

2013 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Accounting Manual

A primary goal of City staff in all positions and departments is to ensure that City records and processes are complete, accurate and transparent. This year the City completed a multi-year effort to develop an Accounting Manual. Publication of this manual ensures that our successors and constituents can understand City fiscal policy and practice. Selected chapters include Budgeting, Cash Management, Purchasing and Accounts Payable, Monthly Closing, Financial Reporting, Contracts, and Insurance. Development of this Accounting Manual brings the City into compliance with the recommendation from our auditors.



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Consolidated 9-1-1 Center

Years of planning and preparation went into this year's transition to Charleston County's Consolidated 9-1-1 Center. The City launched a significant education efforts so citizens could understand the benefits and what to expect from the change. Most importantly, the Consolidated 9-1-1 Center dedicates two telecommunicators to each emergency to allow greater focus on both the person making the call and the emergency responders. Over time, this transition will produce a cost savings to the City. Council members and staff toured the new facility, and the City held many public meetings to allow ample time for questions. The transition successfully occurred in October.



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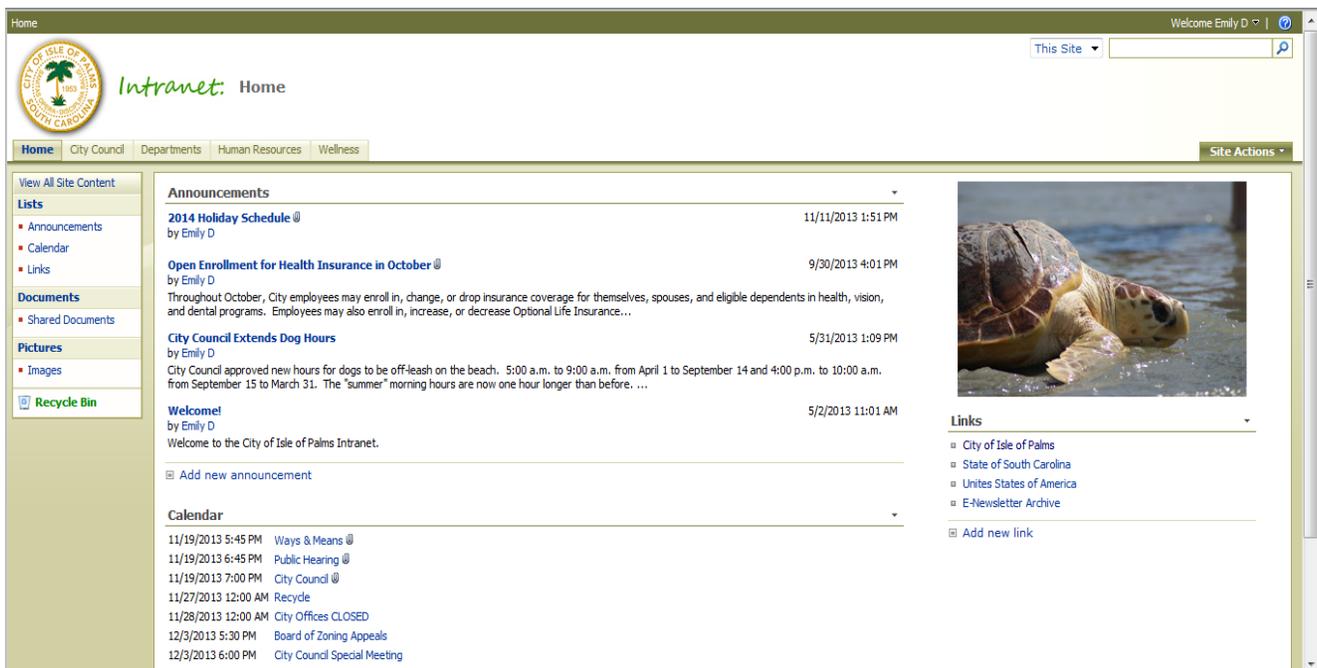
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Intranet

The City-wide “Intranet” is a valuable resource developed and launched in 2013 to allow elected officials and City employees to stay connected. The Intranet is a private website, accessible with a password, that maintains resources like benefit forms, calendars and meeting packets. Now officials and staff can log in from anywhere and get what they need.



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Beach Walkover

The City's beach walkovers protect both the dunes as people seek beach access. Maintaining the walkovers is a City priority. In 2013, the City completed replacement of the walkover across from the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Pavilion Drive, which is one of the most heavily-used.



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Wayfinding Signs Installed

Parking remains an island-wide “hot topic,” and in 2013, the City worked to help island visitors find the best parking in the Front Beach area by installing Wayfinding signs. The aesthetically pleasing signs directs visitors to the municipal parking lots in two different directions, easing back ups on the Connector. These signs are phase one in an island-wide plan to help visitors find their way.



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Parking Improvements



2013 included many steps in addition to Wayfinding signs in the City's on-going, multi-year efforts to address parking concerns on the island. In conjunction with SCDOT, signs and messaging directed beach traffic. The City maintained its practice of drawing a white chalk line to guide motorists. Also, signs protecting the line-of-sight at intersections along Palm were installed. Most importantly, City Council and staff met extensively with the City's parking consultant and assigned them the work tasks of creating a plan to implement parking permits and reviewing current conditions for parking to implement changes.

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Court Software Update

The City of Isle of Palms Municipal Court processes thousands of court cases and parking violations each year. Previously, court records were maintained on a DOS-based computer system that was difficult to maintain and unable to integrate with other systems. In 2013, City Council awarded a contract for new court software which increases accuracy and efficiency. "JEMS" can integrate with police equipment to automatically collect information by swiping drivers licenses, eliminating the need to handwrite tickets. This generates fewer errors and reduces the time of traffic stops.



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Flood Insurance Education

The passage of the Biggert-Waters act by the federal government created the potential for significant impacts on the Isle of Palms, so the City went into action. Dual efforts were made. First, the City brought in educators and utilized public meetings to help citizens understand this act, which attempts to fully fund federal flood insurance by reducing subsidies. Second, the City passed a resolution and joined with legislators on the state level to lobby the federal government to delay implementation. Information is on the City's website www.iop.net for citizens.



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45th to 51st Avenue Drainage Infrastructure

The bulk of engineering and design work for the City’s “Phase Two” drainage infrastructure project was completed in 2013. Additionally, the permits for this work were applied for, and City Council committed to maintaining the system. Even better, Charleston County awarded the City \$100,000 towards construction of this project. The City continues to reserve funds and hope to execute construction in the next few years.



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Marina Bond Refinance

The marina is one of the City's crown jewels. It was purchased with the proceeds from a bond in 1999 after a referendum in which the citizens of the island voted to acquire the property. In 2013, the City took advantage of favorable economic conditions to re-finance this bond, resulting in a net savings to the City of \$130,000.



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CALEA Re-Accreditation On-Site

In 2013, the City of Isle of Palms Police Department received an on-site visit from CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) assessors in hopes of achieving their fourth re-accreditation. This time, the Department is seeking a “Gold Standard” re-accreditation which requires a more thorough on-site visit. The on-site allows assessors to examine the work of the IOPPD for the past three years, checking to ensure that it meets the highest national standards in police work.



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Recreation Center Improvements

The “Rec,” one of the most beloved City facilities, received some exciting improvements in 2013. As the result of a donation, the Rec installed equipment to make its main entrance ADA-compliant, allowing for easier access to the building for folks needing assistance. The Rec also replaced its HVAC units, installed new porch fans, and added a shuffleboard court.



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Credit Card Acceptance

While maintaining the island's friendly, neighborhood character, the City inched toward the modern era by initiating credit card acceptance in 2013. Now, folks can pay fees and fines using a credit card at City Hall, for Municipal Court, at the Building Department, and at the Recreation Center. This convenience includes a fee, so the initiative is expense and revenue neutral for the City. This expanded service benefits those we serve.



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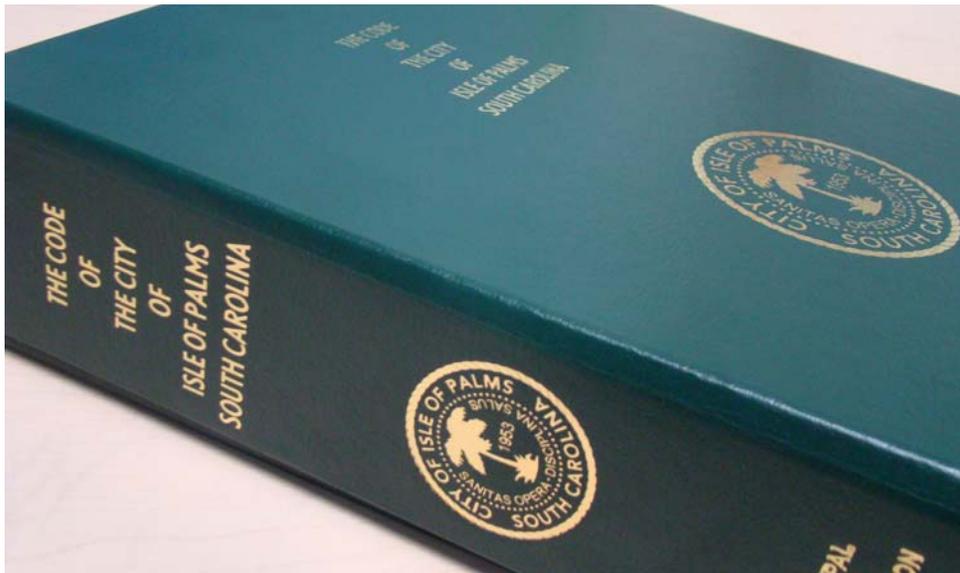
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Legislation

City Council analyzed, debated and ratified several important pieces of legislation in 2013, including: hazardous tree removal, procurement policy, quitclaiming 14th Avenue, authorizing leases for the municipal parking lots, removal of recycling containers from rights-of-way, business license due dates, adopting a fiscal year 2014 budget, and extending off-leash dog hours on the beach.



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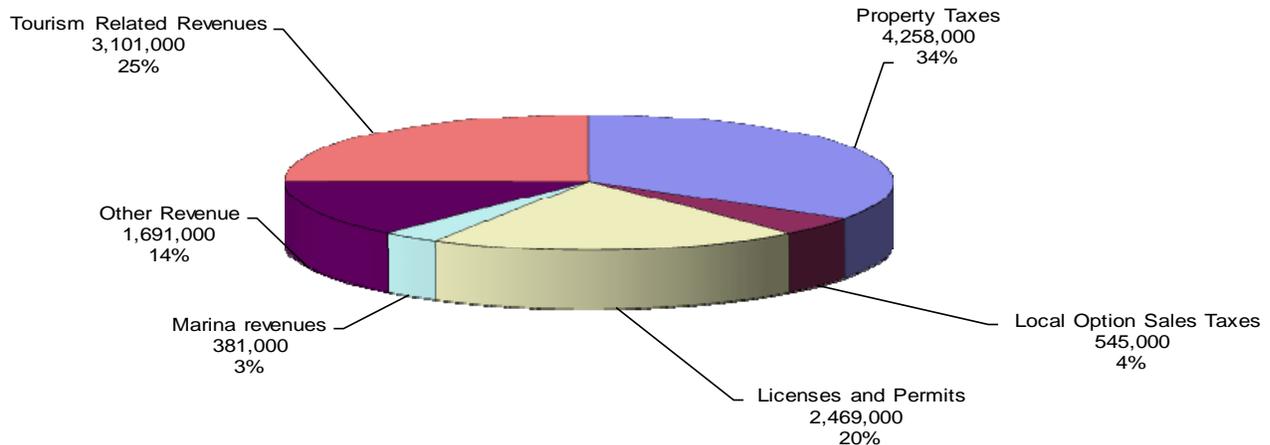
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Finance and Revenues

The City's finances were in excellent shape at the end of Fiscal Year 2013. The annual audit produced an "Unmodified" opinion. The City ended the fiscal year approximately \$800,000 better than anticipated due to expenditures being well-controlled and revenues higher than anticipated in the General Fund. \$100,000 was retained in the General Fund to build a healthy fund balance. In calendar year 2013, Council increased the disaster recovery fund by \$100,000 to build the reserve to \$2.1 million. Approximately \$600,000 was transferred to Capital Projects.

City of Isle of Palms - All Revenues - FY13



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Department Highlights

The Building Department issued approximately 550 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,352 checks, 2,897 court cases, 4,502 parking citations, and received 1,788 out-of-town visitors.

The Fire Department responded to over 850 calls including over 500 EMS calls.

The Police Department received over 39,480 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 2,125 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 12,000 visitors.

Monthly departmental reports available at:
www.iop.net/Government/AgendasMinutes.aspx



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City Council Committees

Dick Cronin, Mayor	Public Safety and Chair of Ways and Means
Jimmy Carroll	Recreation
Marty Bettelli	Personnel and Chair of Public Safety
Barbara Bergwerf	Public Safety and Chair of Recreation
Ryan Buckhannon, Mayor Pro Tem	Real Property and Chair of Public Works
Mike Loftus	Public Works and Real Property
Doug Thomas	Recreation and Chair of Personnel
Sandy Stone	Personnel and Chair of Real Property
Jimmy Ward	Public Works



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More

Mayor Cronin elected to the Board of Directors of the Municipal Association and president of the MASC's Association of Mayors.

Received improved bond rating from "Aa2" to "Aa1" from Moody's investor service.

Extending the hours of operation for parking in the Front Beach area.

Largest participation ever in IOP Beach Run, over 400.

Added new Recreation programs: Tot's Lacrosse, 6-versus-6 adult Soccer, Pilates classes, Wii Mania for School's out, and Child I.D. Program.

Executed review of vehicle signage regulations.

Changed business license due date.

Continued work on securing permit for public restrooms beach walkover.

Initiated request for proposals for engineering and design for public restrooms.

Completed extensive review of Watersports Dock condition at marina with an Request for Bids in process to rehabilitate the dock.

Increased beach monitoring to quarterly at Breach Inlet and continued beach monitoring and project-need evaluation for entire island.

Continued education efforts for addresses to be clearly marked inside and outside buildings.

Achieved 100% compliance on annual SCMIT/SCMIRF audit which results in insurance premiums.

Increased participation in City wellness program in 2013.

Awarded a Citation for Meritorious Acts of Valor and Citations for Meritorious Team Commendation to Fire Department personnel for attempting to save a life in extreme conditions.

Executed a full review of employment application and hiring practices to increase compliance with federal law.

Awarded contract to replace fuel dispensers at Isle of Palms Marina.

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More More

- Mayor Cronin awarded Barrett Lawrimore Tourism Leadership Award by CVB.
- Installed municipal court and building department sign in Wayfinding sign theme.
- Bid and awarded contract for City-wide landscaping.
- Readopted the Charleston County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Executed sales of surplus property from multiple departments in compliance with procurement.
- Aligned the beach access at 5th Avenue.
- Worked extensively with the Department of Revenue regarding accuracy of collection and disbursement of Accommodations Tax collections.
- Held nine Police Department Meet and Greets in multiple island locations.
- Initiated a Property Identification and Tagging program with the Police Department.
- Awarded street sweeping contract.
- Removed boardwalk at 41st Avenue and installed mobi-mat for stability.
- Held annual shredding and hazardous household waste recycle day.
- Worked with Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission regarding leasing municipal lots to allow for water tower refurbishment.
- Changed the dog license year to coincide with Doggie Day at the Rec.
- Evaluated feasibility of application for a Boating Infrastructure Grant.
- Issued proclamations and resolutions regarding: Pancreatic Cancer Awareness, the Charleston County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, CARTA Budget, the Exchange Club, Safety, the American Red Cross, and National Safe Boating Week Contemplated improvement to drainage at Sparrow Drive.
- Constructed improvements to City Hall parking lot to include resurfacing and replacement of broken parking stops.
- Worked with Charleston County regarding NPDES compliance on Public Works Site.
- Purchased parking kiosks for Front Beach area.

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