



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- WORKSHOP
5:00pm, Tuesday, January 10, 2023
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 Hahn, Bogosian, Anderson, Ward, Streetman, Popson, Miars, Pierce, and Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, various department heads

2. Citizens' Comments – none

3. Special Presentations – none

4. Dashboard of City Operations

Mayor Pounds reported that there are staff vacancies in Public Safety, Public Works and the Recreation departments. An open officer position will be filled soon by a returning employee.

5. Department Reports

Chief Cornett reported that information about the 9 open seasonal BSO positions will be posted this week. Next month, Council will see livability statistics in the report. He pointed out 19 noise complaint warnings were issued and 5 tickets were written.

Chief Oliverius stated there were 99 calls for service in December. The automatic aid agreement began on January 4. Five calls for automatic aid have been received since that time, and two were cancelled en route. Chief Oliverius continues to research the viability of the City's own EMS service. Administrator Fragoso anticipates bringing this subject to City Council soon for further discussion.

Director Pitts reported on three large vehicle expenses he has recently incurred. He thanked Ms. Lee for organizing a paper (only) shred day to be held in the municipal lot on May 9.

Director Ferrell said that youth basketball started last week. There are many full classes starting this week. Upcoming events include Doggie Day (February), Front Beach Fest (March), Yard Sale (March), and Easter (April). A new groundskeeper recently began working, but there are still two vacancies in the department.

6. Strategic Plan Policy Initiatives and Priorities

A. Livability – none

B. **Environmental – none**

C. **Public Services**

Discussion and consideration of proposed project requests for Transportation Sales Tax (TST) FY24 Allocation Program

Administrator Fragoso said the application for this program is in mid-February. She reviewed some of the projects previously funded by these monies including intersection improvements, drainage projects, and handicap parking spaces. She is looking for direction from City Council as to which projects they would like to apply for in FY24. Historically, the City has received approximately \$200,000 per project from TST funding.

Following some discussion, it was determined that option 1 (Extend existing sidewalk from Breach Inlet to 2nd Avenue and install crosswalk on Palm Boulevard at 2nd Avenue) and option 2 (Repair and widening of existing concrete sidewalk at 21st Avenue) seem the most viable options. Council will vote on the matter at the January 24 City Council meeting.

D. **Personnel – none**

E. **Other items for discussion**

A. **Update on RFP for design and engineering of elevator in marina restaurant**

Administrator Fragoso stated that the RFP for the design and engineering of the elevator is on the City's website. The deadline is February 10, 2023. The outcome of this proposal will refine the estimated cost of installing an elevator at the restaurant.

7. Financial Review

Financial Statements and Project Worksheets

Mayor Pounds reported that revenues as of 12/31/22 are \$8.5million and expenditure are \$9.5million, both a little under budget. Business licenses and building permits continue to exceed last year's numbers. General Fund expenditures, including the one-time employee COLA, are ahead of budget. The City's fund balance is \$34 million, earning 4.32% in interest.

Council Member Pierce mentioned the need to continue the discussion about creating a sinking fund for the care of City facilities. Mayor Pounds said that would be part of the budget discussions in March.

The October payment for the Municipal Accommodations Tax was \$154,000. The quarterly payment for State Accommodations Tax was \$952,000, which is 11% ahead of last year. Only one quarter of the Charleston County ATAX pass-through has been received. The \$231,000 payment was 23% lower than last year.

Mayor Pounds said hospitality tax revenues continue to be strong. Council Member Ward noted that those revenues may be lower in January since many restaurants are closed for renovations. Local Option Sales Tax is 9% ahead of last year.

There is \$435,000 left in the Phase 3 Drainage project budget and approximately \$200,000 left in the project's contingency.

8. **Procurement – none**

9. **Capital Projects Update**

A. **Phase 3 Drainage – Outfalls at 30th, 36th, and 41st Avenues**

Administrator Fragoso reported that roadwork along Waterway Boulevard begins on 1/16/23. A closure between 29th and 31st avenues is expected to last 8-10 weeks. Notices to surrounding properties have been sent out.

The City has received the Critical Area permit for the 41st Avenue outfall project. All other permits should quickly follow. As this project is being paid for by the Office of Resiliency, they are interacting directly with Thomas & Hutton who will complete the work. A kickoff meeting is scheduled this week and work will begin before the end of the year.

B. **Comprehensive Drainage Masterplan**

Administrator Fragoso said Davis & Floyd is wrapping up their report and collecting supporting documentation. Staff anticipates reviewing the deliverable soon and will provide feedback before presenting it to City Council. Davis & Floyd will provide recommendations for the City's development standards and for the maintenance of the drainage system.

C. **Overhead to Underground Conversion at 21st Avenue**

This project is still awaiting a start date.

D. **Pickle Ball Court Construction and Basketball Courts Rehab**

These projects begin next week and are expected to be completed by the end of March.

E. **Public Dock Rehabilitation and "T" dock improvements**

Administrator Fragoso said conversations with the restaurant about the parking lot layout continue this week and will be brought to the Public Services and Facilities committee.

The contract for the bulkhead repairs has been executed and work is starting later this month with an anticipated completion of March 31.

The OCRM permit application for the public dock rehabilitation project was submitted in December. She anticipates work beginning on that project by the end of the year.

The restaurant owners would like to speak with Mr. Schuler about the "best path for the T-dock." Administrator Fragoso is unsure if that conversation has taken place.

A brief discussion occurred about increased launch fees for non-residents. Administrator Fragoso said the City will help educate the residents and public about the changes at the marina. She noted that communications with Coastal Marina's team have been very good.

F. 34A Beach Access ADA-Compliant Boardwalk

Administrator Fragoso encouraged everyone to visit the new boardwalk at 34A beach access. Pervious concrete is being poured for the sidewalk this week and then work will begin on the two handicap parking spaces.

G. New Garbage Compactor in the small municipal parking lot

Administrator Fragoso said the new compactor looks “good” and cleanup and painting in the area continue. A new concrete slab has been poured for the recycling bins. Installation of the odor control system is expected after some additional electrical work is finished.

Council Member Ward asked about reaching out to local art students to paint murals on the walls. Administrator Fragoso said they are working on designating some golf cart parking in the area.

10. Legislative Report

Mayor Pounds said there will be a legislative report in February.

11. Miscellaneous

12. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk