

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard. Attending the meeting were Committee members Burgis, Linville, Nelson and Ward, City Administrator Tucker, Treasurer Suggs, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Despite the excused absences of Chairwoman Tucker and Committee members Hollingsworth and Miller, there was a quorum to conduct business.

1. Vice-Chairman Linville called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 2, 2008 as submitted; Mr. Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments - None

4. Quarterly Financial Report – Treasurer Suggs

Treasurer Suggs first directed attention to the South Carolina State Accommodations Tax – Distribution of Funds schedule that covered revenue. She reported that, for the quarter ending June 2008, the City had received \$330,000 from the state; the City ended the year with \$1,083,754.68 in receipts. The second schedule for review was the Expense Statement; Treasurer Suggs went through the expenses since July 1, 2008 with the Committee. She added that she anticipates this information to be complete for the end of FY 2007-2008. Significant expenses the Treasurer noted were as follows:

- The T-shirts from the website promotion have gotten a new design and that caps are now being offered, as well;
- Funds in the amount of \$85,428 had been sent to the Charleston Visitors Bureau;
- An annual payment of \$11,830 had been sent to support the Mount Pleasant Visitor's Center;
- Transfers had been made to the Marina Fund to cover one third (1/3) of the cost of bulkhead engineering and the bulkhead replacement; and
- The budgeted transfer of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for beach restoration has been made.

The third schedule was the projected year-end for FY 2007-2008; this report showed a surplus of \$80,818. When added to the surplus from previous years, the surplus carried forward for FY 2008-2009 is \$852,420.

The final handout was the balance sheet for the period ending August 31, 2008 indicating actual versus budgeted activity. Treasurer Suggs commented that she had handwritten notes on items of significance; one such item, on the last page, shows Public Restroom expenses in excess of thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) year-to-date because this line include beach and Commercial District trash removal as approved in the FY 2008-2009 budget.

5. **Old Business - None**

6. **New Business**

A. \$20,000 request for Spoleto Festival USA – 2009 Season

Stephanie Steele attended the meeting representing Spoleto USA; she stated that the event was seeking an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a total of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the 2009 season. She reported that Spoleto has been a victim of the nation's economic down turn; the funding from the State has been cut, and Wachovia, who has been a primary corporate sponsor in the past, is a complete unknown with its very recent purchase by Citigroup. Ms. Steele related that Spoleto had experienced a deficit for the first time in thirteen (13) years. She added that they are anticipating a very difficult year; therefore, the 2009 program would, in all likelihood, be smaller.

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved to approve \$20,000 for Spoleto USA for the 2009 season; Mr. Burgis seconded.

Mr. Ward stated, as he has in years past, that his reason for supporting Spoleto is the promotion of Isle of Palms; he asked how the City would be promoted in 2009. Ms. Steele commented that the bulk of the promotion is web-based and proceeded to list the various places that would have links to the Isle of Palms' website. In addition, the City's sponsorship would be noted in the program brochures, on the tickets and in the patron newsletter.

Mr. Ward turned to Administrator Tucker for her comments or suggestions. She related that the circus and the production of "Swan Lake" had been excellent one for the City to sponsor, but the ballet the City sponsored in 2008 "was not a good fit" for the Isle of Palms. The Administrator noted that the City preferred a more family-oriented event and that she would like for the City to have more input into the event selection.

Ms. Steele remarked that they had selected events that would be presented at the Gaillard Auditorium so that the City could get more complimentary tickets. She added

that, if the number of tickets was not an issue, there would be no problem with looking at an event not at the Gaillard.

Call for the Question: The motion for \$20,000 for Spoleto PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. \$30,700 Request for July 4th Fireworks Display

Fire Chief Graham noted that there has been an increase from Zambelli of two thousand five hundred dollar (\$2,500), but she added that this is the first increase the City has had from them in the nearly ten (10) years that Zambelli has done the fireworks. She also noted that, should there not be a need for the barge or entertainment, the actual expenditure will be less than requested. She also assured Mr. Nelson that the display would be the same type and the same quality.

MOTION: Mr. Ward moved to approve \$30,700 for the July 4th fireworks display; Mr. Nelson seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Next Meeting Date: 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2009

8. Adjourn

MOTION: With the business concluded, Mr. Burgis moved to adjourn at 11:33 a.m.; Mr. Nelson seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk