



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- WORKSHOP

5:00pm, Tuesday, October 10, 2023

1207 Palm Boulevard and

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

MINUTES

1. Call to order

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

Absent: Council Member Miars

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

2. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

3. Special Presentations

Presentation from Chris Jordan, General Manager, IOP Water & Sewer Commission on current and upcoming projects: Forest Trails Wastewater Treatment Plan Consolidation, Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant Concentrate Line Extension, Forest Trails Wastewater Treatment Plan Effluent Line Replacement, and Conventional Sewer Installation

Mr. Chris Jordan of the IOP Water & Sewer Commission gave updates on current projects and detailed upcoming projects planned by the Commission including the Forest Trails Wastewater Treatment Plan Consolidation, Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant Concentrate Line Extension, Forest Trails Wastewater Treatment Plan Effluent Line Replacement, and Conventional Sewer Installation. He anticipates bringing the new wastewater treatment plant online in early 2024. The demolition of the Wild Dunes plant begins following that. Mr. Jordan said the new plant anticipates future increases to sewer capacity.

He shared that the Commission received just over \$4.5 million in American Rescue Plan funds through the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority for three other projects: extension of the R/O concentrate line, effluent line replacement, and the installation of conventional sewer in the area of 37th-41st Avenue, Palm Boulevard, and Cameron Boulevard.

Potential costs to tie into sewer were briefly discussed. Possible future sites for lift stations were also discussed.

4. **Dashboard of City Operations**

Administrator Fragoso noted there have not been many changes regarding revenues and expenditures since last month. Police Department charges and actions are tracking ahead of last year. Calls for service and traffic stops are ahead of the last two years. Parking citations are ahead of 2022 but less than 2021 numbers. Livability charges are three times higher than last year while the court docket is trending lower compared to September 2021.

There were 139 calls for service for the Fire Department in September. The City continues to receive more automatic aid than they are providing. Recreation Department registrations are ahead of last year.

She said the Building Department has noticed a slight reduction in construction activity which impacts business licenses and permits. Only 17 homes have been permitted in 2023 when 38 had been permitted by this same time in 2022. This was anticipated during the budgeting process.

There are two officer vacancies in the Police Department, but an offer has been made for one of them. An offer for the open Code Enforcement position has been or will soon be extended. Four paramedic positions remain open; an offer has been extended for one. Fire Marshall Stafford is retiring at the end of the year, and an offer has been made to someone so there is a transition period before he leaves.

She shared several upcoming events including Coffee with the Mayor and the Halloween Parade & Carnival.

1,809 short-term rental licenses have been issued since May 1; 184 at 4% property tax rate and 1,625 at the 6% tax rate.

5. **Departmental Reports – in the meeting packet**

6. **Strategic Plan Policy Initiatives and Priorities**

A. **Livability**

i. **Update of Fire Department's Strategic Plan**

Chief Oliverius shared the development of the Fire Department's Strategic Plan they worked on with the Riley Center for Livable Communities. The Chief shared the department's vision and mission statements, the major forces and drivers shaping the department, strengths and opportunities as well as the weaknesses and threats facing the department, and finally five strategic priorities they have developed and will use as their guide moving forward.

ii. **Review of final design of emergency vehicle access project at the IOP County Park**

Administrator Fragoso pointed to the anticipated final design of the emergency vehicle access project in the meeting packet. The goal is to bid the project out in November and execute a contract to begin construction in January. \$200,000 has been budgeted for the project.

B. Environmental

C. Public Services

i. Discussion of responses to RFQ 2023-01 Design-Builder for the modification and repairs of City Hall

Administrator Fragoso said two design-build teams gave presentations to the Public Services & Facilities Committee a few weeks ago. Staff is collecting scoring sheets, which will be presented at the Council meeting.

ii. Discussion of responses for RFP 2023-05 for parking management and enforcement services

Administrator Fragoso reported that four companies gave presentations for parking management and enforcement services to the Public Safety Committee last month. Staff has not had the opportunity to review those scoring sheets yet. She hopes they will have time to work on them this month.

D. Personnel

Update on wage and compensation study review

Administrator Fragoso reported that staff has received the results of an employee survey on compensation. 83 employees responded to the employee survey. She said the data will be shared at a later date. Evergreen is currently evaluating the market to see how the City compares to the same list of peers that was look at in 2020. She anticipates having the market report at the end of October or early November and will present it to Council after that. She said, "It does reaffirm that the City doing this process at this time is important. It is the right thing to do, and in order for the City to meet our compensation philosophy that was adopted by Council a couple years ago, we will probably be in a position to need to make some adjustments to remain competitive. Almost every municipality around us has implemented significant and dramatic changes to their compensation plan, and I believe that we are running behind."

She also shared that she and HR Officer Ladd are working a confidential report of potentially actionable information from exit interviews. They have learned that some public safety personnel have found higher rates of pay closer to home. They have also learned that people enjoy working for the City and feel as if they are making a difference.

E. Other items for discussion

7. Financial Review

A. Financial Statements and Project Worksheets

Director Hamilton said revenues are tracking at 14% and expenses are tracking at 18% of the budget one quarter into FY24. Property tax bills go out in October and the City will begin to realize that income in December and January.

She pointed out that the City used some of the reserved tourism funds as they need to be used within 2 years. She also noted that \$2.2 million of the budget “is or will be fully or partly covered by grants or the State’s budget, and those revenues are not included in our budget.”

The General Fund is running at 12% of budget revenues and 23% of budgeted expenses. Parking revenue is at 46% of the budget. Other revenues such as court and interest income are at 44% of the budget. Director Hamilton also confirmed the projected slow down in business licenses and permits.

The cash balance is almost \$42 million, and the City earned interest at a rate of 5.6%.

Auditors will begin their annual process next Monday. She anticipates the audit presentation at the December meeting.

The only tourism funds received in September was \$153,000 in hospitality taxes.

She pointed out the \$42,000 change order for Thomas & Hutton and a \$171,000 to Quality Enterprises on the Phase 3 project worksheet. \$99,000 was paid to Davis & Floyd for the Drainage Master Plan, and that worksheet will be closed out this month.

Upon a question from Council Member Ward, Director Hamilton said she believes the City to be in a financially strong position with a strong credit rating and strong cash balances. She said the City’s budget cannot run at a deficit. She said that while it may look like the City is running at a deficit, “some of those funds are coming from the reserve fund. They may not be in the budget collected this fiscal year because we are using some of the reserve funds that have already been collected.”

Council members discussed the City’s decision during the budget process to dip into tourism reserves to complete some tourism-related projects and how that appears on the balance sheets. Administrator Fragoso pointed out that grant revenue is not anticipated in the budget, so there will be expenditures for those projects that will be covered by the grant revenue the City receives during the fiscal year.

8. Procurement

A. Report of approval of contract in the amount of \$21,942 to Manor Fence and Specialty for the installation of the new fence at the Bark Park

Administrator Fragoso said they received several responses to the RFP for the fence at the Bark Park. The awarded contract for \$21,942 came in under budget.

B. Report of award of Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$48,104 for exercise equipment for Fire Department’s Wellness and Fitness Program [City’s 5% share is \$3,036]

Administrator Fragoso said, “The City received another grant last month from FEMA, and this is to purchase physical equipment for the gyms for both stations. This is an effort to enhance our wellness program for the Fire Department. This grant is covered at 95%. 95% of the cost is covered by FEMA.”

9. Capital Projects Update

Administrator Fragoso said the 30th Avenue outfall project is complete. Work on the 36th Avenue outfall begins next week, and the road detour is scheduled to start on October 17. Notices have been issued to all property owners in the area and it has been on social media as well.

The vendor for the 41st Avenue outfall project has been selected. There will be a kickoff meeting with them (The Bastian Group) this week. The project includes outfall improvements and piping a section of the ditch to 41st Avenue. Once the contract is executed, the City will request a change order from the Bastian Group to learn the price to pipe the ditch so Council can decide if it is a cost-effective option.

She reported that the bid from the Bastian Group came in \$900,000 over budget, but after follow-up conversations with the Office of Resilience, they agreed to provide the additional funds “highlighting the importance of this infrastructure and its connection to our fire station.”

The City is working on the contract with Thomas & Hutton for the design, engineering, and permitting of the Waterway Boulevard Multi-Use Path project. The City has applied for a FEMA construction grant that will pay for 90% of the construction costs. They anticipate the award for that grant in the first quarter of 2024. Since the project was identified as a priority by the SC Emergency Management Division, they expect it to be funded. There is still a fair amount of work that needs to be done before actual work begins in January.

Staff held a meeting on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan last week. The next step will be meetings with the stakeholders.

Both permits needed for the work at the public dock are on hand and the design is almost complete. After the design is reviewed, the project will be put out to bid. She reviewed the drawing included in the meeting packet.

The City is reapplying for the minor permit needed to complete the work on the T-dock. This project will be bid with the public dock work which will hopefully generate some savings. There is \$200,000 in the budget for these repairs.

The Marina dredging process is ongoing. Work is being done to identify alternatives for the dredge disposal and preparing the permit applications.

Staff has identified some beach access paths that would benefit from footbridges or ADA-compliant boardwalks. Footbridges can be installed at 26A and 36A beach accesses. These would not be ADA-compliant due to the requirements of the slope and the height of the dune. ADA-compliant boardwalks can be installed at 46th Avenue and 52nd Avenue. The next step is speaking with the neighbors in those areas to let them know of the City’s plans to enhance the beach access paths. With City Council’s approval, they will request funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt funds in January for the footbridges. The ADA-compliant boardwalks would be funded using the State grant received for this purpose.

The contract for the installation of the fire department exhaust system has been approved and completion is anticipated early next year.

Work on the outdoor fitness court is in process. Concrete should be poured this week. After the concrete has had time to cure, the equipment is to be installed the second week of November.

Installation of the new hardscape areas at the Bark Park has been completed.

The City has received the final design for the next electrical undergrounding project at 14th Avenue. The cost estimate for that project is \$100,000 and the City will cover their 50% share of the project from the \$75,000 in the budget. The necessary easements are being acquired.

Chief Cornett and Administrator Fragoso met with SCDOT staff yesterday to review some preliminary drawings for the Palm Boulevard bike and pedestrian enhancements. SCDOT will be making some revisions based on that meeting. The concept drawings will be made available after the revisions are done.

The IOP Connector project has been given to another engineering firm and there will be a kickoff meeting with them next month.

10. Legislative Report

11. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk



**City Council 10/10/23; Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 24 since 4/13/2022)
Regarding NOISE ORDINANCE; NUISANCE.**

Requesting for the **seventeenth (17th) time** (twice in writing) to provide us written assurances regarding enforcement of **§ 9-2-5 (b)(c)**. **"Amplified Music"** from Sweetgrass has resulted into a **"Nuisance"**, which is being perpetrated by the City, as a result of not enforcing the ordinance.

The **"Nuisance"** verbiage in the current ordinance, was eliminated in the proposed ordinance by the Public Safety Committee; a 2 to 1 vote. What is the reason we would eliminate **"Nuisance"** verbiage from the ordinance? Our speculation; an effort to eliminate the **"sins of the past"**; clearly at the expense of the residents, who have an event center located in their neighborhood.

The Empire continues to violate the above section; the administration, and this council, continues to perpetrate their actions. No one has stepped up, taking the bull by the horns, and directed the Empire to discontinue taunting us. **Livability Statistics: September – 30 Noise Complaints resulting in 14 Warnings; 1 Citation. August— 17 Noise Complaints resulting in (6) Warnings; (0) Citations. Combined, 47 Complaints resulting in 20 Warnings (42.5%); 1 Citations (2.1%); (See attached).**

Interestingly, in the same period above, **"Business License"; 15 complaints** resulting in **15 citations.....100%!**

Planning Commission will be discussing decibel levels to the proposed noise ordinance . We believe in designating a **neutral zone** between the Sweetgrass Inn and our residential community. In an effort to protect our rights and livability, decibel measurements from the source, be within twenty (20) feet from the source.

Will a new noise ordinance greatly improve our Livability, or will it legalize bad behavior?

Any dialogue with the Lowe Boys or Mr. Dart regarding our **"Back to the Future"** proposal? Respectfully, I know Ms. Haack "intently" listens to my comments; they are aware. We are requesting they honor their oral commitments.

Their inability or unwillingness to honor past commitments, casts seeds of doubt regarding any future commitments.

Agenda Item 6.

"Strategic Plan Policy Initiatives and Priorities

Mission Statement: To be the most sustainable, family-friendly beach community in South Carolina.

Vision Statement: To be a welcoming, environmentally conscious and resilient coastal community committed to enhancing the quality of life for those who come here to live, work and play. "

On 9/12/23 we respectfully, requested an asterisk (*) be added to the **Vision Statement** which states: ***Excluding residents which are located in proximity to the Sweetgrass Inn. An oversight? The Crowes are Calling!!**

9/2023



ISLE OF PALMS POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2023



Livability Statistics * 8/2023 + 9/2023

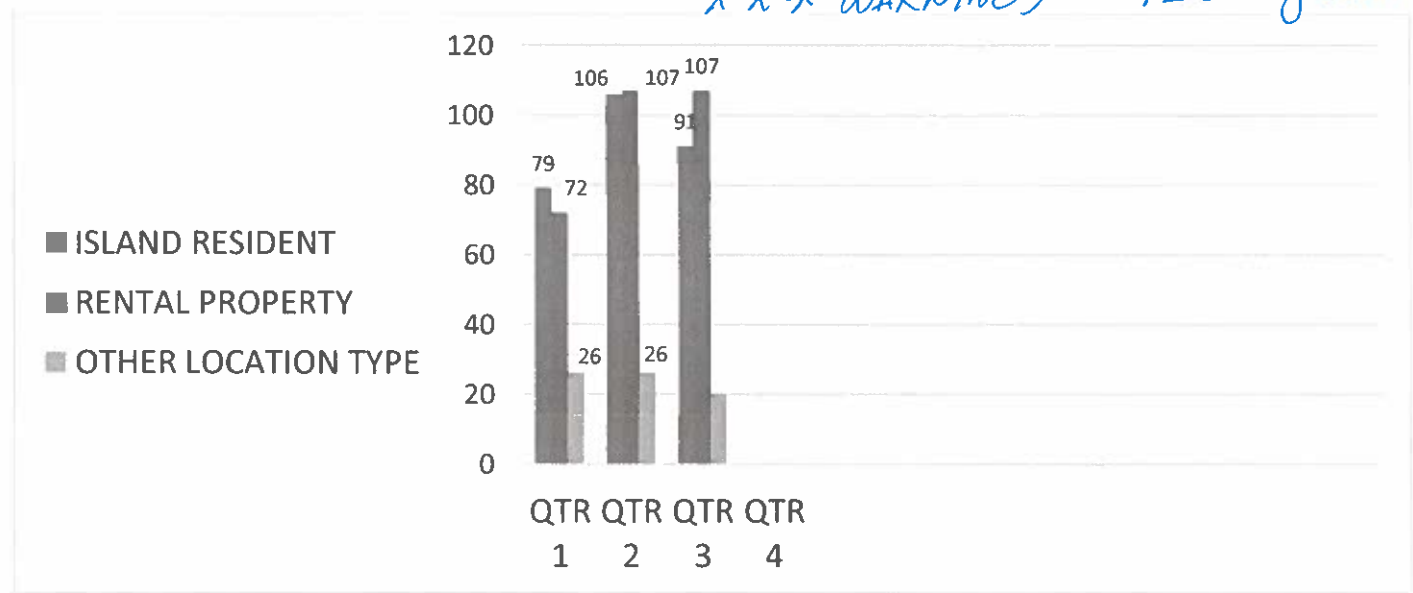
LIVABILITY COMPLAINTS	ISLAND RESIDENT	RENTAL PROPERTY	OTHER LOCATIONS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
NOISE	7	14	9	30
FIREWORKS	0	0	0	0
UNKEMPT LOTS	0	0	0	0
RIGHT-OF-WAY OBSTRUCTION	0	0	0	0
BUSINESS LICENSE	4	2	1	7
OTHER RENTAL PROPERTY VIOLATIONS NOT LISTED	0	1	0	1
SHORT TERM RENTAL OCCUPANCY VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	0
SHORT TERM RENTAL VEHICLE LIMIT VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	0
ROLL CART VIOLATIONS	12	17	0	29
TOTAL	23	34	10	67
% BY CATEGORY	34%	51%	15%	

CITATIONS	*** WARNINGS	UNFOUNDED	COMPLAINT DISPOSITION
0 + 1 = 1	6 + 14 = 20	11 + 15 = 26	17 + 30 = 47
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
7	0	0	7
0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	29	0	29
8	44	15	67
12%	66%	22%	

** CITATIONS = 2.1% of COMPLAINTS

Livability Complaint by Property Type

*** WARNINGS = 42.5% of COMPLAINTS



8/2023

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ISLE OF PALMS POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2023



Livability Statistics

LIVABILITY COMPLAINTS	ISLAND RESIDENT	RENTAL PROPERTY	OTHER LOCATIONS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS
NOISE	5	7	5	17
FIREWORKS	0	0	0	0
UNKEMPT LOTS	1	1	0	2
RIGHT-OF-WAY OBSTRUCTION	2	0	0	2
BUSINESS LICENSE	6	2	0	8
OTHER RENTAL PROPERTY VIOLATIONS NOT LISTED	0	0	0	0
SHORT TERM RENTAL OCCUPANCY VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	0
SHORT TERM RENTAL VEHICLE LIMIT VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	0
ROLL CART VIOLATIONS	18	22	0	40
TOTAL	32	32	5	69
% BY CATEGORY	46%	46%	7%	

CITATIONS	WARNINGS	UNFOUNDED	COMPLAINT DISPOSITION
0	6	11	17
0	0	0	0
0	2	0	2
0	2	0	2
8	0	0	8
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
11	29	0	40
19	39	11	69
28%	57%	16%	

Livability Complaint by Property Type

