

Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2015

The regular meeting of the ATAX Committee was held at 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee members Burgis, Covington, Haynie, Miller, Nelson, Rice and Russell, Administrator Tucker, Treasurer Suggs, Assistant Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Ms. Russell called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Rice nominated Ms. Russell to serve as Chair; Mr. Nelson seconded and the nomination was unanimously approved. Mr. Russell nominated Mr. Nelson to be Vice Chair; Ms. Rice seconded and the nomination was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2014 as submitted; Ms. Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens' Comments – None

5. Financial Statements – Treasurer Suggs

The Treasurer began the review with the balance sheet that indicated just over two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in assets. Revenues received to-date total approximately seven hundred forty dollars (\$740,000), composed of the September quarter distribution from the state and interest.

Since ATAX funds may contribute fifty percent (50%) of the cost of planning and design for new public restroom, Ms. Haynie asked where the restrooms would be located; Administrator Tucker replied that new restrooms would be constructed at the same location on Front Beach, but would be elevated. The project's status is that the City has approached Charleston County and asked for their assistance in funding the new restrooms; the Administrator anticipates that the County will assemble a team of the individuals who have a stake in the public restroom, including Charleston County PRT and various other departments of the County to try to pull together the funding; the estimated cost to replace the public restrooms is just over one million dollars (\$1,000,000). It may end up being a multi-year project.

Ms. Haynie asked whether other beach communities provided restroom facilities for beach-goers. The Administrator thought there would be restrooms located in the County Parks as they are here, but she was unaware of any facilities on Sullivan's Island.

Continuing, Treasurer Suggs reported that expenses had been incurred in November and December for professional services provided on beach access parking management.

Mr. Covington asked when the City's parking plan would be implemented, and the Administrator answered that she did not know. At this time, the City has sent a letter to SCDOT in Columbia requesting permission to implement the parking management plan, and the City has not yet received a reply. Assuming that SCDOT approves the City's plan, a great deal of work still remains to be done in order to implement; direction from City Council is to move as quickly as possible, which could mean implementation mid-season or next season. The next step would be to procure a vendor for doing the online app for the purchase of permits and tailor it to the City's approved plan.

The Treasurer continued with the review of expenses incurred since the last meeting; a deposit was made for the stage and lighting for Island Gras which will be held on March 7th. The bulk of the expenses for the Holiday Festival have been paid, and to-date the event is under budget; ATAX funds also purchased five (5) new Christmas light displays. The purchase of the mobile radio repeater ran over budget; the repeater was budgeted last year and a portion of it was purchased last year, the balance was paid in December. The over-run was unanticipated and was to make the current handheld radios communicate with the repeater.

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to fund the over-budget amount of four hundred forty-nine dollars thirty-eight cents (\$449.38) related to the mobile radio repeater; Ms. Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The final financial report, the status report, was basically unchanged from November 2014; it indicates that the ATAX fund will go into FY16 with approximately one and a half million dollars (\$1,500,000).

6. Old Business – None

7. New Business

Consideration of request for \$3,500 from the 2015 Dunlop Junior Tennis Championship

Dewey Calder attended the meeting to answer concerns and questions from the Committee, and he started by thanking the Committee for its past support.

He noted that this will be the thirteenth year for the tournament; this year they are adding a new category of 11 and under and introducing doubles matches. Youths from all over the country participate in this championship; the winner of the 18 girls' draw gets an automatic slot in the qualifying for the Family Circle Cup. The tourism impact comes from an estimated six hundred forty (640) out-of-town visitors, and a minimum of one fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) staying on the Isle of Palms. The average daily expenditure, computed from 2013 by Mount Pleasant, is two hundred twelve dollars (\$212); the conservative estimate of money spent on the island is approximately eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000). Mr. Calder commented that they were going to try to learn where everyone will be staying at registration to be able to provide the Committee with more exact numbers in the future.

The event will be held February 13th-15th.

MOTION: Ms. Rice moved to fund \$3,500 for the 2015 Dunlop Junior Tennis Championship; Mr. Covington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Future Dates: 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, 2015
12:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, 2015

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Rice moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m., Mr. Nelson seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk