

## **Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**

12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2017

The regular meeting of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAX) was held at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2017 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee members Malcolm Burgis, Julise Spell, Susan Haynie and Rusty Williamson, Chair David Nelson, Administrator Tucker, Treasurer Suggs, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Margaret Mill and Sally Muhlig were absent.

1. Chair Nelson 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.

### **2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Mr. Burgis moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 18, 2017 as submitted; Ms. Haynie seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comment – None**

4. **Financial Statements – Treasurer Suggs**

Copies of all financial materials are attached to the historical record of the meeting.

Beginning with the Revenue Statement, the Treasurer noted that the revenue consists of interest on funds in the bank and the quarterly payments for September 2016 and December 2016; the payment for the March quarter will be received in April. Year-to-date, revenues total approximately one million thirty-two thousand dollars (\$1,032,000).

Expenses reported have been routine; in January, seventy-five percent (75%) of the City debt on the marina was paid. On the replacement of the Christmas tree, Treasurer Suggs reminded the Committee that the City had inadvertently paid the sales taxes on the tree, which was to have been included in the price; with the assistance of Director Page, the taxes have been refunded. Two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the cost to repair the bulkhead will be paid from State ATAX funds; the repairs are needed due to erosion on the landside of the bulkhead. The Real Property Committee heard the projected cost of the marina redevelopment plan at their March meeting; the City anticipates doing the work in phases assuming the referendum passes. The total cost of the pickup truck for the Fire Department ran over budget by seven hundred-ninety dollars (\$790).

**MOTION: Ms. Spell moved to approve the overage of \$790 for the new Fire Department pickup truck; Ms. Haynie seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The remaining balance in the FY17 State ATAX budget is eight hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$868,000).

Attention now turned toward the FY18 projected ATAX budget. Revenues are expected to increase modestly next year. The increase to Transfers out to the Police Department and Fire Department salaries are reflective a two percent (2%) COLA and a two percent (2%) merit pool.

Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) have been set aside in Programs /Sponsorships for the event planned around the total solar eclipse on August 21<sup>ST</sup>; the Charleston area is anticipating large numbers of people to be in town for the event since Charleston, particularly the Isle of Palms, will be the last place to see it. The City believes that to hold an event of the caliber the event deserves an expert should coordinate it; therefore, the City will hire an event planner for this activity.

The Administrator added that the last total solar eclipse that travelled across the United States was in 1918.

In the FY18 budget, funds will be spent to replace the waving Santa that has become iconic to the Isle of Palms during the holiday season. The replacement of five (5) sets of body armor have been budgeted for the Police Department, as well as one (1) police sedan, replacement of one (1) low speed vehicle and twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of replacement radios. The major component to Capital Outlay in the Fire Department is twenty-five percent (25%) of the down payment on a seventy-five foot (75 ft.) ladder truck. The funds for replacement radios are in the City's reserves that were started several years ago. The new trash barrels for the beach will not require painting but are slightly more expensive; Director Pitts has located heavy-duty, yellow, hard plastic barrels. Since the demand for mobi-mat on beach accesses has grown, the budget has been increased to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000). State ATAX will also pay one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the cost of a new garbage truck and replace a 2012 pickup truck in the Public Works Department. From discussions in the Real Property Committee, the contract for the restroom attendant will be rebid this year; therefore, this budgeted amount might need to be increased. ATAX funds will replace a 2006 pickup truck for the Recreation Department. Increases for the public restrooms and Front Beach area in service contracts and cleaning supplies for the restrooms are based on actual year-to-date expenses; the major expense for this department will be two hundred eighty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$282,500) for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of rehabilitating the Front Beach restrooms.

**MOTION: Mr. Burgis moved to approve the FY18 ATAX budget as presented; Ms. Haynie seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of sponsorship of an Isle of Palms magazine, but Mr. Macchio could not attend today's meeting.

**MOTION: Chair Nelson moved to defer the subject of an Isle of Palms magazine to the next meeting; Ms. Spell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date:** 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Ms. Haynie moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m.' Mr. Burgis seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted: Marie Copeland, City Clerk