

2014 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Job Description and Evaluation Tool Improvements

City Council, particularly the Personnel Committee, worked diligently with staff to execute a comprehensive review, update and adoption of the job descriptions and evaluation tools that assist the City's best resource: its people. Job descriptions were brought up-to-date to reflect the City's current operations, and evaluation tools were revised to provide maximum feedback. All Committees reviewed the revised job descriptions as appropriate, and City Council formally adopted the changes to allow for implementation in the next calendar year.



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Front Beach Lighting

The Front Beach commercial district is one of the City's crown jewels. Increasing safety and the welcoming atmosphere are goals of the Front Beach lighting project planned for and budgeted in Fiscal Year 2015. Ultimately, the project will include forty-one new LED, turtle-friendly street lights illuminating the sidewalks of Ocean Boulevard at night and allowing more festive holiday decorations. This calendar year will see the installation of new electric pedestals to support the City's popular holiday street festival and sponsored holiday lighting displays.



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Carmen R. Bunch Park Improvements

The City is especially proud of the new Carmen R. Bunch Park, located at 1801 Palm Boulevard, acquired in 2013 with Greenbelt monies from Charleston County. This park will preserve green space on the interior of the island for residents to enjoy in perpetuity, provides a buffer between residential areas and a commercial area, and most importantly honors one of the island's beloved mayors who passed on December 3, 2014. Mayor Bunch's beautiful legacy of public service is greatly appreciated by her City family.

In 2014, the City executed improvements to the park to make it accessible. A horticulturalist identified rare and native vegetation for preservation and other vegetation was cleared to allow access to the land. The City also worked with the County to create ingress and egress and to ensure compliance with the Greenbelt deed restrictions.



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Recycling on the Beach

The City's launch of a beach recycling program in 2014 was a grand success. What began as a pilot program in participation with Charleston County to determine feasibility expanded rapidly into a full-island, year-round source of pride for residents and visitors. Of concern prior to this program's launch was the level of contamination from non-recyclable materials and the availability of resources for collection. However, conscientious and caring residents and visitors have helped to keep contamination to manageable levels, and the City collaborated with the County on funneling resources towards this important program. A blue barrel now sits at the end of every beach access path. Thank you to all!



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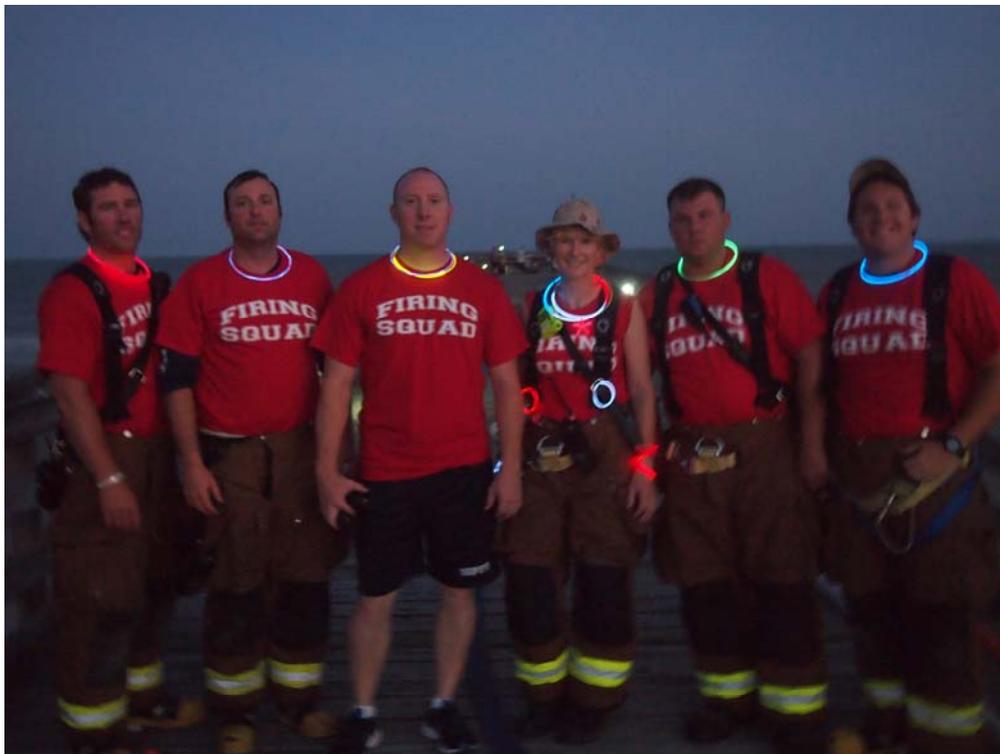
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Added Three Positions to the Fire Department

City Council authorized the addition of three new firefighters to the IOPFD staff. Located at Station 2, these firefighters allow for greater continuity of operations between the island's two stations. It brings the island more in-line with National Fire Protection Association staffing level standards. The new staff allows each member of rescue teams to focus on their individual duties which increases safety for all involved, residents, visitors and the emergency responders.



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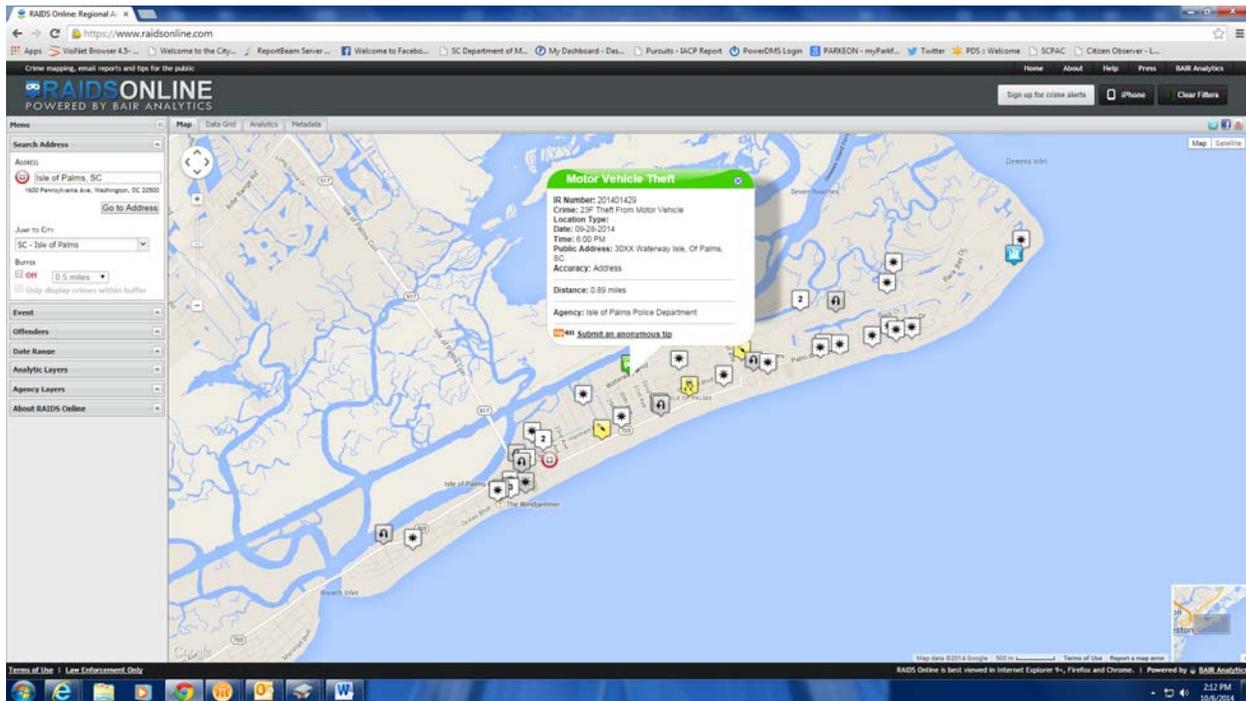
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RAIDS Online

The City always strives to find cost-effective ways to increase transparency, and in 2014, the Police Department made an important informational tool available to residents and visitors. By visiting the City's website, folks can access "RAIDS Online," which provides current and historical data going back twelve years regarding police reports. Residents can receive updated facts of what happens in their neighborhoods and even provide tips if they have information regarding particular incidents.



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Coffee With a Cop

Community policing provides the benefits of positive rapport and personal relationships between the residents of the City and its law enforcement. The Isle of Palms Police hosted multiple “Coffee with a Cop” events this year to chat with residents about their concerns, their ideas, or even just the weather. Even with its growing popularity as a vacation destination, the Isle of Palms maintains its small-town, family friendly identity. We drink coffee with a cop



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Watersports Dock Rehabilitation

Located at the terminus of 41st Avenue, the City of Isle of Palms marina is a favorite place . With estuaries and salt marshes, it provides a different yet equally meaningful way to experience nature from the beach. In 2014, the City completed a rehabilitation of the popular watersports dock at the marina, which improved its safety, stability, and aesthetics.



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Shoal Management Project

The Isle of Palms, with its “drumstick” shape and dynamic inlets on either end, is an ever-changing natural environment. Regular monitoring of the entire seven miles of beach allows City Council to make informed, data-driven decisions regarding episodic shoal attachments. In 2014, the City again worked with the stakeholders to assemble funding to execute a permitted Shoal Management project designed to remove sandbags from the beach and replace them with a dry sand beach until the shoal can fully attach.



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Beach Access Parking Data Collection



Beach access parking remains a “hot topic” for the island as growth in the beautiful lowcountry continues to escalate. The City is proud of its beach and welcomes visitors to this wonderful asset yet wants to ensure that visitors and residents remain safe and that emergency services can be provided. To help determine the best way to strike this balance, the City hired Stantec consulting to perform extensive data collection over the 2014 beach season. City Council contemplated these results carefully (available online at www.iop.net) and held a large public hearing for citizen feedback. By the end of the year, discussions focused on the feasibility of a beach parking permit program.

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Referendum on Beach Preservation Fee

In November of 2014, the registered voters of the Isle of Palms passed a referendum establishing a beach preservation fee in the form of an additional 1% accommodation tax. This referendum was the result of at least two years worth of work with legislators at the state level and should generate approximately \$800,000 in additional revenues for the City. Uses of this revenue are restricted by state law to nourishment, renourishment, erosion mitigation, beach monitoring, dune restoration and maintenance, and beach access maintenance.



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Public Restroom Study

In 2014, City Council began a research initiative regarding the public restrooms on Front Beach, which are the only City public facilities on the island. Constructed post-Hurricane Hugo, the City's facility serves tens of thousands of visitors. City Council contracted with Liollo Architecture to perform an evaluation of potential public restroom sites, construction options considering flood zone regulations, and probable costs. Front Beach business owners gave valuable input, and, after careful contemplation of options, the City has entered discussions with Charleston County regarding next steps.



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City Hall Generator

City Hall is the heartbeat of all City functions. In addition to providing management, financial oversight, court administration, communications, and record keeping, City Hall supervises the Public Works, Police, Fire, Recreation, and Building, Planning and Zoning departments. The ability of City Hall to function in an emergency is essential to a quick and safe response. In accordance with the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, the generator at City Hall was replaced to protect its ability to provide disaster recovery services.



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Facebook and Twitter

In 2014, the City entered the world of social media by launching a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Like us! Follow our tweets!



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Ballfield Rehabilitation

Everyone loves the “Rec” and for good reason. In 2014, the softball field, the baseball field and the multi-purpose fields were rehabilitated via laser grading followed by the installation of Bermuda grass and irrigation. Residents and visitors play softball, baseball, machine pitch, T-ball, soccer, and half rubber on these fields.



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First Annual Island Gras

To help achieve the goal of encouraging business at the Front Beach during the off-season, the Recreation Department created a new event for 2014: Island Gras. Attendees enjoyed food from local restaurants, children's games, entertainment, arts and crafts booths, and a Zumba flash mob. This popular event returns on March 7, 2015.



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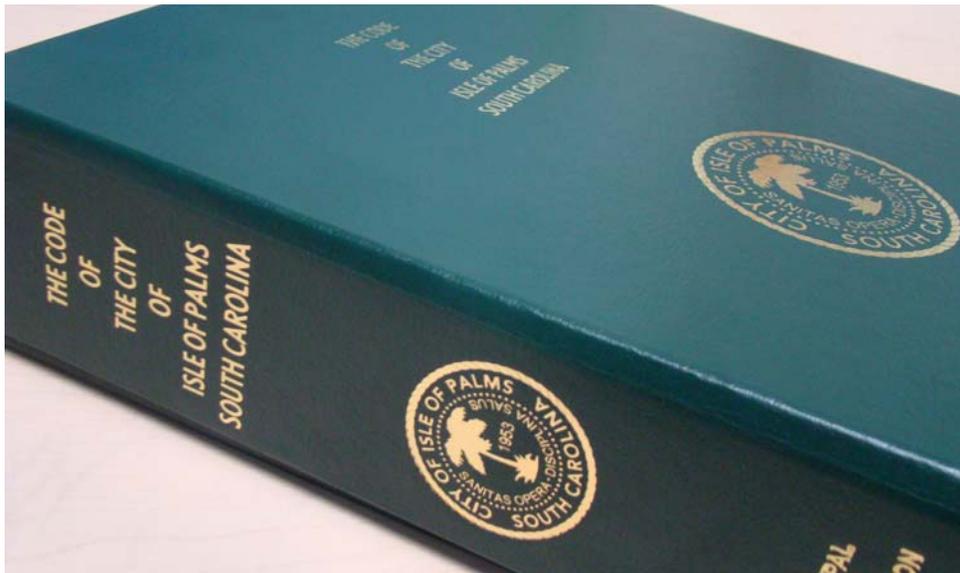
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Legislation

City Council analyzed, debated and ratified several important pieces of legislation in 2014, including: Business License rates, Refinancing the Marina Bond, the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget, quitclaim deeds to the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission, Meeting Times, Utility Easements, a Beach Preservation Fee, the Fairness in Lodging Act, and the South Carolina Electric and Gas Franchise Fee.



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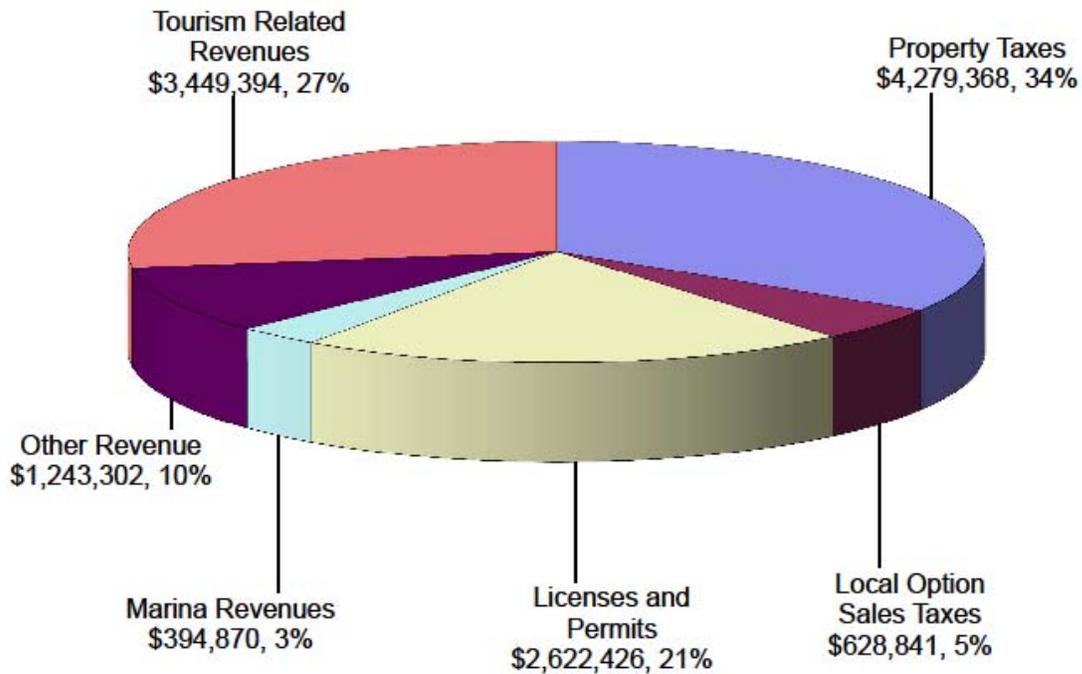
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Finance and Revenues

The City's financial position continues to be strong. The annual audit again produced an "unmodified" opinion, which is the best opinion available. The General Fund ended Fiscal Year 2014 with a positive net result of approximately \$390,000. Of this amount, \$340,000 was transferred to the Capital Projects Fund and \$50,000 was transferred to the Disaster Recovery Fund.



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Department Highlights

The Building Department issued approximately 528 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,802 checks, 2,809 court cases, 2,759 parking citations.

The Fire Department responded to over 1,000 calls including over 500 EMS calls, providing care to almost 600 patients.

The Police Department received over 52,000 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 2,000 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 12,000 visitors.

City Council and Employees participated in five Wellness events.

Monthly departmental reports available at:

www.iop.net/Government/AgendasMinutes.aspx



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City Council Committees

Dick Cronin, Mayor
Jimmy Carroll
Marty Bettelli, Mayor Pro Tem
Barbara Bergwerf
Ryan Buckhannon
Sandy Ferencz
Patrick Harrington
Mike Loftus
Jimmy Ward

Chair of Ways and Means
Public Safety and Chair of Recreation
Personnel and Chair of Public Safety
Public Safety and Real Property
Real Property and Recreation
Public Works and Chair of Personnel
Personnel and Recreation
Public Works and Chair of Real Property
Chair of Public Works



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More

Linda Lovvorn Tucker was awarded for thirty years of service by the International City/County Management Association.

Proclamations were issued supporting many important causes, including: workplace safety, Charleston STEM Festival Day, Lupus Awareness Month, Police Week, People Against Rape, American Red Cross Month, Sarcoidosis Awareness and Safe Boating.

Participated in United Way Day of Caring with a beach sweep performed by the Naval Nuclear Power School.

Attended CALEA Awards Ceremony for Fourth Law Enforcement Re-Accreditation.

Installed new traffic counters to support beach access parking data collection.

Installed new video surveillance at the Rec Center, at Front Beach and on the Connector.

Installed replacement parking kiosks on Front Beach that accept credit cards.

Increased Business License Fees to mirror other communities.

Increase in S&P Bond Rating from AA to AA+. Continue to hold an Aa1 rating from Moody's.

As approved in the budget, the Police Department purchased tasers, developed a taser policy, and certified all officers on Taser use.

Implemented bar code tagging and scanning of all items in the Evidence Room.

Moved hurricane re-entry sticker program from City Hall to the Public Safety Building providing for increased hours for attaining and replacing stickers.

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