



PUBLIC HEARING
5:45pm, Tuesday, May 24, 2021
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Anderson, Bogosian, Hahn, Miars, Pierce, Popson, Streetman, Ward, and Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, City Attorney Halversen, various department heads

2. Ordinance 2022-01 – 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, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Administrator Fragoso said of the budget: “The Ways and Means Committee about a month ago considered and approved and recommended the approval of this budget and ratification by City Council tonight. Very important, the proposed budget does not include a property tax increase. The City’s general fund revenues are budgeted at \$12.9M which represents approximately a 9% increase from FY22. The General Fund expenditures are approximately \$13.7M, a 7% increase from the last budget.

“Total personnel costs represent 69% of total general fund expenditures, which is an increase of 5% from FY22. This is mainly due to the wage adjustments that were implemented by the City earlier this year city-wide to personnel and also supports the addition of a part-time livability enforcement position in FY23. Transfers in from tourism funds to the General Funds equate to approximately \$1.25M to support two additional personnel from what these funds supported last year.

“In total, the tourism funds are supporting the following operational expenditures: four police officers, one sergeant, six firefighters, all beach services officers, 50% of public works temp labor, a part-time attendant for the public restrooms, which we have seasonally, fuel, and overtime expenses for public safety personnel during the season. Tourism fund revenues are conservatively projected to be at \$7.5M or approximately 90% of current year-to-date actuals.

“There are no new debt issues included in the budget, and the recreation bond will be paid off in June of 2023.

“I’ll go through some key budget initiatives by department...For the general government, the budget includes a provision of 2.5% for wage adjustment city-wide, the construction of a public park and greenspace at the Isle of Palms Marina adjacent to the public dock. We continue the sponsorship of resident-only eco tour outings from the public dock at the Marina. We continue our tuition reimbursement program that is available for all full-time employees. We currently have three employees participating in this program. One is pursuing a master's degree. Another one is pursuing a doctorate, and one an associate's degree.

“The budget includes funds for the development of a sea level rise adaptation plan and ongoing monitoring of the entire shoreline. We included provisions for a contractor grant writer, media specialist, lobbyists, and engineering traffic review assistants throughout the year. The budget includes a provision for the annual employee appreciation event and the return of the holiday party for employees, Council, and those who volunteer on the City's boards and commissions.

“The FY23 budget designates the Charleston Visitor's Bureau as the City's current direct marketing organization that is responsible for the management of the 30% of State ATAX funds that have to be used for tourism promotion and advertisement. However, the budget indicates that the City Council may designate another direct marketing organization as long as they meet State law requirements.

“For the police department, we've included funds to replace three patrol vehicles, one low-speed vehicle, the purchase of a license plate reader for parking enforcement, the replacement of traffic counters at the IOP Connector and Breach Inlet, the purchase of de-escalation and use of force training program for the police department for additional training, the provision of an additional livability and code enforcement officer. We've increased funds to support additional county deputies to assist with traffic management during the season, and it continues the implementation of a text-to-park option on front beach parking.

“For the fire department, we've included funds to replace three pickup trucks, an all-terrain vehicle for beach patrol, and the replacement of a personal watercraft for water rescue. It calls for the refurbishment of both gyms at the Public Safety Building and Fire Station 2, the purchase of a second set of bunker gear for all fire department personnel, purchase of a rescue drone, the installation of an exhaust system at the Public Safety Building and Fire Station 2, and the provision for the development of a Fire Department strategic plan.

“For Public Works, we've included funds to complete the construction of the drainage outfall project at 30th and 36th avenues, the reconstruction and elevation of the Waterway Boulevard multi-use path, the underground utility line conversion at 21st Avenue, the completion of the comprehensive Drainage Master Plan by Davis & Floyd, and a provision for targeted drainage projects that are going to be the result of this master plan. We continue the ongoing ditch maintenance contract, and the budget also includes a provision to address issues at the front beach municipal parking lot related to the compactor.

“Lastly, the Recreation Department, we've included funds to reconstruct the outdoor basketball courts and the construction of two pickleball courts. The budget also supports seven community events including the front beach and holiday fests.”

Administrator Fragoso and Mayor Pounds thanked the staff for all the work hard work done putting together the FY23 budget.

3. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn and Council Member Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk