



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00pm, Tuesday, August 25, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to order**

Present: Council members Popson, Streetman, Moye, Ward, Buckhannon, Bell, Pounds, and Smith, and Mayor Carroll

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. Administrator Hanna, Attorney Copeland, various department heads

**2. Readings of the Journals of Previous Meetings**

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve the minutes of City Council Meeting held on July 28, 2020, and the emergency meeting held on August 13, 2020, Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

**3. Citizens' Comments – attached to these minutes**

City Clerk DeNeane read submitted comments into the record. They appear in full alongside this meeting's agenda on the City's website.

Anna Eskridge of the Charleston County Community Development Department gave a brief presentation about the 5-year Consolidated Plan survey. She encouraged all citizens to provide input into how Charleston County should spend the funding it receives from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The survey is available on [charlestoncounty.org](http://charlestoncounty.org) for another week. The survey can also be mailed by calling 843-202-6960.

**MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to allow for an additional five minutes of time for Citizens' Comments to be read into the record. Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:**

Ayes: Pounds, Streetman, Popson, Moye, Smith, Ward, Buckhannon, Carroll

Nays: Bell

**The motion passed 8-1.**

City Clerk DeNeane continued to read Citizens' Comments into the record.

#### 4. Consent Agenda

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- A. Consideration of distribution of FY20 positive net result as follows: 65% for the Capital Projects Fund, 25% for the General Fund, and 10% for the Disaster Recovery Fund
- B. Consideration of a three (3) year extension of Eadie's contract for island-wide drainage and ditch maintenance [FY21 Budget, Hospitality Tax Fund, Public Works, Drainage, \$198,288, pg. 21, ln. 35]
- C. Consideration of a change order not to exceed \$30,000 for the purchase and installation of a flood-resistant door for the Public Safety Building [FY21 Budget, Public Safety Building Rehabilitation Project, City Contingency, 15% available = \$788,424]
- D. Report of approved change order in the amount of \$20,537 for required seismic bracing on existing sprinkler system at the Public Safety Building [FY21 Budget, Public Safety Building Rehabilitation Project, City Contingency, 15% available = \$788,424]
- E. Consideration of the purchase of a beach patrol vehicle (ATV) with plow attachment in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 [FY21 Budget, Hospitality Tax Fund, Police Department, Capital Outlay, \$20,000, pg. 21, ln. 21]

#### 5. Reports from Standing Committees

##### A. Ways and Means Committee

Council Member Pounds briefly reviewed the financial statements for months ending June 30, 2020 and July 31, 2020 as presented to the City Council during last week's Ways & Means Meeting. Revenues and expenditures for FY20 were down significantly due to the pandemic.

- i. **Consideration of recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to implement paid parking on the beach parking areas on Palm Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> avenues, and Breach Inlet parking lot, between March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am to 6:00pm.**

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to implement paid parking on the oceanside of Palm Boulevard between 21<sup>st</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> avenues, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> avenues, and the Breach Inlet parking lot between March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Council Member Bell seconded the motion.**

Council members discussed parking on the landside of Palm Boulevard and its inclusion or exclusion in the paid parking areas. Council Member Pounds withdrew his motion and Council Member Bell withdrew his second of the motion. Council Member Buckhannon agreed the paid parking plans are malleable at this point.

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to implement paid parking on the beach parking areas of Palm Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> avenues, and the Breach Inlet**

**parking lot between March 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am to 6:00pm as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Bell seconded the motion.**

Council Member Moye encouraged staff and City Council to find better ways to work with Charleston County and the surrounding communities with regards to beach parking. He reiterated his idea from the August 13 meeting of easing into paid parking by only enforcing it on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He said that would allow the City to “work towards having a discussion with the County and neighbors to say listen, we are intentionally drawing back from the full seven days a week because we want to work with you, but you are going to have to help us cover this revenue gap.” He reminded the Council of the three goals of implementing paid parking which were public safety, quality of life, and revenue. He added, “I believe that implementing this on the weekends, that during the week we are managing quality of life, we are managing public safety, and the revenue is the big gap.”

Council Member Bell pointed out to the Council that dependencies were built into the budget based on implementing paid parking in full beginning in March. He encouraged Council to stick to the plan in the budget. Council Member Smith said that while she supports paid parking, she would encourage everyone to consider how it will affect public behavior. Enforcing paid parking on the weekends may encourage more people to come to the beach during the week.

**VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion as follows:**

Ayes; Pounds, Streetman, Popson, Buckhannon, Bell, Smith, Ward, Carroll

Nays: Moye

**The motion passed 8-1.**

- ii. **Consideration of changes to the 30% of State Accommodations Tax Revenue required for tourism promotion and advertisement currently managed by the Charleston Visitors Bureau [FY21 Budget, State ATAX, Tourism Promotion, \$448,713, pg. 23, ln. 7]**

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to direct staff to look at alternatives for the uses and ways to differently structure how the City handles these funds and or how to adjust the relationship with the Charleston Visitors Bureau. Council Member Moye seconded the motion.**

Council Member Moye said the City needs to be more proactive in setting goals with the CVB. Council Member Smith said the CVB would like to make a presentation to the City. She also encouraged a discussion with former Council Member Rice who worked with the CVB in the past. Council members agreed to hear a presentation from the CVB about how they will work with the City moving forward, but if their narrative does not match the needs of the City, it may be time for a change. Council Member Ward noted this concern about the monies going to the CVB has come up many times in the past and said the alternative will cost a lot of time and money. Council Member Pounds noted that Wild Dunes should be included in any conversation about the CVB.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

**iii. Consideration of proposals for the engagement of a bond attorney for the City's Series 2020 GO Bond**

Council Member Pounds briefly reviewed a timeline of events leading to the issuance of the City's Series 2020 GO Bond. He said work on this issue needs to begin in earnest after Labor Day to stay with the timeline.

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to recommend Pope Flynn as bond attorney for the City's Series 2020 General Obligation Bonds. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Council Member Pounds briefly mentioned the Tree Fund and marina lease discussions as noted in the Ways & Means Committee meeting minutes.

**B. Public Safety Committee**

Council Member Buckhannon reviewed the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. Council members discussed the need to make crosswalks safer and more visible. Chief Cornett shared that the Police Department has made a social media video about crosswalks and will be working on raising traffic awareness and enforcement at crosswalks. He said there will be two officers focused on traffic-related issues.

Administrator Fragoso stated, "SCDOT has indicated that crosswalks have to be connected to an existing sidewalk and as we all know, we do not have one on the landside between 41<sup>st</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup>. However, when you look at the crosswalks that are on the section between 21<sup>st</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup>, they are not connected to the sidewalk either. So we are pushing back a little bit on SCDOT on that." They will be asking SCDOT to reevaluate their position on sidewalks and crosswalks.

**C. Public Works Committee**

Council Member Pounds reviewed the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting. In addition, he reported that he and Administrator Fragoso will be meeting with a representative from Dominion Energy later in the week to start "conversations around being strategic, whether we want to underground or the next cutting or a cutting agreement."

**D. Recreation Committee**

Council Member Smith reviewed the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting.

**E. Personnel Committee**

Council Member Moye reviewed the minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting.

**F. Real Property Committee**

Council Member Buckhannon reviewed the minutes of the August 12, 2020 meeting. Council Member Smith added that perhaps some of the revenue generated by paid parking could be used to create footbridges and walkovers that will help people get to the beach more easily. She

suggested that the blocks between 30<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> avenues would be good places for such projects. Council Member Buckhannon agreed that a revenue source would be needed to help stabilize parking in those areas.

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

- A. **Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – no meeting
- B. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – no meeting
- 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**

- A. **Ordinance 2020-04** – An ordinance to reduce the maximum occupancy at a short-term rental to twice the maximum overnight occupancy, not to exceed forty people

**MOTION: Council Member Moye made a motion to approve, and Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- B. **Ordinance 2020-07** – an ordinance to correct the lot coverage limit reduction from 40% to 35% and to 30% for property on septic

**MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to approve, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:**

Ayes: Pounds, Streetman, Bell, Moye, Smith, Ward, Buckhannon, Carroll  
Nays: Popson

**The motion passed 8-1.**

- C. **Ordinance 2020-08** – An ordinance authorizing the issuance of a \$16M Water & Sewer System revenue bond for the decommissioning and relocation of the Wild Dunes Wastewater Treatment Plant

**MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve, and Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

**11. Miscellaneous Business**

**A. Update on Strategic Planning Process**

Administrator Frago presented a draft schedule of work in the development of the Strategic Plan. The plan currently calls for the final product to be delivered to City Council in January 2021.

**B. Discussion and consideration regarding future use of the watersports dock at the IOP Marina to be used as a commercial dock and 10 parking spaces or as a public dock with greenspace and residential parking spaces.**

**MOTION: Mayor Carroll made a motion to hold a special non-binding referendum during the General Election “that states do we the registered voters of the Isle of Palms want either a commercial dock with 10 parking places, which if selected, would be put out for an RFP, or a public dock with green space.” Council Member Ward seconded the motion.**

Council members expressed mixed thoughts about the motion. Council members Pounds and Bell did not like the idea of offering a non-binding referendum. Council Member Popson said he would support a referendum as the information gleaned from the Marina forum in January was not clear. He also said he would support a dock for residents, but he does not believe that the current Tidal Wave dock is the best place for it as it is difficult to swim, fish, or launch a paddleboard or kayak in the same area where there is a lot of boat traffic. He addressed some of the concerns brought up during Citizens’ Comments and offered suggestions for the marina area.

Council Member Streetman said he favors green space and a public dock but has no issues with Tidal Wave Watersports. He said he does not think all those activities can happen in the same area. Council Member Smith said she had concerns about the referendum being an either-or proposition and does not support the idea of a referendum in November. She would like to see space for a shared kayak storage facility.

Council Member Moye also agreed that a referendum was not necessary, and a decision needed to be made tonight. Council Member Buckhannon wondered how to meet the needs of all concerned but agreed the marina dock is not a good place to fish.

Council members continued to discuss the parking issue at the marina. Administrator Fragoso noted the opportunity to get a referendum question on the ballot has passed and pointed out numerous logistical issues with educating voters on the issue, allowing them to vote, verifying voter validity, and then calculating the results.

Mayor Carroll withdrew his motion, and Council Member Ward withdrew his second.

**MOTION: Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to allow both commercial and public space at the marina dock with ten (10) parking spaces. Council Member Smith seconded the motion.**

Council Member Smith offered a friendly amendment to allow for an RFP process to look at potential commercial options for the marina dock. Council Member Buckhannon agreed to the friendly amendment.

Mayor Carroll pointed out that if the motion fails, the marina dock property returns to the City on September 30, 2020 when the current lease expires.

Council Member Pounds expressed concern that the motion on the floor does not represent the views of the majority of residents who are looking for public dock and greenspace at the marina.

He added, “Now we are going to try to put everything down there. This conversation is just beyond me. I mean, the decision was made last April to not renew that lease. I am not sure why this has continued to fester in this community, and where we are headed just makes no sense to me. We have a very clear direction, in my opinion, from what the residents have asked us to do, and now we are going to multiply it by creating more parking issues, more entities, more development down there. Makes no sense to me.”

Council members and Administrator Fragoso briefly discussed the RFP process and the unlikelihood of speeding up the process to have it completed by September 30, 2020.

**MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to amend allowing Tidal Wave Watersports to remain at the marina site until the RFP process has been completed. Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion.**

Council Member Bell indicated this lease has already been voted on, and the offered amendment contradicts that earlier vote.

**MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to move into Executive Session to receive legal advice on an existing lease. Mayor Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

City Council moved into Executive Session at 8:48pm.

City Council returned from Executive Session at 9:15pm.

Council Member Popson withdrew his amendment, and Council Member Buckhannon withdrew his second.

Council Member Moye said, “I feel like we are setting ourselves up for another marina forum. The issue that we ran into was that we asked our residents what do you want, and when you ask somebody what you want without any restrictions or limitation, the answer is typically I want it all and I want everything. And the challenge we face is the size of the space. It is not big enough for us to be able to have commercial and residential. And as much as that would be great, if we were to move it towards a green space, which a large portion of our residents have said that they wanted, we would have a mixed-use commercial and residential. But the only way that we could do that, if it was the will of Council, would be to use that parcel of land for that purpose. If it is going to be a mixed use, you are not sharing 10 spaces between commercial activity and residential activity.” He added, “I think it is up to this body tonight to say listen, we have spoken to the residents. We have heard from them. We have seen several referendums already over the last couple of decades, and it is time to make a decision.” Council Member Pounds said he agreed with Council Member Moye’s statements.

**VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:**

Ayes: Popson, Smith, Buckhannon, Ward

Nays: Pounds, Bell, Moye, Streetman, Carroll

**The motion failed 4-5.**

Council Member Smith said she would like for staff to look into “all the possibilities for promoting kayaking and paddle sports, including the possibility of a storage facility for those residents.”

C. The next meeting of the City Council will be Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:00pm.

**11. Adjournment**

Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk