



ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1:00pm, Tuesday, August 23, 2022

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and

broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Doug Truslow, Ray Burns, Barb Bergwerf, Chas Akers, Gloria Clarke, Rebecca Kovalich, Chrissy Lorenz

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Treasurer Suggs

2. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Bergwerf made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting. Mr. Akers seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Truslow made a motion to reorder the agenda to allow for grant application requests to be heard first. Mr. Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Old Business

A. Consideration of application for funding from the VFW in the amount of \$30,000 for tourism enhancement program

Mr. George Page and Mr. Buddy Gillam of the VFW came before the Committee requesting \$30,000 in funding for an elevator at the VFW building. Mr. Page noted the change on page 4 of the application stating that the elevator is necessary for all visitors to the building. He said the lowest bid to replace the current elevator came in at \$41,970. Mr. Gilliam said that the members had met and voted unanimously to move forward with the contract put 50% of the cost down. They anticipate the work to begin in about 8 weeks.

MOTION: Ms. Bergwerf made a motion to approve the request of \$30,000 for the elevator. Mr. Akers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Fragoso said this item will be discussed at City Council's September workshop and voted on at their September meeting.

4. Financial Statements – Finance Director Debbie Suggs

Director Suggs stated there are two overages from the unaudited FY22 statements that need to be considered. Additional beach trash pickups resulted in a \$2,642 overage. There was an overage of \$647 in the body armor expense for the Police Department after a rebate.

MOTION: Mr. Burns made a motion to approve both expense overages. Mr. Truslow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Suggs said the balance sheet is strong. There is \$2.9M fund balance. She reviewed the expenses incurred in July, noting on a small amount of interest income has been received.

She also shared that the 4th quarter payment of State ATAX came to \$1.369 million.

5. New Business

A. Consideration of calendar for FY24 ATAX Grant Applications

Mr. Burns asked the Committee to consider moving towards a more efficient process of approving grant applications as is done in many other municipalities. Administrator Fragoso laid out a timeline that is “baked into” the City’s budget process thereby allowing City Council to consider all grant applications approved by the ATAX Committee while discerning the budget.

This new process would also require all applicants to submit mid-year and final accountings of the monies given to them.

B. Discussion of establishing a contract between the City and the CVB

Mr. Burns said he previously considered a contract between the City and the CVB as a way to move forward. He has since reexamined that thought and believes such a concept requires much more research. He believes some of the accountability and transparency measures promised by the CVB in recent months could answer some of the questions that he had considered for a contract, and he would like to see how that plays out in the coming months.

Mr. Burns did say that ownership of the photography and videography the City is paying for in CVB’s FY23 does need to be discussed with the CVB, believing it needs to be owned by the City.

Ms. Bergwerf and Mr. Truslow agreed with his sentiments regarding the contract.

Mr. Akers noted that asking the CVB for an agency/client relationship is beyond the scope of the State statute and the CVB does not have to do any of it. The Committee would need to come up with the standards they expect of the CVB to create a framework for a contract that would “back up what we are trying to receive from them, and if they don’t perform, then I would say then we would have, even though the relationship is very tight in terms of our relationship in the choices that we have and so forth, we would have a good reason to pull out because of breach.”

Mr. Burns said he would like to have a meeting in October where the CVB would present their FY22 closing statements for discussion as well as a review of the first quarter of FY23. He has

also asked Council Member Streetman to share with the Committee the happenings of the Board of Governors' meetings.

Ms. Lorenz asked what about the Committee's role. Administrator Fragoso said the conversation about the contract was new but was not a recommendation out of the ATAX Taskforce. She agreed that the contract first described by the ATAX Committee would not come about due to the restraints of the State statute. She said, "Developing a contract or suggesting what a contract looks like, it is not part of the statutory requirements or responsibilities of this Committee." She said the Committee could make a recommendation to City Council in their "efforts to expand and improve what we currently have."

Mr. Burns said he is still in favor of a contract between the City and the CVB, but he needs to do more research. He said his preference is a working relationship with the CVB that continues to progress. He would like to work with the CVB and "we can start talking to them about specific things that we would like to understand" like the ownership of the photography and videography.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the ATAX Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 1pm.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Bergwerf made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Burns seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk