents. When the City decided that the marina could generate revenue for the City, it was dotted with businesses, and now residents who want to enjoy the marina cannot find a place to park. On the subject of the condition of the marina, Ms. Ryan thought that the rents collected from the tenants should pay for maintaining the parking lot at the marina. She concluded her comments stating that she did not see budgeting by City Council.

Candy Parker, 20-24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, reported that she was nearly struck by a speeder while crossing Palm Boulevard at the Lutheran Retreat Center; she wanted to make it known that this is a dangerous crosswalk. She suggested that the crosswalk be moved further down the block. She also reported walking on the beach in recent weeks and being taken aback by the volume of trash she saw and picked up so early in the season; the bulk of the trash was beer bottles and water

bottles. She encouraged residents to take a bag with them to the beach and to pick up garbage they see.

Rusty Williamson, 605 Carolina, stated that Council should not allow the Bravo Network to film on the island; he also did not support the fitness room. His comment on the addition of four (4) weeks to the time period the kiosks are operational was "Who cares." He stated that the municipal parking lot was not ready to take in RVs and that the City should not spend any money to make it ready; he also noted that traffic in that area was congested enough without adding recreational vehicles.

Dudley Spangler, 408 Ocean, thanked City Council and City staff for all that they do for the City and he congratulated the Police Department on its accomplishments and thanked the other Departments for their contributions to the City. He stated that the Isle of Palms has something many other cities only wish they had and that is the beach; he said that the beach drives the City's tax revenue. Those taxes keep the City running and afford the City an award-winning Police Department and Fire Department that keeps ratings up that keep the costs down for homeowners; a Public Works Department that can pick up furniture and other items from the side of the road at no charge. Continuing he stated that the City would be in serious trouble without the beach and what it brought to the City. He referred to the reduction in accommodations taxes this year that he attributes to the temporary closing of the Palms Hotel. He opined that Council should make the beach its focus. On the subject of the Bravo reality show, he stated that, if the island were to be portrayed as anything other than a family-oriented setting, they should not be allowed to film on the island. Having toured the Recreation Center earlier in the day, he stated that the concept was good and he could see the need; however, it was totally dependent upon the budget and not a necessity for the City at this time. He recommended "re-casting" some of the rooms to be utilized differently in order to add a fitness space in the existing footprint at a much lower cost. Before deciding upon adding four (4) weeks when people must pay to park, he indicated that he would like information from the Police Department on the cost for policing them versus the anticipated revenue, but he added that he did not think Council should do it. On the topic of boondocking, he asked "Are you nuts?"

Lee Strickland, 24-32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, said that she agreed with Mr. Spangler. She liked the idea of a fitness room at the Rec Center, but she, too, thought space could be found in the building. She said that she would like to see the hours that dogs are allowed to be on the beach off leash extended in consideration of residents who work. She concluded with a plea for no reality television to be filmed on the island.

## **5. Reports from Standing Committees**

### **A. Ways and Means Committee**

#### **1. Consideration of City-sponsored event status for Bravo Network reality show filming**

Mayor Cronin introduced Josh Halpert, Vice-President of Production for the proposed documentary series, who was back to introduce Council to a modified proposal for filming on the island.

He said that he had appreciated the citizens' comments which were quite similar to what he heard at the Special Meeting a week earlier. Based on those comments, he reported that they had lengthy discussions both internally and with the network, and he said that he could not stress enough that they have no intention of ever portraying any community in an unfavorable light. The revised proposal is to film only at two (2) private residences with the owners' permission, not to be in public or on the beach, and not to film at private businesses. They will have no lights or trucks or a big crew; therefore, they will have a very light footprint. They would be on the island from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup> and filming only at the two (2) residences.

Councilmember Ferencz asked if the City's name would be mentioned at any time or in any way, for instance in the credits at the end of each show.

Mr. Halpert replied that it would not; the revised proposal is meant to avoid that. The proposal was the result of the comments he heard the previous week and reported to his company and the network. He stated that they would be here to film actual residents who happen to live on the island; the plan is not to mention the Isle of Palms in any way.

Councilmember Carroll asked if this new show was a spin-off from "Southern Charm."

Again, Mr. Halpert answered in the negative; he stated that this would be a totally different show that just happens to have a character from "Southern Charm" as its focus.

According to Councilmember Kinghorn, the problem is "guilt by association;" whether it is "Jersey Shore" or "Southern Charm," these shows tend to bring out the worst in people.

Focusing on the two (2) houses limits and, possibly, precludes the exposure of the community according to Mr. Halpert.

Councilmember Rice stated that she could not support anything that was remotely associated with "Southern Charm;" in her opinion, "Southern Charm" has been "a black eye" on the area.

Mr. Halpert stated that, based on the new proposal, he does not think anyone would associate the Isle of Palms with the show in any way.

Councilmember Bettelli asked if the new show would be advertised during an airing of "Southern Charm," and Mr. Halpert said he could not speak for the network.

No Councilmember offered a motion on the show; therefore, it was a dead issue.

## **2. Consideration of AirMedCare proposal**

Wes McAden was before the Committee to review and to answer questions about the service his company could provide to the residents of the island.

Mayor Cronin stated that the AirMedCare annual premium would be borne by the City on behalf of the residents of the island and that, by doing so, residents, under certain circumstances, would not be charged for any difference between the expense for the helicopter transport and the

amount paid by an individual's health insurance. The question before Council was whether to finance this service for island residents. The Mayor offered an alternative to Council whereby the City would establish a fund of fifteen to eighteen thousand dollars (\$15,000-18,000) to reimburse citizens of the island the amount not covered by their health insurance in the event they were transported by air off the island and to a hospital; he noted that the City has few instances that call for this service.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to establish in this budget cycle a fund of \$15,000 for the reimbursement of property owners who are airlifted from the island in a medical emergency to cover the cost not paid by their personal health insurance; Councilmember Carroll seconded.**

Councilmember Carroll asked Mr. McAden what the average cost would be to transport someone from the island to the nearest trauma center, and Mr. McAden indicated it would be between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollar (\$25,000-30,000).

Councilmember Carroll then asked Mr. McAden to explain again how the program worked.

Mr. McAden reminded the Committee that his company offers two (2) plans, the Municipal Site Plan and the Business Plan. The Municipal Site Plan would protect the citizens of the City from having out-of-pocket expenses for helicopter transport in a medical emergency; the company would accept whatever the individual's health insurance pays as payment in full. If a resident is uninsured, the company would accept the Medicare Allowable Rate as full payment. Participation in the Municipal Site Plan would also allow residents to become full members in the program for thirty-five dollars (\$35) per year per household. The cost to the City would be the result of multiplying the number of eligible households based on the most recent census times a factor of twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50); for the City the cost would be seventeen thousand nine hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$17,929) per year.

Councilmember Kinghorn stated that any way Council can serve its constituents was beneficial; he recalled from the Ways and Means Committee discussion that the City typically has only one or two (1-2) situations a year when a helicopter would be called.

Chief Graham stated that AirMedCare flights have better trained personnel and hospital-like accommodations that mean they can serve a wider variety of medical emergencies.

Mr. McAden described the AirMedCare helicopters/planes as mobile intensive care units; the personnel are capable of beginning medications and treatment immediately, and, in the case of stroke, minutes determine the severity of any impairment that could occur.

Councilmember Kinghorn stated that the service was not need-based since the island is not as rural as the other municipalities in the area that have taken on the service. On the motion, he did not think the City wanted to get into that "business" and that it would be an administrative nightmare; he asked what would happen if the funds were exhausted early in the fiscal year and a second situation occurred.

Councilmember Rice noted that the premium quoted for Year One was to be approximately eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000); so she asked Mr. McAden if he could anticipate the amount of premium increases in Years Two (2) and Three (3).

Mr. McAden stated that Kiawah had renewed with no increase; since the multiplier is twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50), he expected an increase if the number of households on the island increased.

Councilmember Rice asked what happened with people covered by Medicaid; Mr. McAden replied that they were required to accept whatever the state pays as payment in full.

Administrator Tucker wanted to clarify that, when medically necessary, people are airlifted for care whether they have this coverage or not; the decision is based on the need and the situation. Additionally, she explained that individuals may purchase this coverage on their own if they choose to do so regardless of Council's decision at this meeting.

**VOTE: The motion FAILED on a vote of 1 to 8; the Mayor was the "aye" vote.**

**MOTION: Councilmember Ferencz moved to accept the proposal from AirMedCare to provide the program for the island's residents; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

For Councilmember Bergwerf, this program was like any other insurance in that one hopes never to need it, but, when the need does exist, it is good to have.

Councilmember Bettelli recalled that, during Citizens' Comments, several residents had stated that Council needed to do things for the residents, and he saw this as an opportunity to do just that.

Councilmember Carroll ended the discussion by stating that Council's job was to protect the residents.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 6 to 2 with Mayor ProTem Harrington and Councilmember Kinghorn casting dissenting votes.**

At the Ways and Means Committee, Treasurer Suggs noted that the City has completed seventy-five percent (75%) of the fiscal year; overall expenditures in the General Fund were under budget at seventy-one percent (71%) of budget, and General Fund revenue was at one hundred three percent (103%) of the prior year and seventy-one percent (71%) of the FY17 budget. The Mayor stated that the City had approximately sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000) in the bank. Accommodations taxes were flat when compared to last year; according to the reports, people ate a lot in March because Hospitality Taxes were now running three percent (3%) ahead of the same period last year. During the meeting, Council made a detailed review of the FY18 budget; he reported that Councilmember Ferencz had a good idea that resulted in a change to the budget. The City has moved the building maintenance requirements from being spread over five (5) years to the forefront to do as much as possible in the coming budget year. Since the original plan had been to defer certain building maintenance items to out years, Council will use funds on-hand

from a sinking fund it established for future capital equipment purchases this year for building maintenance issues and the City will then increase the major capital reserve savings in future years so that everything would balance after four (4) years.

Administrator Tucker added that, by taking this action, the City was committing to an additional half million dollars (\$500,000) being put into reserves over a series of four (4) years after FY18.

To further insure that the City takes proper care of its buildings, Council will establish a building maintenance fund in the out years.

Although this action was a major change to the budget, it did not change the bottom line.

The Ways and Means Committee then moved to the approval of getting architectural concepts for the proposed fitness room at the Rec Center that will be funded by available money in the Rec Building Fund.

**MOTION: The Mayor moved to approve using available money in the Rec Building Fund to get architectural concepts for a proposed fitness room; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Councilmember Rice explained that the plan is to get proposals from qualified architectural firms to have planning through final design with all of the related services to the fitness room; she noted that this will be in the FY18 budget.

Councilmember Carroll recalled that this idea started with getting additional equipment and, possibly, adding a little square footage; it has grown into a three thousand square foot (3,000 sq. ft.) addition to the building. He opined that the Recreation Committee has mixed up its needs and wants; he contended that the goal could be accomplished in the existing footprint.

Councilmember Ward inquired about the balance in the Rec Building fund, and he was told that in the fund contains seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000).

The Administrator stated that fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) has been put into the FY18 budget for the architectural costs, but the City will not have an amount until the bids are opened.

Councilmember Ferencz commented that, in her opinion, the concern was adding a totally new structure next to what is there now that was never a part of the master plan. In her opinion, the beauty of the Rec Center was that they do "a fabulous job at being a Rec Center;" they are not in the business of running a fitness center, which would come with liabilities and personal trainers. She questioned that the current staff could not staff the fitness room in addition to all that they already do. She stated that the Rec Center did not have to fill every fitness need for the island's residents.

Councilmember Kinghorn spoke as a member of the Recreation Committee saying that what was there now was not adequate, and the City should not be in the business of providing something that was less than adequate. He also initially recommended using the existing footprint, i.e. maximize what was within the existing footprint; that idea was explored and the determination

was that to do that would be unattractive and unappealing to users. He noted that he and the Chair supported any effort for improvement; the Committee rejected making improvements to the existing cardio room but to recommend the new construction. He urged Council to go forward with the program as presented.

Councilmember Bettelli recalled the original wooden building that served as the Rec Center and noted that it was replaced with the existing structure because it was inadequate. In his opinion, the City would be doing the same thing by adding space for a fitness room to benefit residents both old and young.

When Councilmember Ward asked how the City would pay for the fitness space, the Mayor said that the City did not yet have a concept and a funding plan would be established later if the City decided to proceed.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 6 to 3 with Councilmembers Ferencz, Carroll and Ward casting dissenting votes.**

**4. Consideration of adding four weeks to the time period kiosks are operational**

Mayor Cronin explained that the motion proposed starting two (2) weeks earlier in March and covering the kiosks two (2) weeks later in October; currently the kiosks are operational from St. Patrick's Day to the Connector Run that is typically held the first Saturday in October.

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to support the recommendation from the Ways and Means Committee of adding 4 weeks to the time the kiosks are operational; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

Councilmember Kinghorn thought "the shoulder seasons" would be healthier for the City; he noted that residents would continue to park for free in the municipal lots; with the growth in Mount Pleasant, more people would be coming to the island, and those who already come would continue to do so. The revenue generated would contribute to meeting the needs of citizens, and, with the financial demand on Council, this was the type of decision a governing body was required to make. He stated that such decisions were not easy and seldom unanimous decisions, but if user fees were not increased for those using the City's facilities then the dilemma rises of where the revenue will come from, and no one wanted to see their property taxes increase. He said that he "wholeheartedly" supported this action. He also noted that, if the action became problematic or the data suggested otherwise, the action could be rescinded.

Due to her work on the public restrooms, Councilmember Bergwerf stated that she had spent a lot of time at Front Beach in late February and March and ran into a group of women going to a restaurant who asked her where they paid for parking. They came to the island for lunch and were expecting to pay for parking; to pay for parking did not impact their decision to come. She stated that the City needed more revenue and had to look for revenue in places where it could be found; she added that this was far better than raising taxes.

When Councilmember Ward asked if the Front Beach businesses had been polled for their opinions, he was told that they were not.

Councilmember Rice asked if parking could be free after 5:00 p.m. to be sensitive to the businesses.

Councilmember Carroll recalled that, prior to being elected, he saw how fast previous councils had run things through without fact-checking, i.e. checking with the Front Beach businesses; he thought that this additional time was being ram-rodged through the process without “consulting the brick-and-mortar, taxpaying, local people who would be affected.”

Councilmember Ferencz stated that this concept had not gone through the Committee process, but Councilmember Kinghorn countered that it had come directly from the Ways and Means Committee.

Commenting that this was not a time sensitive issue, Councilmember Bergwerf agreed to put the topic on the Real Property Committee Agenda.

Councilmember Ferencz stated that she wanted it vetted as to how much money it would generate against how much it would cost and if there were other issues Council had not foreseen.

Mayor Cronin agreed with Councilmember Bergwerf that there was ample time to learn from the Police Department what resources would be needed to administer the change and its anticipated cost to add a month to the kiosks.

Councilmember Bergwerf withdrew her second to Councilmember Kinghorn’s motion; when Councilmember Kinghorn refused to withdraw the motion, Mayor ProTem Harrington seconded.

Since the action would not occur until October, Councilmember Bergwerf did not want Council to vote against this action without more investigation and consideration.

**VOTE: The motion FAILED on a vote of 4 to 5; those voting against the motion were Councilmembers Carroll, Ferencz, Rice and Ward and Mayor Cronin.**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to send the proposal to extend the pay-to-park by 2 weeks in the spring and 2 weeks in the fall to the Real Property Committee; Mayor ProTem Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 2 with Councilmembers Carroll and Ward casting dissenting votes.**

**5. Consideration of using the municipal parking lot for boondocking (overnight camper parking without amenities) in the off-season**

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to use the municipal parking lot for boondocking in the off-season.**

The motion failed for lack of a second.

## **B. Public Safety Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of April 3, 2017, Councilmember Bettelli stated that the Committee heard the presentation from Wes McAden on MedAirCare. The Committee was told that the Police Department continued to work with the original fifty-eight (58) residents who received letters about encroachments in the right-of-way on their properties.

The City was denied an encroachment permit from SCDOT for a curb cut to allow golf cart parking across from The Windjammer; since a change in personnel is in process at SCDOT, the Captain indicated that the City might re-submit the application. For the overgrown lots on Wills Way, one (1) property owner has cleared his lot on Wills Way and the other owner is slowly making progress on the remaining two (2) lots. No decision was made about placing kiosks at Breach Inlet.

Highlights of the month of March for the Fire Department included the report of a vehicle that struck a house in the area of 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Palm Boulevard; upon arrival, officers found the driver to be a City employee who had experienced a medical emergency. Personnel responded to seventy-two (72) calls in the month; of that number, thirty-six (36) were EMS calls. Promotions announced were Battalion Chief Hathaway to the training officer for the Department, Captain Eagle to Battalion Chief and Engineer J.T. Hall to Captain.

For the Police Department, Councilmember Bettelli noted that the quality of the Department is on display in the CALEA Meritorious Accreditation. In March dispatchers answered four thousand twenty-six (4,026) calls; officers made two hundred fifty (250) traffic stops and the majority received tickets. The Animal Control Officer wrote one (1) citation and secured fourteen (14) animals; no coyote sightings were reported. Officers received six (6) noise complaints that resulted in two (2) warnings.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be at 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Conference Room.

## **C. Public Works Committee**

From the Public Works Committee of April 5, Councilmember Ferencz reported that the two (2) highlights of the month were mowing the beach access paths and servicing the Tea Room at the Methodist Church daily. Garbage was down significantly, about fifty tons (50 T.) less than March 2016; yard debris was up eleven tons (11 T.) from March of 2016. The Department had no large invoices for vehicle maintenance, and Director Pitts again assured the Committee that he would end the year under budget on that line item despite having to buy two (2) tires for the Caterpillar. Under the heading of "Old Business", several topics were discussed including removal of debris on Waterway Boulevard at 29<sup>th</sup>, reclaiming the multi-use path on Waterway Boulevard from 21<sup>st</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenues, permitting of a dump site, an update on the NPDES project, and consideration of the Hill Construction Report as it related to the Public Works buildings. Drainage issues were also discussed; they were Sand Dollar Court and the Phase II drainage project on the north end of the island. Director Kerr explained the requirements for piping a ditch and added that the City needed open ditches for better flow of stormwater runoff. A long discussion on the marina redevelopment plan and the need for a referendum sooner rather than later; August would be the deadline for getting the referendum question before the voters in November. The Administrator

announced that beginning Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> Charleston County will begin the weekly pickup of recycling, and it will continue through the summer months.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the City Hall Conference Room.

#### **D. Recreation Committee**

Councilmember Rice reported from the meeting of April 5<sup>th</sup> that adult sports, i.e. softball, basketball, soccer and table tennis, are in full swing and that the conservation workshop put on by the Aquarium was very successful and hoped that more would follow. The Front Beach Fest in March was a huge success, and sellers filled the fifty (50) vendor booths at the Annual Yard Sale. For the Easter Egg Hunt, approximately one thousand (1,000) children participated; Camp Summershine is full for the summer; people began lining up before midnight the night before registration opened. Music in the Park will be held Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. til 4:00 p.m., and two bands will perform and food will be available. The Sand Sculpting Contest will be Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> in front of the public restrooms; the Half Rubber Tournament will be Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>; and staff is still in the planning stages for the solar eclipse event to be held Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Recreation Department employees assisted with some of the maintenance issues at the Front Beach restrooms and repaired the GFI outlets that bands use. The Committee spent a good deal of time discussing the proposed fitness space at the Rec Center.

The Committee planned not to have a meeting, but Councilmember Rice indicated that something had come up requiring a meeting; therefore, one will be held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Conference Room.

When asked how many families had registered for Camp Summershine, Assistant Recreation Director Ferrell reported that, unlike prior year, fewer families signed up for the seven-week (7 wk.) program; instead they registered for only a few weeks or particular weeks. She stated that it would be difficult to answer Councilmember Ferencz' question without going through the registrations. She did say that they will have sixty-five (65) children between the ages of three and twelve (3-12) per week; she also noted that the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> was the only week available for non-residents.

When the question was asked about on-line registration, Assistant Ferrell stated that the Department would need to purchase another module for the RecTrac system used in the Rec Department.

Assistant Fragozo told Council that the acquisition of that module was planned for the FY19 budget.

#### **E. Personnel Committee**

Mayor ProTem asked Chief Graham to explain the addition she is proposing for the job description for the position of Fire Captain. Changes requiring that a firefighter had to be an EMT before being promoted to an officer or an engineer and adding Fire Officer into the officer's job description

were made in 2015; somehow the additions were not made to the Fire Captain's position, and that is the change seeking approval.

**MOTION: Mayor ProTem Harrington moved to approve the addition to the job description for Fire Captain; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor ProTem Harrington announced the following job openings in the City as follows:

- General Government – one (1) full-time, temporary front desk position;
- Recreation Department – four (4) summer camp counselors;
- Police Department – five (5) Beach Services Officers and one (1) part-time Animal Control Officer;
- Building Department – one (1) full-time Permit/License Clerk;
- Public Works – two (2) full-time temporary CDL drivers; and
- Fire Department – no vacancies

March Safety Sweepstakes winners were Laura McLellan for General Government, Mason Wheat for the Fire Department, Pfc. Dylan Reynolds for the Police Department and Russell Roper for the Public Works Department.

#### **F. Real Property Committee**

From the meeting of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Councilmember Bergwerf reported that the Committee had a lengthy discussion with the owner of Morgan Creek Grill (MCG) relative to their lease extension; owner Jay Clarke was asking for a thirty (30) year lease and other proposed changes would significantly decrease in the revenue paid to the City. If the proposal had been in effect in 2016, the City's income would have been reduced by fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000). Before the Committee could digest this proposal, the attorney for MCG presented yet another proposal that included a fixed rent at one hundred thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$138,000) and additional rent on gross profits in excess of two million dollars (\$2,000,000). Until the Committee could get advice from the City Attorney and City Treasurer, it was not ready to make a determination; other topics relative to the lease were employee parking and dock space dedicated to the restaurant. Another issue relative to MCG was the replacement of the walk-in cooler and who would pay for it and where it would be located. The restaurant's attorney suggested that his team needed further study to determine what the restaurant could and could not do and add it to a proposal for the next meeting. The Committee moved on to discuss the contract for the attendant at the public restrooms; for quite a few years, the contract has been a hand-shake agreement, but the Committee decided to issue an RFP for those services after the building renovation has been completed in the fall. The schedule calls for the interior renovations, i.e. new flooring covering and fixtures, to be completed by the end of the week. Another important issue before the Committee was the marina redevelopment plan which has an estimated cost of six point four million dollars (\$6,400,000) based on the add-ons since the original concept was presented to Council; one (1) major added cost was the dredging project at eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000). With a detailed costs list, the Committee will begin to eliminate or modify the plan to reduce the cost; first to come off was the pedestrian bridge over the boat ramp. Member recommendations for reductions will be discussed at the May meeting. Once the Committee

receives the outcome of the grants applied for, the Committee will be able to recommend a plan to Council and a referendum questions can be formulated.

The next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m., Monday, May 8, 2017 in the Conference Room.

Recalling that Council has been discussing the MCG lease for years, Mayor Cronin asked if the Committee was considering re-bidding the lease in 2020 when the current one (1) expires.

Councilmember Bergwerf responded that the option to re-bid the lease was still viable.

**6. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions**

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

Mayor Cronin called special attention to the minutes of the Planning Commission's work to produce recommendations on reducing the number of septic tanks on the island and sewer expansion. They are also considering the best way(s) for the City to react to the new FEMA flood maps.

**7. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – none**

**8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – none**

**9. Bills already in Possession of Council – none**

**10. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**

- A. First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2017-04 – An Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017 and Ending June 30, 2018.**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adopt Ordinance 2017-04 for First Reading; Councilmember Rice seconded.**

Mayor Cronin announced that the Budget Public Hearing has been scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:45 p.m.; he then noted that staff was presenting a balanced budget with no tax increase and increases in a number of projects for which the City has been saving in the coming year; additionally, the budget will include the helicopter service for residents of the island approved earlier in the meeting.

Administrator Tucker commented that the state-mandated budget ad will appear in the newspaper soon, stating the millage rate for FY18 and an announcement of the public hearing. The budget that will be advertised will include the helicopter service.

Based on the Mayor's description of the budget, Councilmember Kinghorn asked if the FY128 budget would be a deficit budget.

The Mayor replied that the City would be spending capital money and that the General Fund will be in balance; the City has been saving money for capital equipment purchases/projects for several years.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 8 to 1 with Councilmember Kinghorn casting the "nay" vote.**

**B. A Proclamation in Support of National Safe Boating Week**

**C. A proclamation for National Police Week 2017**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to suspend the reading and to adopt the two (2) proclamations noted above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11. Miscellaneous Business – none**

**12. Conclusion/Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk