



CITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:00pm, Tuesday, November 28, 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, Ward, Bogosian, Streetman, Anderson, Popson, Miars, Pierce, and Mayor Pounds

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

2. Citizen's Comments

Terri Haack, speaking on behalf of the owners of Wild Dunes, thanked City Council and the staff to their service to the residents and businesses on the island.

Jimmy Bernstein, 13 Beachwood East, spoke about the severity of the erosion at Beachwood East. He implored Council to act quickly to protect the area. He hopes some of the sand brought up by the beneficial use project can be used in this area.

3. Approval of previous meetings' minutes

A. City Council Meeting – October 24, 2023

B. Special City Council Meeting – November 13, 2023

C. Special City Council Meeting – November 14, 2023

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the minutes, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business -- none

Update on emergency beach restoration work between Breach Inlet and 314 Ocean Boulevard and between 12 and 17 Beachwood East

Mr. Steven Traynum of Coastal Science & Engineering spoke to the current conditions of the work at Breach Inlet and Beachwood East and recommendations for continued action in those areas. He said tides and winds have remained higher than expected, but he has seen changes in the erosion patterns in the Breach Inlet area. Contractors continue to move the most sand for the lowest price, adding sand to the hardest hit areas with the goal of protecting structures, the dunes, and the access to the public beach.

Approximately 45,000 yards of material have been scraped and 10,000 yards have been trucked in. Much of that has already eroded. 800 sandbags have been installed. The dune has held well but it will require continued maintenance. Mr. Traynum added that he is not sure if these winds and tides are a new normal and noted that sea level rise has been the fastest its been in the last five years.

Mr. Traynum said the beach from the pier to 53rd Avenue is “incredibly healthy” and “wider than it has been” since they have been measuring the beach.

He recommends the continued trucking in of more sand. He believes enough funds have been allocated to continue this work into the new year.

Mr. Traynum reported that the Army Corps’ beneficial use project is out for bid and the bids will be opened on December 29. He expects work to begin in early February.

Administrator Fragoso said, “Just for the record, of the budget that was approved by Council of \$1.25 million for the trucking and scraping operation, we have about \$480,000 left before we deplete that, and the sandbags, the budget approved was \$250,000. We have about \$75,000 left, which we want to keep some because there’s going to be ongoing maintenance and replacement of sandbags that we will need down in that area.”

Mr. Traynum explained that the area at Beachwood East is at the beginning of the worst stage of a shoal pass-by cycle. He said a shift is anticipated and “we were working towards a permit to shift sand around from accretional areas on the island. That is part of what has been approved. So we are beginning that permitting process to try to put sand in this area so we can buy enough time to let this process occur without having to do a large scale nourishment project.”

For Beachwood East, Mr. Traynum recommends doing “a limited sand scraping effort just to try to get some sand back up against that escarpment and get some distance between the pool and some of these other structures, but then looking towards sandbags as a longer term fix until either the shoal attaches and accretes naturally or we can implement a larger project.”

Administrator Fragoso added, “Just to clarify the timeline, the permitting process for the shoal management process is underway. Our goal is to have an application ready by the end of the year and have a public meeting in January with folks around that project area very similar to what we did a few weeks ago for the Breach Inlet folks.”

Mayor Pounds said, “That’s for the shoal management, not the redistribution or sandbags or scraping or trucking. That is more immediate.”

Administrator Fragoso said, “We’re going to talk about the recommendations for short-term emergency work that we want to be prepared for. We would need Council approval for some funds to do that emergency work. The shoal management project, the earliest that we would be able to start work, assuming we get a permit from the State, would be next fall of 2024.” The area will be inspected by the State next week to make sure it meets the threshold.

Mr. Traynum recommends sandbags of a geotextile fiber material in the Beachwood East area as they are easier to maintain. They are more expensive. He anticipates needing to sandbag an area

of 700-750 feet. He estimates a cost of \$300,000 to put in the initial revetment in place and maintain it for a period of time.

Mayor Pounds clarified that the Army Corps of Engineers will put \$10 million worth of sand on the beach and the City is not paying for that.

Administrator Fragoso said, "I think it's important to understand that the reason this is a beneficial use project that the Corps is doing, and their primary goal is to create more space in their sediment sites on the Intercoastal. So they are removing some of the sand that we know is beach compatible to the beach for beneficial use. They know we need it. They need the space, so they are going to be removing it, and that is why the City is not paying for the portion of the project that the Corps is doing."

5. New Business

A. Consideration of additional funding for beach restoration work for the areas between Breach Inlet and 314 Ocean Boulevard and 12 and 17 Beachwood East

Administrator Fragoso explained, "The work at Breach Inlet that has already been approved by Council, the \$1.25 million, to continue to restore and maintain the area through the timing of the Army Corps project early next year. We still have funds available. We have about \$400,000 left, so I don't think we are at a point that we need to request additional dollars. It depends. If we continue to get hammered by these tides and the sand that we are bringing in and trucking in is going away, we may need to come before you all to do that. But at this point, we don't think we need to. The additional request of \$300,000 would be something that Council needs to approve. We would need to the emergency order from the State first to allow us to do this emergency work, and after that we would select a contractor. We have a contractor on the island doing work for the City, so we anticipate the mobilization to be fairly quickly, and the quotes to be similar if not favorable for that work. That is work that has not yet been authorized and we would need an authorization from Council in order to do that."

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve up to \$300,000 of funding from the Beach Preservation Fund for beach restoration work in the areas between Breach Inlet and 314 Ocean Boulevard and 12 and 17 Beachwood East. Council Member Streetman second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and consideration of the wage and compensation study and recommendations

Mayor Pounds said the rapid changes in the employment market need to be addressed through the wage and compensation study. He expressed an urgency to have something in place by January 1, 2024. He knows it will be a "significant spend," but it "needs to be impactful and it needs to be spent well."

Council Member Bogosian said the Administration Committee has met to discuss this study, but they would like more time to gather information and speak to staff before making a

recommendation to Council. A Special City Council meeting to discuss and consider their recommendations was discussed for December 18.

Mayor Pounds would like to see City Council allocate funds that would allow the City Administrator and department heads to create the pay equity they seek.

C. Consideration of change order from Quality Enterprises for Phase 3 Drainage Project in the amount of \$31,356 to cover additional material quantities due to rotating junction box structure and additional paving quantities

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Consideration of change order from Coastal Science & Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$65,000 for ongoing engineering services related to the emergency beach work around the Breach Inlet area

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Consideration of addition of the license registration module to Rentalscape agreement in the amount of \$15,000

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Consideration of recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee to continue glass recycling program at an annual cost of \$9,600

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bogosian asked if grant funds were available for this expenditure. Director Kerr reported that Fisher Recycling applied for grant funding last year and was not successful. He will ask them to apply again this year.

G. Consideration of installing apparatus bay fans and LED light upgrades in Fire Station 2 in the amount of \$53,145

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Consideration of recommendation from the ATAX Committee of State Accommodations grant requests for tourism-related expenditures

MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to discuss the allocation to the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Miars expressed concern about allocating funds to the IOP Chamber of Commerce after they hosted events supporting Council candidates and expressing preferences on certain issues. She also did not feel it was appropriate for those candidates that received support from the Chamber to vote on this allocation. She believes the lights currently hanging in the business district are not aesthetically pleasing and she asked where the electricity for the lights is coming from.

Administrator Fragoso reported that the ATAX Committee vetted the request and the Chamber said they are committed to the maintenance of the lights. These new lights will be hung on the landward side of Ocean Boulevard in the business district. The City provides the electricity, which is included in the cost of the electricity provided to other City spaces in that area such as the bathrooms and municipal parking lots. She shared that the idea originated from quarterly meetings with the Front Beach business owners as a beautification effort.

Council Member Anderson expressed concern about the lights coming down in a storm, and Administrator Fragoso said the lights were not affected by Hurricane Idalia.

Council Member Pierce expressed concern about the liability and believes it should be a City project. Council Member Miars does not believe these types of lights are meant to be used commercially.

Council Member Streetman added that Chamber leadership vetted the idea with numerous department heads prior to taking their request to the ATAX Committee.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the \$10,000 expenditure from ATAX funds to the IOP Chamber of Commerce for the Light-Up Front Beach initiative. Council Member Popson seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Hahn, Ward, Streetman, Popson, Anderson, Pounds

Nays: Bogosian, Miars, Pierce

The motion passed 6-3.

MOTION: Council Member Popson made a motion to approve the \$20,000 expenditure from ATAX funds to Mary Alice Monroe, Ltd. Contingent upon receipt of their completed application for 501(C)(3) status. Council Member Miars seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso said she believes the application has been received, but she has not had time to review it yet.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to approve the \$2,500 expenditure from ATAX funds YWCA Greater Charleston for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Week VIP Reception. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.

Council Member Anderson explained the YWCA is an organization anyone can join and the limited size of this event is due to the size of the venue.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

I. Discussion and consideration of parking management proposals

Administrator Fragoso, referencing comparative reports and scoring in the meeting packet, said the choices for the parking management companies being considered have been narrowed to Municipal PCI and Pivot Parking. She will “review the total contract cost, projections of the free structure, and make a decision based on that motion to move forward with PCI and Pivot.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve further review of Municipal PCI and Pivot Parking. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A decision will be brought to Council in January.

J. Discussion and consideration of public dock and T-dock proposals

Administrator Fragoso said about the public dock project: “That project is budgeted in FY24. We included \$1.7 million for that piece. We received bids mid-last week. We are still going through it. The lowest bid that we received on this project is Truluck Construction. We had a lower bid that was received late and therefore not eligible to be considered by the City. We are preparing to make a recommendation for the City to agree and approve a contract to Truluck Construction. I would ask that City Council approves a not to exceed amount of \$1.7 million which is the budget amount for the public dock. The bids came back much lower than that, so we anticipate that even with some of the alternates that we are considering to add, we will be under budget. I still don’t have a final recommendation from ATM after reviewing all of the qualifications and the information in their bid package. But contingent upon receiving that, what we have seen so far is favorable. So contingent upon receiving that, I would like to be able to execute a contract. Once we do that, without having to wait until January when Council convenes again. So my recommendation is for Council to approve a not to exceed of \$1.7 million, which is consistent with the budget, and I will report once the final contract amount is agreed to.”

Council Member Popson spoke in favor of Truluck Construction.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a to approve an amount not to exceed \$1.7 million for work on the public dock. Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the T-dock, Administrator Fragoso explained, “You remember our plan was to include this as a bid alternate. We do have some base activities that we included in the base bid and that includes repairs to the fixed pier, the floating dock, new installation of an electrical system, potable water system, and replacing all of the fire extinguisher pedestals. That amount comes to about \$115,000. The budget in FY24 is \$200,000. There are some items under alternates that we want to discuss with the tenants further and review further. There are some significant discrepancies between the three quotes. So we are evaluating whether there is some work that could be done separately. The City bidding it at a different time as a different project.

So again, I am requesting Council to approve an amount not to exceed \$200,000, understanding that we would be engaging Truluck for some of the components, would not exceed that amount.”

The City will rebid some portions of the project to get better numbers.

MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$200,000 for the work on the T-dock. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Boards and Commissions Reports

- A. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – no meeting in November
- B. **Planning Commission** – minutes attached
- C. **Accommodations Tax Advisory Board** – minutes attached
- D. **Environmental Advisory Committee** – minutes attached

7. Ordinances, Resolutions and Petitions

- A. **Second Reading – none**
- B. **First Reading – Ordinance 2023-12** – to amend standing committees from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Pierce made a motion to discuss. Council Member Miars seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Bogosian, Miars, Streetman, Popson, Anderson, Pierce, Pounds
Nays: Hahn, Ward

The motion passed 7-2.

Council Member Pierce asked about a 30-60 day extension of this ordinance which would allow new Council members to weigh in on the matter. Administrator Fragoso said amendments can be made at Second Reading at the January Council meeting. Mayor Pounds said no Committee meetings will be held in January.

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolutions and Petitions

- i. **Resolution Authorizing Consumption of beer and wine only, amplified noise and street closure at the Holiday Street Festival on December 2, 2023**

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve and waive the reading, and Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Resolution to adopt the Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation and Program for Public Information Plan

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve and waive the reading, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Executive Session -- none

9. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk