



# Accomplishments Report

2019

[www.iop.net](http://www.iop.net)

# Who we are

City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina



The Isle of Palms is a seven-mile-long barrier island located eight miles east of Charleston on the South Carolina coast. The island is bounded on the north by Hamlin Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway, on the east by Dewees Inlet and Dewees Island, on the south by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west by Breach Inlet and Sullivan's Island.

Isle of Palms is primarily a residential community with resort amenities and a relatively large commercial base when compared to other barrier island communities in the area.

The City is home to approximately 4,363 residents with a median age of 55. The City has a highly skilled and educated citizenry, with 99.2% of the City's population having at least a high school graduate degree or higher.

The median property value in Isle of Palms is \$777,200, which is over 3 times larger than the national average. The median household income is \$92,222, almost double than the national average.

Isle of Palms has a total of 4,372 housing units, 1,480 of which are occupied by year-round residents.



Mayor Jimmy Carroll  
Member: Ways and Means Committee



Randy Bell  
Chair: Real Property Committee  
Member: Public Safety Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Ryan Buckhannon  
Chair: Public Safety Committee  
Member: Recreation Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Ted Kinghorn  
Member: Public Works Committee, Ways and Means Committee

# Isle of Palms City Council



John Moye  
Chair: Personnel Committee  
Member: Recreation Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Sandy Ferencz  
Member: Real Property Committee, Personnel Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Carol Rice  
Chair: Public Works Committee  
Member: Personnel Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Susan Smith  
Chair: Recreation Committee  
Member: Public Works Committee, Ways and Means Committee



Jimmy Ward  
Chair: Ways and Means Committee  
Member: Real Property Committee

# Infrastructure Improvements

- Completed the 2018 Beach Nourishment Project, which placed approximately 1,685,000 cubic yards of sand on the western end of the beach. This project was funded by a combination of local, state, federal and private funds.
- Planted dune vegetation on the beach restoration project area. The vegetation serves as an anchor for wind-blown sediment and promotes continuous dune growth. The City also established a matching program to encourage and facilitate additional plantings of dune vegetation on the beach.
- Completed the Phase II Drainage project between 45<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues. This project provides drainage to areas where there was no drainage infrastructure and where flooding occurred regularly and for prolonged periods of time.
- Started the design, engineering and permitting of Phase III Drainage, which will consist of drainage improvements to the 30th, 36th and 41st Avenue outfalls.
- Started the design and engineering for five small but high impact internal projects located on Sparrow Drive, Forest Trail, Cross Lane, 32nd Avenue and 41st Avenue. The construction of these improvements is estimated at \$500,000.

# Infrastructure Improvements

- Began the design and engineering of the Public Safety Building rehabilitation project. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2020. This project is estimated at \$6.2M.
- Renovated the Public Works Workshop and replaced the roof, installed new electronic bay doors and updated and reconfigured the office space to accommodate the new Assistant Director position.
- Began the design and engineering for the Isle of Palms Marina dock rehabilitation project. This project involves replacing the docks in kind as much as possible, make them ADA compliant while using up-to-date design standards.
- Replaced the underground fuel storage tanks at Public Works and the Marina with doubled walled tanks.
- Completed numerous upgrades and improvements to City buildings and facilities through the City's new initiative to address deferred maintenance and establish an ongoing maintenance program for all buildings and facilities. The City began budgeting 1% of the insured value of City buildings to support this initiative.

The City of  Isle of Palms

# Breach Inlet

## DOG RULES

DOGS MUST BE LEASHED AND UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL, EVEN IN THE WATER.

APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 14

EXCEPT THESE HOURS: 5:00 A.M. UNTIL 9:00 A.M.  
SEPTEMBER 15 - MARCH 31  
4:00 P.M. UNTIL 10:00 A.M.

DOG OWNERS MUST HAVE LEASH IN HAND, HAVE THEIR DOG UNDER VOICE COMMAND AND MUST CLEAN UP EXCREMENT

## PROHIBITED

- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, GLASS CONTAINERS
- OVERNIGHT SLEEPING, TENTS, BEACH CHAIRS & UMBRELLAS
- FIREWORKS
- FIRES / GRILLING
- GOLF CARTS OR VEHICLES ON THE BEACH & PATHS

Enjoy your time and please keep the beach clean using trash and recycling containers.

[www.iop.net](http://www.iop.net)

## PROTECT WILD DOLPHINS

- View dolphins from a distance (200' recommended)
- Avoid approaching, harassing with, chasing, or touching dolphins
- Do not feed dolphins. It's harmful and illegal.
- Keep quiet while dolphins are feeding.



Dolphins are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. FINES UP TO \$10,000 FOR FEEDING OR HARASSING WILD DOLPHINS.

[www.lowcountrymarinemammalnetwork.org](http://www.lowcountrymarinemammalnetwork.org)

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

**CALL 911**  
FOR NON-EMERGENCY  
CALL 843-886-6522

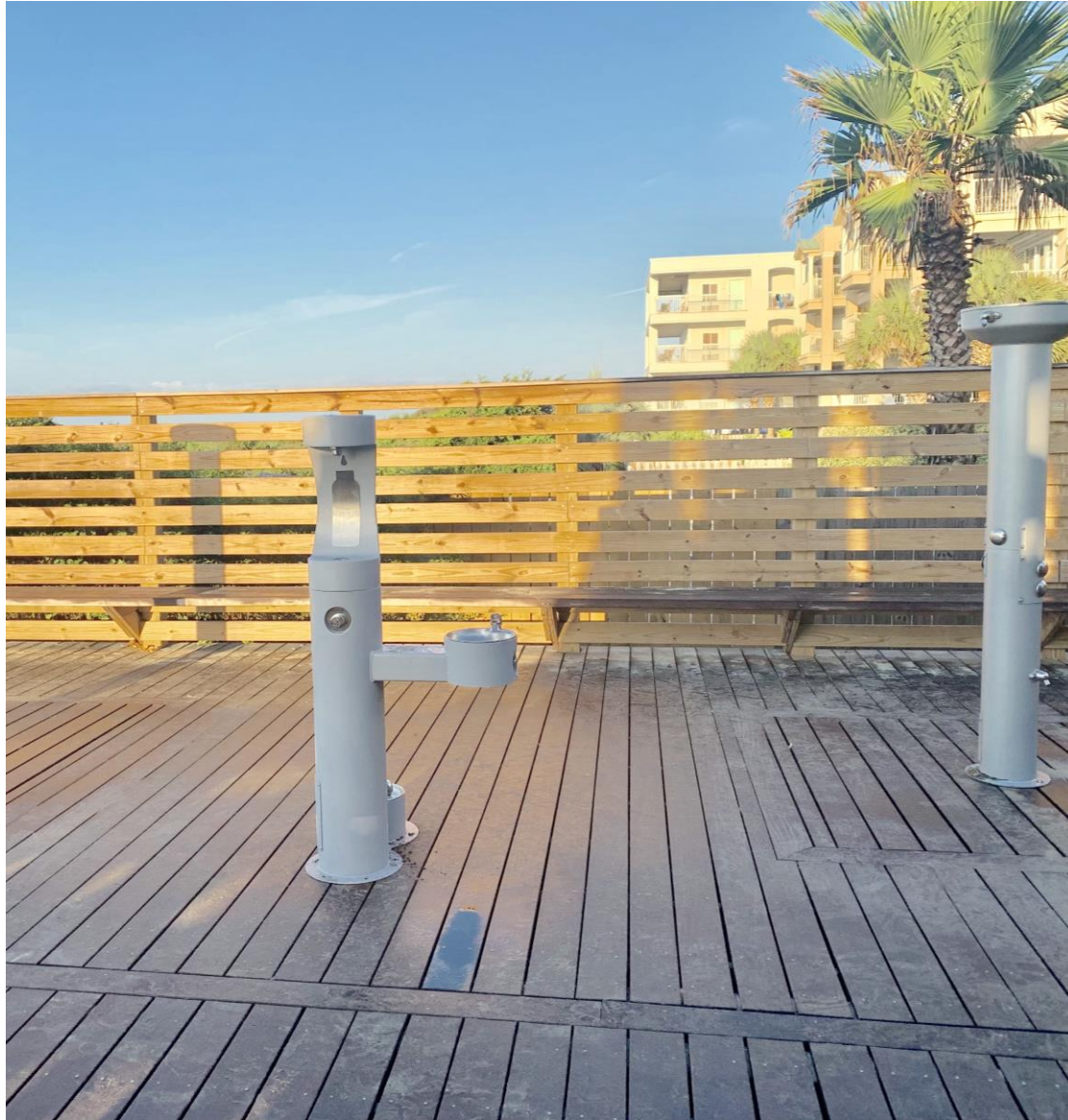
## Community Enhancements

- Added new beach access path signage at Breach Inlet, 31A and 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to enhance messaging to visitors and reduce sign litter. The new signs have been installed at Breach Inlet, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 31A, 42<sup>nd</sup>, 53<sup>rd</sup>, Sea Cabins and the Public Restrooms on Front Beach.
- Began replacing and updating the dog waste stations with a more durable and modern model.
- Repaired and resurfaced the tennis courts at the Recreation Center and added pickle ball.
- Replaced the Recreation Center's gymnasium floor with a maple-looking shock floor.
- Completed the design of the IOP Connector and Palm Boulevard sidewalk extension project funded by the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax. Construction is scheduled to be completed before spring of 2020.

# Community Enhancements

- Added **new recreational and leisure programs** in the Recreation Department to include Wood Carving, Science with Sam, Gardening and Landscape Design, Spanish conversational classes, Pickle Ball lessons, Cardio and Strength class and an additional Barre class to meet the growing demand.
- Coordinated **10 special events** throughout the year, including the Halloween Carnival, Front Beach Fest, Easter Egg Hunt, Music in the Park, Holiday Street Festival and Ghostly Tide Tales.
- Relocated the **Isle of Palms Farmer's Market** to the Recreation Center increasing community participation every week.
- Established a **Fitness Pass** to offer more flexibility and encourage participation in a variety of fitness classes at a reduced rate.
- Hosted the annual **Wellness Fair** offering free blood testing for employees and the community.
- Increased frequency of maintenance to the **beach access paths**.





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# Sustainability & the Environment

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- **Prohibited** the distribution at point of sale and use of **single-use plastics** and Styrofoam products on the beach starting on January 1, 2020.
- Installed an **ADA compliant water bottle filling station** with a pet fountain on the new boardwalk at Front Beach to encourage sustainability and reduce plastic waste.
- **Prohibited smoking** cigarettes, cigars, pipes and vaping devices on the beach and beach access paths starting on January 1, 2020.
- City Council approved a resolution **opposing seismic testing** in the Atlantic Ocean related to oil and gas resource development off the South Carolina coast.



# Resilience

- Council approved legislation to reduce permissible residential density by doubling the minimum lot size for subdivision to 35,000 square feet for lots in SR-1 and 16,000 square feet for lots in SR-2.
- Council approved legislation to reduce the maximum lot area that may be covered with impervious surfaces from 40% to 35%. The ordinance also requires all hard landscaping, including walkways, driveways, pool surrounds, and ground level patios, to be constructed using pervious materials.
- Council approved legislation to implement requirements that will cause the incremental expansion of the public sewer system when reasonable by reducing the floor to area ratio and lot coverage for houses on septic, requiring houses within 150' of public sewer line to extend and tie into the sewer system, prohibiting new subdivisions from using septic systems and requiring houses on septic with sewer available in front of their property to tie in when they sell.



# Employee Recognition

- Celebrated “**Ice Cream Day**” by having an ice cream truck stop by every City department for employees to pick an icy tasty treat to cool off from the summer heat.
- Hosted the **Employee Appreciation Event** where employees were recognized for their longevity and contributions to the City.
- Established the **Leola Hanbury Award**. The award will be given annually to one employee displaying exemplary service, going above and beyond normal job requirements and expectations, demonstrated integrity and a strong commitment to the City of Isle of Palms. The first recipient was Russell Roper from the Public Works Department.
- Hosted the **first Police Department Awards Dinner**, where Officer J. Anderson was awarded Rookie of the Year, Administrative Assistant Tracy Waldron was awarded Professional Staff of the Year, and FTO A. Postell was awarded Officer of the Year. Many other staff members were also recognized for their commitments and services to the City of Isle of Palms.



# Governance & Operations

- City Council appointed Desirée Fragoso as the new **City Administrator**. Administrator Fragoso joined the City in 2015 as the Assistant City Administrator. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the College of Charleston.
- Hired Ronald E. Hanna as the new **Assistant City Administrator** and Robert Asero for the newly created position of **Assistant Public Works Director for Facilities and Maintenance**.
- City Hall organized and provided **comprehensive meeting packets** to facilitate over 132 official sessions of the City Council, Committees and Boards and Commissions, supporting openness, transparency and informed decision-making.
- Developed a **Council Orientation Program and Handbook** to help introduce new council members to important processes and the organization of the City. The handbook includes important information about role and responsibilities of both the Council and staff as well as parliamentary procedures, ethics and administrative processes.
- Started **live-streaming** Council and committee meetings on the City's YouTube channel and **upgraded the audio-visual equipment** in Council Chambers.

# Governance & Operations

- Implemented a new budget process that incorporates **financial forecasting**.
- Ended FY19 in a **strong financial position** with a combined governmental fund balance in excess of \$19M, of which approximately \$3.5M has been earmarked for FY20 spending .
- Implemented **wage adjustments** for police officers to create a more competitive Police Department.
- Effectively coordinated and safely executed the **4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks** displays.
- Solicited proposals and began negotiations for a new lease **for Isle of Palms Marina Restaurant**.
- Began the implementation of a new **short-term rental compliance monitoring** software to ensure compliance to the City's regulations on short term rentals.
- Planning Commission completed an in-depth analysis of the **short-term rental regulations** and made recommendations to City Council to be reviewed in 2020.
- Implemented changes to the **Beach Parking Plan** to better manage beach traffic and parking and ensure the safety of residents and visitors.
- Developed a **cyber-security policy** to mitigate security risks and help avoid and respond to cyber threats.



# Protecting our City



## New Chief of Police

City Council appointed Kevin Cornett as the new Chief of Police.

Chief Cornett started his law enforcement career in the City of Columbia as a Police Officer in 2005 rising through the ranks prior to becoming the Chief of Police in Springdale in 2012.

Chief Cornett has a master's degree in Criminal Justice with a focus on Leadership and Management.

## Community Building

To build and strengthen positive relationships between Police Officers and the community, the Department hosted and/or participated in many successful events such as the National Night Out, Sullivan's Island Elementary School Halloween Carnival, Coffee with a Cop, Cops on Top of Doughnut Shops, Community Meetings, Pops with Cops, and most of the events hosted by the City.

## Reserve Officer Program

The Isle of Palms Police Department reinstated a Reserve Officer Program which allows for qualified individuals to apply and train to be a volunteer reserve police officer.

This program is a cost effective alternative to supply additional resources during times when call volume increases.

# Protecting our City



## Fire Apparatus Upgrades

The City's new 75' Ladder Truck is under construction and scheduled to be delivered and in service on January 2020.

The 2003 95' Tower Truck was successfully transported to Florida where it will undergo a \$600,000 refurbishment.



## Community Building

Re-instated the Child Safety Seat program with increased certified technicians to assist with the installation and inspection of child safety seats.

Fire Department increased participation in community events with the inclusion of Sparky, the Fire Dog.



## Emergency Preparedness

The Fire Department spearheaded an effort to update the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

All City departments worked together to effectively and efficiently prepare the City in advance of **Hurricane Dorian** and to clean up debris and assess damages post-storm.

# Community Partnerships

- City Council sponsored and supported an initiative between the Isle of Palms Exchange Club, the Isle of Palms Turtle Team and the City to establish the IOP Turtle Scavenger Hunt, with the goal of educating the public and promoting the roles turtles play on our island and ecology and increase awareness and excitement of the turtle visitors to our shores. The scavenger hunt will consist of 6 bronze turtle hatchlings with plaques with educational information about turtles which will be placed at various locations on Front Beach.
- The City collaborated with the VFW Post 3137 to honor our veterans and remember Pearl Harbor on December 7, 2020 as part of the Holiday Street Festival.
- The City joined a collaborative initiative with the Town of Sullivan's Island and the Charleston Visitors Bureau to develop a joint educational campaign to inform residents and visitors of the City's plastics and smoking bans and promote a litter free beach.
- The City invited the Isle of Palms Garden Club to help design the improvements to the Leola Hanbury Memorial Park.





## In process for 2020

- Initiated the Strategic Planning Process with the Joseph P. Riley Center for Livable Communities from the College of Charleston. This process is scheduled to kick off in January 2020.
- Initiated the Request for Proposal process to seek grant writers to assist the City in identifying and applying for a variety of federal, state and local funding sources to enhance the City's ability to pursue projects and initiatives.
- Council approved using the City's Greenbelt Program allocation to construct an ADA compliant beach walkover and observation deck at 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- Began developing an online financial transparency tool to provide more user friendly access to the City's budget and financial data.
- Initiated the procurement process to purchase a generator for the Public Works Workshop.