

CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 30, 2014

The January meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 30, 2014 having been postponed from its regular Tuesday meeting day due to inclement weather. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Loftus and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; the absence of Councilmember Bergwerf was excused. A quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Mayor Cronin 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. Clerk Copeland called the roll following a brief invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. Introduction of Municipal Association of South Carolina – Bill Taylor

Due to the weather, Mr. Taylor was unable to attend this meeting; he has rescheduled his presentation for the Special Meeting of February 18th.

3. Consideration of Mayor Pro Tem

Councilmember Ward nominated Councilmember Carroll for the position of Mayor Pro Tem; Councilmember Buckhannon seconded. Councilmember Loftus nominated Councilmember Bettelli, and Mayor Cronin seconded. In the subsequent vote, Councilmember Bettelli was elected Mayor Pro Tem on a vote of five to three (5 to 3) with Councilmembers Buckhannon, Carroll and Ward casting votes for Councilmember Carroll.

4. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of November 19, 2013, the regular meeting of November 19, 2013, the Special Meeting of December 3, 2013, the Special Meeting of January 7, 2014 and the Special Meeting of January 21, 2014 as submitted; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Citizens' Comments

A. Presentation by Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission by George Gross, General Manager

Mayor Cronin noted that the Water and Sewer Commission has advertised for a rate increase, and Mr. Gross is in attendance to explain the reasons behind the increase. The Mayor recognized Nick Stroud, Dana Love and Jay Leigh, Water and Sewer Commissioners who were present.

Prior to his presentation, Mr. Gross distributed a handout of information relative to the rate increase; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

Mr. Gross explained that the aging facility at Forest Trails is the reason for the increase that will go into effect with the February billing; the existing treatment plant was installed in the 1970s

and requires approximately one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) a year to maintain the steel basins. The rate increase is required to pay for all costs associated with operating a safe, reliable and economical wastewater system. Other factors influencing this rate increase are the cumulative effect of inflation over the past six (6) years, escalating environmental requirements on both the state and federal level, increasing labor costs, increasing power and chemical costs and the higher costs associated with funding the Commission's capital program. Graphs included in the handout illustrated historically declining revenues over the past seven (7) years; according to Mr. Gross, revenues for the Water and Sewer Commission are down six percent (6%) from 2007.

Mayor Cronin confirmed that the rate increase being enacted was only for the sewer billing and not water billing and will be approximately ten percent (10%). Mr. Gross reiterated the facts that water billings and impact fees are not increasing.

On the subject of declining revenues, Mr. Gross remarked that the Commission has lost several commercial accounts that were high volume users, such as the laundromat and the Chinese restaurant. Despite the losses, the Commission continues its efforts to improve the revenue stream, for instance, the stuck or broken meter replacement program; this program has helped the residential side, but not the commercial side.

Mayor Cronin asked how much of the Commission's volume was commercial, and Mr. Gross responded that it was approximately fifteen percent (15%).

When asked how much revenue the February 2014 increase would generate, Mr. Gross did not have the exact figures, but said that this increase would put the Commission half-way to its goal and that another increase of approximately ten percent (10%) is planned for 2015, for a total increase of twenty percent (20%).

Mayor Cronin asked how IOP's new rates compared with those of neighboring municipalities; Mr. Gross stated that IOP rates are higher than some and lower than some – both Mount Pleasant's and Sullivan's Island's rates continue to increase. Mr. Gross stated that the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission has the highest ratio of accounts to employees than any other utility in the area, i.e. each employee represents three hundred eighty-three (383) accounts.

The Mayor voiced concern with the timing of the rate increase because short-term rental rates were established before the rate increase was announced and, therefore, could not be included in the rent calculation. The Mayor asked whether the increase was uniform across all classes, and Mr. Gross responded that the increase "was non-discriminatory."

Administrator Tucker indicated that, should this public airing of the rate increase generate questions from the public, the Commission should have some visuals comparing of IOP rates and surrounding communities.

With the diminishing revenues, Mayor Cronin asked whether there was a leak in the system, and Mr. Gross responded that there are leaks, but the water loss number is around ten percent

(10%) which is well below the national average. Mr. Gross also noted that there are no leaks in the sewer system.

B. Update on Beach Restoration – Steven Traynum, CSE

Mr. Traynum was also unable to attend the meeting due to poor weather conditions, but he did submit a memorandum which will be entered into the historical record of the meeting. In the memo, Mr. Traynum reported that there has been little change since the report at the November 2013 meeting.

With no additional comments from the public, Mayor Cronin took the opportunity to thank the City staff who has worked “so diligently in the last few days to keep [the residents] safe,” i.e. from the power company, to Charleston County and the Department of Transportation (DOT). Attention was slow getting to the Connector, but that was intentional; because it is such a long bridge and difficult to keep dry, DOT wanted to be sure it had sufficient material to provide for the Ben Sawyer and the Breach Inlet bridges. The Connector opened around 5:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. The Mayor noted that many employees who do not live on the island stayed on the island in case their services were needed and he offered the City’s sincerest appreciation.

6. Reports From Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

Having been elected Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Mayor Cronin reported that Councilmember Ward had been elected Vice Chair.

With a target of fifty percent (50%), Treasurer Suggs reported that General Fund expenditures are running at forty-three percent (43%) of budget City-wide and that General Fund revenues are running at thirty-five percent (35%) of budget. The Treasurer voiced encouragement in the fact that both business licenses and building permits are higher than FY13.

For tourism funds, the Treasurer noted that the second quarter of State Accommodations Taxes and the semi-annual payment of the Charleston County Accommodations Tax Pass-through have not been received. Through six (6) months of the fiscal year, Municipal Accommodations Tax collections are running nine percent (9%) higher of the same period in FY13, and Hospitality Taxes are running eight percent (8%) ahead of FY13.

In the month of December, there was little activity in the City’s major projects, i.e. beach restoration, Phase 2 drainage, beach management parking and wayfinding signs.

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that property tax bills for watercraft and motors housed on the Isle of Palms, but whose owners received their mail at a post office box, were being charged taxes at the rate imposed by the City of Charleston and that said taxes were being paid to the City of Charleston and not the Isle of Palms. The problem appears to have occurred when Charleston County changed computers in 2013.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award up to \$2,500 for integration of new marina fuel dispensers with the point of sale system; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a sole source contact to Lawmen's Police Safety Supply for the budgeted purchase of 17 X26P tasers with accessories in the amount of \$15,950.28; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

The Committee was reminded that this is a sole source award because Lawmen's is the only vendor in the area.

Councilmember Ward asked whether this purchase had come before a Committee or Council for discussion in the past. The Administrator recalled that the vendor had made a presentation to the Public Safety Committee some time ago, but tasers have never come forward for purchase. At that time, Chief Buckhannon did not support moving forward with the use of tasers; she did recount that there have been injuries with patrol officers upon encounters with offenders. It has been proven among other local governments that tasers reduce the incidents of officer injuries. Responding to Councilmember Ward, the Administrator stated that the purchase of tasers was not a request in prior years. This year, the purchase was discussed in the Public Safety Committee and was approved in the budget process.

Councilmember Ward asked that Chief Buckhannon voice his opinion on the purchase and use of tasers by IOP patrol officers. The Chief stated that the presentation that had been made to the Public Safety Committee was not by a vendor, but by the City's insurance carrier from the Municipal Association. He was recommending the use because of the decrease in the number of injuries they were seeing in the insurance pool of police officers. The Chief expressed his opinion that the time had come for the IOP Police Department to go to tasers; he stated that officers are receiving greater resistance from people in arrests. He indicated that there have been instances where officers have to put their hands on people to make arrests other than to put handcuffs on them.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether the use of tasers was recommended by CALEA; the Chief responded that they may not recommend the use, but they would not be opposed to it since it is tool commonly in place by law enforcement. CALEA would be concerned that the City's policies are sound and in compliance with nationally accepted standards. The City's insurance carrier fully supports the use of tasers because their studies show that officers throughout the state in the insurance pool have experienced fewer and less severe injuries with the use of tasers.

Councilmember Loftus asked whether the department would follow the same investigative process in the discharge of a taser as with the discharge of a firearm, and the Chief responded that the taser discharge would fall under the use of force category for automatic investigation.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Byrd's Taylormade Fence in the amount of \$36,400 for the Clarkin Field fencing at the Recreation Center; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a sponsorship to Spoleto in the amount of \$7,500; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

The Mayor noted that this award was not approved at the Ways and Means Committee; a decision was deferred to this meeting to allow Committee members to read the minutes of the ATAX meeting and in hopes that a member of the ATAX Committee could be present to answer questions from Council about why they had opted for a sponsorship.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that he has repeatedly asked for substantiation that the City's sponsorship of a Spoleto event does put "heads in beds" on the Isle of Palms; he indicated that he had never received the requested information. He continued that the Spoleto Festival takes place at a time of year when the island is already full of tourists.

Mayor Cronin stated that he found it interesting that the ATAX Committee members representing the lodging industry were those who voted in favor of this action.

Councilmember Carroll stated that he really liked the advertisement that ATAX ran in the program book for 2013 promoting the island in the off-season and suggested that the City continue the advertisement.

Councilmember Ferencz, the past Chair of the ATAX Committee, stated that the advertisement was a good faith gesture in support of the arts despite the fact that Spoleto staffers could not provide substantiation for their claim that the event puts "heads in beds" on the island.

VOTE: The motion FAILED due to a lack of support from the Committee.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to place an advertisement promoting the island in the off-season in the Spoleto program book in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 from State ATAX funds; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award \$2,500 for sponsorship of the Dunlop Junior Tennis Championship; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be hold at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in Council Chambers.

B. Public Safety Committee

At the meeting of January 13th, Councilmember Bettelli was elected Chair and Councilmember Bergwerf was elected Vice Chair. The Committee got an update on beach access parking and

wayfinding signs from Stantec. From a parking permit feasibility study, Stantec will base its estimate on the allowable number of parking permits/passes on the capacity of the streets and what can be managed in peak season. Another facet of their work is to determine the available right-of-way on each road on the island and then what streets have enough right-of-way to implement the four foot (4 ft.) offset and still safely allow parking. Field work to identify obstructions in the rights-of-way has been done, but the data has not yet been overlaid with GIS mapping. From three (3) source documents, Stantec is trying to identify each road on the island as being private, owned by the City or owned by DOT. Stantec has also been working with Recreation Department staff on electronic message boards and reported that the application for the encroachment permit has been submitted to SC DOT. The subject of additional staffing at Fire Station 2 was discussed since the City is entering the initial stages of the budget process. Administrator Tucker voiced concern that, if the hiring process must begin after the new fiscal year begins, any additional firefighters would not be working until the peak season has ended. These additions would bring the City closer to meeting NFPA standards and would reduce wear and tear on the engine as well as lengthen the time between tire replacements. Like other committees, the Public Safety Committee discussed the FY15 budget process and approved the purchase of tasers for the Police Department. The City Administrator explained that there is an effort on the national level to have a consolidated dispatch system, referred to as FirstNet; South Carolina does have a representative participating in meetings who has confirmed that it is far in the future.

In departmental reports, Chief Graham reviewed that, in the month of November, personnel responded to forty-six (46) calls, of which twenty-five (25) were EMS calls. Beginning on January 30th, calls from Consolidated Dispatch will be synthesized and sound more robotic; Chief Graham reports that the calls are actually clearer because they are spoken more slowly. In the month of December, personnel responded to forty-three (43) calls, and twenty-seven (27) were for EMS. The Fire Inspector performed eight (8) inspections in the month and found twenty-nine (29) violations. All personnel are participating in the City's Wellness Program.

In the Police Department, Chief Buckhannon reported that, from November 16 through the end of 2013, the island experienced sixteen (16) break-ins to vehicles; fifteen (15) vehicles were left unlocked. In the month of November, dispatchers handled four thousand seven hundred sixty-seven (4,767) calls; three thousand five hundred thirty (3,530) were for the IOP Police Department. November saw three hundred ninety-eight (398) traffic stops that yielded ninety-three (93) received citations.

In December, dispatchers answered four thousand seven hundred thirty (4,730) calls for a total of fifty-two thousand six hundred fifty-eight (52,658) for the year 2013. In the month, officers made three hundred thirty-two (332) traffic stops and wrote sixty-nine (69) tickets. In the year, officers wrote twenty-one (21) tickets for DUI and three hundred ninety-three (393) speeding tickets. Two (2) officers completed their training at the Criminal Justice Academy and are now in field training on the island; one (1) officer is going through training now at the Academy and should complete in mid-March. In December, officers received eight (8) calls for noise violations and wrote three (3) warnings, but no citations.

Administrator Tucker announced that the issuance of new hurricane stickers will be processed through the Police Department at the Public Safety Building.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 10, 2014 in the Conference Room.

Councilmember Loftus indicated that a full discussion of the electronic message boards should take place at the Ways and Means Committee meeting; he stated that he spoke with people over the holidays who did not think the City should spend money for electronic boards.

Councilmember Loftus also commented that he wanted Council to discuss all options open to the City, including quick response vehicles, before it hires additional personnel.

C. Public Works Committee

At the meeting of January 14th, Councilmember Ward was elected Chair and Councilmember Ferencz was elected Vice Chair. In the trash/garbage collection reports, Director Pitts reported that for the month of November, household garbage was down slightly from the same period last year, but averaging November and December, there is only a difference of thirty-three tons (33 T). On the sinkhole on Seahorse Court, Administrator Tucker repeated that Charleston County has investigated the problem and a work order for the repairs has been issued. After extensive discussion, the Committee decided to take no action toward requiring contractors to remove yard debris they generate from the island; the subject will not be included on future agendas. This Committee also discussed a change to the budget process for FY15. Chair Ward stated that a resident had called him about keeping the lights on the palm trees on Front Beach year-round because it is quite dark there and people often remark that they would like to have more lighting for safety reasons and visibility. The Committee enthusiastically responded to the idea of having lights similar to the ones on Coleman Boulevard in Mount Pleasant; the Chair asked Administrator Tucker for an update. Administrator Tucker stated that she had visited Coleman Boulevard and the Front Beach area; the City does not have oak trees similar to those on Coleman, but the City is researching other possibilities to brighten up the area and make it more festive. The ATAX Committee will discuss this at its next meeting in March. In conclusion, Chair Ward read a letter from Carol Bourque voicing her thanks for a Public Works crew that went out of its way to assist her mother.

The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 5th in Council Chambers.

D. Recreation Committee

From the meeting of January 14th, Councilmember Carroll announced that he had been elected to serve as Chair and that Councilmember Buckhannon was elected Vice Chair. In reviewing the highlights of Director Page's report, Chair Carroll reported that the Department's programs offered for all age groups are always full. Adult athletics – 3-on-3 basketball, 6 vs 6 soccer, table tennis and co-ed volleyball – have ended, and youth sports has started with basketball. Running through a list of offerings at the Rec Center, Councilmember Carroll mentioned soccer, basketball, soccer, volleyball, tots lacrosse, knitting, jump start, kid's night out, line dancing, mah jongg, Spanish lessons, Middle School dances, tennis, Santa' workshop and the Holiday Street Festival. Doggie Day at the Rec is Saturday, February 1, and Cupid's Card Shoppe is planned for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 6th. Councilmember Carroll commented that the building and grounds are well maintained, and a smile is always waiting to greet you upon

arrival. The Committee unanimously approved the awarding of a contract for the Clarkin Field fencing and discussed the FY15 budget process.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be at 4:45 p.m. on Monday, February 10th in the Conference Room of City Hall.

E. Personnel Committee

At the Personnel Committee meeting of January 9th, Councilmember Ferencz was elected Chair and Councilmember Bettelli was elected Vice Chair.

Chair Ferencz reported that the Committee discussed the proposed policy for employees bidding on surplus City property and agreed to remove the sentence stating that

“The employee has not used the item being sold in the course of his or her employment.”

The revised policy was unanimously approved by the Committee

MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to approve the revised policy as presented; Mayor Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

This policy will not be incorporated into the Employee Handbook and distributed to employees.

Chair Ferencz acknowledged that Pfc. Hunter Lawrimore had been nominated as Employee of the Month; in the recommendation, Captain Usry stated

“Your quick thinking and actions greatly reduced the potential of further fire damage to the residence and ensured the personal safety of the homeowner.”

Like other Committees of Council, the Personnel Committee discussed changing the FY15 budget process.

A brief discussion was held on the 2014 Performance Goals for the City Administrator, who plans to present them to the Committee for approval at the February meeting. In the course of that discussion, the Committee asked that staff provide information on the financial impact of hiring a mechanic for the City as opposed to taking equipment to a mechanic off-island.

The Personnel Committee will hold its next meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 10th in the City Hall Conference Room.

December Safety Sweepstakes winners were Will McElheny from the Recreation Department, Kim Tapply from the Public Works Department, Diane Tarr from the Police Department and William Pesature from the Fire Department.

On behalf of Doug Thomas, the previous Personnel Committee Chair, Chair Ferencz read the following into the minutes relative to the City Administrator’s 2013 performance evaluation:

"I am pleased to report that all objective areas were either achieved or exceeded the requirements thus the final percentage of all objective areas is a perfect score of eighty-five percent (85%). The subjective section evaluated by eight (8) Councilmembers resulted in a score of thirteen and one tenth percent (13.1%) out of a possible fifteen percent (15%). Congratulations, Linda, on a job very well done with a cumulative score of ninety-eight and one tenth percent (98.1%).

Councilmember Loftus asked how many employee openings the City has by department; Chair Ferencz stated that there is one (1) opening in the Fire Department and no others.

F. Real Property Committee

From the meeting of January 8th, Councilmember Loftus was elected Chair and Councilmember Buckhannon was elected Vice Chair. Marina Manager Brian Berrigan and John Tarkany, a consultant working with him, presented a conceptual drawing of an enhanced entry and redeveloped area forward to the Tidal Wave Watersports location in hopes that funds remaining for the rehabilitation of the Tidal Wave dock remain dedicated to the marina and not absorbed back into the City's funds. The repairs to the finger pier that was damaged have been completed, and the City has received a full reimbursement from the boater's insurance company. John Shaffer, the City's consultant on the Tidal Wave dock rehabilitation, updated the Committee; discussions are on-going with SCE&G relative to providing electricity to the dock. Administrator Tucker was asked to report on that meeting; she stated that a meeting had taken place at the site where discussions were held regarding power for the Tidal Wave dock as well as power at the balance of the marina site. SCE&G is working on a solution for Tidal Wave that will minimize the number of poles and will come forward with a plan to look at the removal of some of the existing poles as well. The Administrator cautioned Council that invoking the non-standard service clause with SCE&G requires matching funds, and it remains to be seen whether this is a project the City wants to accomplish. A resolution was found for the Tidal Wave dock that does not involve the line-of-sight for the adjoining neighbor. At the request of Councilmember Ward, the Committee agreed to inquire about purchasing the Sea Cabins pier to make it accessible to the public; the Administrator suggested that it made sense for the pier to be purchased by Charleston County Parks and Recreation as an extension of the County Park. The Committee asked the City Administrator to learn if the pier was available. Due to a serious silting problem in the Intracoastal Waterway between the Ben Sawyer Bridge and the Connector, the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island, the two (2) local governments part-nered on an appeal to the area's representatives in Washington and the Corps of Engineers for funding for dredging. Responding to the Chair's request for an update, Administrator Tucker reported that, on January 15th, the City received three (3) proposals for architectural design for the public restrooms; staff is currently evaluating the proposals to make a recommendation at the next meeting. On the subject of the new fuel dispensers at the marina, Councilmember Loftus announced that gasoline without ethanol is now available. All City tenants are current on monthly rents, and the one (1) tenant that owes on additional rent plans to be current by April.

The next Real Property Committee meeting will be at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 4 in Council Chambers.

7. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

- A. **Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – minutes attached
- B. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
- C. **Planning Commission** – minutes attached

- 8. **Reports from Special or Joint Committees** – none
- 9. **Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of** – none
- 10. **Bills Already in Possession of Council**

Second Reading of Ordinance 2013-12 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Conveyance by Quitclaim Deed of all Right, Title and Interest, if any, that the City of Isle of Palms may have in the Property Identified as One-half of the Dead-end Street Previously Known as Thirty-ninth Avenue to the Estate of Robert Allen Berry and Ellen Glass Berry.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve for Second Reading and to waive the reading of Ordinance 2013-12; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 11. **Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**

First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2014-01 – An Ordinance Amending Title 8, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 1, Traffic Regulations, Article C, Stopping, Standing and Parking of Vehicles, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Provide Regulations Limiting the Parking of Commercial Vehicles in Residential and Commercial Districts and to Provide a Definition for Commercial Vehicle.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve for First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2014-01; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

The Mayor recommended that these two (2) ordinances be discussed in detail at the Public Safety Committee before Second Reading to ensure that the ordinances do not have unintended consequences since they are a new way to look at commercial vehicles and signage.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that, as written, this ordinance would not allow him to drive home any of his work vehicles and to park them in his driveway. He also referred to a neighbor who has done work for the City who would be required to move a tractor from his property.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 1 with Councilmember Buckhannon casting the dissenting vote.

First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2014-02 – An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Planning and Development, Chapter 4, Zoning, Article 7, Signs, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Delete References to Vehicle Signs and Prohibited Signs.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve for First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2014-02; Councilmember Ferencz seconded.

Councilmember Ward asked from where this ordinance had been generated. Administrator Tucker explained that this was a holdover from an initiative that started in 2013 and is basically a re-vamp. The vehicle signs ordinance that came before Council was referred back to the Planning Commission, and the Commission decided to move this section out of Vehicle Signs and moving it to the section of the code for Stopping, Standing and Parking of Vehicles which is not in the zoning code. The second of these ordinances is the companion housekeeping change to take that identification out of the zoning code.

Attorney Halversen stated that the Planning Commission put a lot of time into the vehicle sign ordinance, and that, when it came back to her for legal review, it was entirely too complicated and burdensome. So much so, that her best legal advice was to start over from the beginning. The Planning Commission looked at how other municipalities and how they addressed the same issues and the decision was to take the subject out of signage part of the code and to put it under motor vehicle.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 5 to 3; Councilmember Buckhannon, Carroll and Ward cast negative votes.

12. Miscellaneous Business

Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to re-schedule the March Council meeting to March 18th following the Ways and Means Committee; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pursuant to Councilmember Carroll's suggestion, the Committee briefly discussed moving the Council meeting to 6:00 p.m. on a permanent basis.

FY15 Budget Calendar

Mayor Cronin pointed out that, based on the discussions at Committee meetings, this year the budget discussions will begin with the consideration of revenues.

Update on Shopping Center

Administrator Tucker related speaking with Leonard Way of Pastime Amusements relative to progress on the shopping center; he indicated that all construction activity should be completed in April and that Harris Teeter plans to be open by Easter, April 20th, and, at the latest, mid-May. He also stated that all of the smaller spaces have been leased and most of the prospective tenants have signed lease agreements.

**Next Meeting Date: Special Council Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 18th
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 25th**

13. **Executive Session** to receive legal advice concerning a potential claim related to the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session to receive legal advice concerning a potential claim related to the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission at 7:45 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

City Council returned to regular session at 8:20 p.m., and the Mayor stated that no action and no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

14. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.; Councilmember Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk