

**CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 2014

The Special Meeting of City Council was held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 29, 2014 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Buckhannon, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Loftus and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, City Attorney Halversen, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Councilmember Bettelli's absence 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.

2. Purpose

Second Reading of Ordinance 2014-08 – An Ordinance to Levy and Impose, Subject to a Referendum, a One Percent Beach Preservation Fee on the Gross Proceeds Derived from the Rental or Charges for Accommodations Furnished to Transients for Consideration which are subject to the Local Accommodations Tax within the City of Isle of Palms Pursuant to the Beach Preservation Act, Section 6-1-610, et. seq., of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as Amended; to Define the Purposes for Which the Proceeds of the Beach Preservation Fee may be used; to Provide for a Referendum on the Imposition of the Beach Preservation Fee and to Prescribe the Contents of the Ballot Questions in the Referendum; and to Provide for a Separate Fund and Remittance of the Beach Preservation Fee if Approved.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to waive the reading and to approve Ordinance 2014-08 for Second Reading; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

The Mayor explained that the Beach Preservation Act was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Haley that will allow beach communities like the Isle of Palms to create a Beach Preservation Fee if it passes a referendum in November 2014. If the citizens support this Beach Preservation Fee in the referendum, the City will then impose a one percent (1%) fee on accommodations on the island that will go into a special fund that can only be used to preserve the beach, i.e. cleaning the beach, restoring the beach and adding to and maintaining beach accesses.

Responding to an inquiry from Councilmember Buckhannon, Mayor Cronin stated that the City expects to receive seven hundred to eight hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000-800,000) per year.

Councilmember Buckhannon recalled that the 2008 Beach Restoration Project cost approximately twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000).

Councilmember Ward thanked Representative Mike Sottile for pushing the legislation through.

The Mayor added that the bill was introduced to the Senate by Senator Thurmond and introduced to the House by Representative Sottile, who shepherded it for nearly two (2) years. Mayor Cronin commented that the City is in Representative Sottile's debt for getting the legislation to this point.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:35 p.m.; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk