

## CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2016

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Kinghorn, Rice and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Frago and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Following a brief invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk Copeland called the roll.

### 2. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing, the Special Meeting and the regular Council Meeting of February 23, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 3. Swearing in of New Employee

**MOTION: Councilmember Harrington moved to appoint Richard Daugherty as a new employee of the City; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Cronin swore in Mr. Daugherty and welcomed him to the IOP family.

### 4. Citizens' Comments

Patricia Ryan, 6 Forest Trail Court 1, reported that, on March 17<sup>th</sup>, a young mother was walking her five-year old to the bus stop at 21<sup>st</sup> and Waterway when two (2) coyotes jumped in front of her. She also had with her the family's dog, part pit bull, that immediately went into attack mode and managed to scare the coyotes away. She was seriously frightened, but did tell the police officer that was behind the school bus and called the Animal control Officer to report her experience.

Ms. Ryan recalled that at the February meeting she had given members of Council reputable materials relative to coyotes in California where human deaths attributed to coyotes have been reported. The articles provide information on what to expect and what to do when coyote populations are getting too high, and, in her opinion, the City has reached that point. She reported that Wild Dunes has set out traps, and the City has one (1) trap in the Breach Inlet area. In conclusion, she stated that the City is not taking the coyote issue seriously.

Tom Cochran, 2703 Palm, stated that he had sent Council and the Mayor an email with photographs of a revolting act that occurred in his back yard and on the rear of his house; he assumes the culprit is a day-tripper since he cannot imagine that the people staying in the house would do such a thing. He indicated that he had been encouraged to attend the meeting to get

his incident in the public record. He urged Council to do whatever it could to control the number of people coming to the island.

Jeff Evans, 3301 Hartnett, presented the Mayor with a petition from people who live primarily in the interior of the island who believe that the “resident only parking” signs are excessive in their neighborhoods since they are not bothered by parking from beach-goers. He stated that the signers believe that Council has the neighborhoods’ best interests at heart and, while it may be directed at day-trippers, it will be a nuisance for residents. He said that people live here because they want the island lifestyle that is unique to the Isle of Palms.

Responding to Councilmember Carroll’s question, Mr. Evans reported that the petition has approximately two hundred five (205) signatures; he said that he had stopped collecting them once the signs were being installed. In addition, he thanked Administrator Tucker for the letters sent to residents because it had been very informative.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to re-order the *Agenda* to take up Item 8 at this point in the meeting; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Bills Already in Possession of Council**

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2016-03 – An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business Licenses, Article A, General Provisions, Section 7-1-22, Classifications and Rates, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Provide that Nonresident Business License Rates Shall Apply to Contractors**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to suspend the reading and to approve for Second Reading Ordinance 2016-03; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Councilmember Ward asked whether the ordinance was for non-resident contractors only, and Director Kerr replied that he was correct.

Attorney Halversen stated that this ordinance was to correct a clerical error and to have the ordinance mirror the City’s actions.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2016-04 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2016, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount of not Exceeding \$2,235,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bonds; Authorizing the City Administrator or Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bonds; Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to suspend the reading and to approve for Second Reading Ordinance 2016-04; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

The Mayor stated that this ordinance was to re-finance the remaining principal on Fire Station 2 bond, anticipating a reduction in the interest by, at least, half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) and with the same remaining term.

**Amendment: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the amendment to the ordinance on Page 3, Section 8 now correctly stating Hospitality Tax Fund; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the amendment PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Seeking verification, Councilmember Ward asked whether the City would be seeking two (2) bids, one with an early payoff/no penalty option and a second without an early payoff option, and the Administrator confirmed that to be correct.

Councilmember Carroll asked what the potential savings would be, and the Mayor responded that the interest savings over the course of the bond are anticipated to be two hundred seventeen thousand dollars (\$217,000).

**VOTE: The amended motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **4. Reports from Standing Committees**

##### **A. Ways and Means Committee**

From the meeting of March 17<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Cronin reported that the financial statements for review were through February 29<sup>th</sup> or two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the way through the fiscal year, making the revenue and expense targets sixty-seven percent (67%). Revenue collected in the General Fund were at sixty-nine percent (69%) of the annual budget while overall expenses were at sixty percent (60%) of budget. Cash in the bank in the General Fund is approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) higher, and it is all found in the new Beach Preservation Fee Fund; the General Fund cash in the bank represents forty percent (40%) of the annual General Fund budget. Total cash on-hand for the City was approximately three million dollars (\$3,000,000) higher than the same time in FY15 and it comes from the new Beach Preservation Fee, a timing difference in Property Tax collections and funds were transferred into the Capital Projects Fund from the prior year's positive net results.

On the City's tourism funds, Municipal Accommodations Fees are running four percent (4%) ahead of FY15; State Accommodations Taxes are two percent (2%) ahead of FY15, and Hospitality Taxes experienced a good February and are running eight percent (8%) ahead of the prior year. As originally projected, after a full year, the Beach Preservation Fee Fund has collected approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

Mayor Cronin reported that he had met with several members of the island's hospitality and food and beverage industries to open a dialogue on how to promote the island in the off-season and to let them know that the City has fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the State ATAX budget that

could be used for that purpose. He reported that he had learned a new term from this group; it is the "secret season," the fall months, which is too often overlooked.

As an outgrowth of a comparison of property taxes for the City and another community, the Committee discussed the stormwater fees included on everyone's tax bills; currently, Charleston County collects the thirty-six dollar (\$36.00) annual fee and administers the City's program. The County has informed the City that they will be increasing that fee, possibly, to as much as seventy-two dollars (\$72.00); the County has said that their administrative costs are increasing and they want to be able to do more from a public works standpoint to help the communities. The Public Works Committee has undertaken the study of this issue and will have a member of the Charleston County NPDES staff in attendance for their next meeting. There is a question about whether the City wants to continue with the County or take the initiative on its own, maybe with Sullivan's island, or possibly with Mount Pleasant.

The Committee then reviewed in some detail the City's ten-year (10 yr.) Capital Plan and the proposed FY17 Capital Budgets; the Committee chairs reviewed the budget(s) under the purview of their committee. The Mayor stated that he was very pleased with the results; there had been a lot of interaction on the Committee level and at the Ways and Means Committee meeting.

**1. Recommendation from the Personnel Committee to award a sole source contract to JEMS in an amount not to exceed \$16,000 for court software for Professional Services related to the online payment of criminal and traffic tickets**

Mayor Cronin stated that this was a budgeted item and a sole source procurement to ensure compatibility between court programs.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award the sole source contract to JEMS in an amount not to exceed \$16,000; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. From the ATAX Committee, approval of overage of \$49.75 on cost of 2 water rescue sleds**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the overage of \$49.75 in the ATAX budget for 2 rescue sleds; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Recommendation from the ATAX Committee for a full page advertisement on the inside back cover of *SIP Magazine* at a cost of \$3,500**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to purchase a full page advertisement on the inside back cover of *SIP Magazine*; Councilmember Ward seconded.**

Mayor Cronin stated that it was a good magazine to acquaint people with the island and what it has to offer.

Councilmember Rice said that she must recuse herself from the vote on this motion.

**Vote: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY with Councilmember Rice's recusal.**

**4. Recommendation of award of a contract to McCay Kiddy and Associates LLC for the financial audit for the City for June 30, 2016**

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to award a contract to McCay Kiddy and Associates LLC for the audit of June 30, 2016; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

The Mayor noted that the City had received three (3) qualified proposals that had been thoroughly vetted, and this is the recommendation from staff.

**VOTE: The vote PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Staff recommendation to renew state contract with Xerox for copying needs for all departments for 5 years and approximately \$50,000**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to renew the Xerox contract detailed above; Councilmember Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Cronin reported that the City had sold the old rescue truck for twenty-eight thousand one hundred dollars (\$28,100) to Awendaw.

The next meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, and it will include a budget workshop per the Budget Development Schedule.

**B. Public Safety Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Councilmember Bettelli noted that Elizabeth Campsen had attended the meeting as a representative of the Intracoastal Court neighborhood to address the managed beach access parking plan and the marina redevelopment plan. The Committee discussed the encroachments in the rights-of-way on the island and that SCDOT has the authority to enforce that since the majority of island roads are in the SCDOT system; therefore, they should be more vigilant in ensuring they are left clear. In the road agreements with the municipalities, the statement is included that the City will help to keep the rights-of-way free of obstructions; the problem is that the road agreements are all different depending on when the road was constructed. At the meeting, the Administrator recalled that three (3) areas of the island intentionally were not included in resident-only parking, i.e. Breach Inlet, the Recreation Center and the area around the marina based on the need to complete the plan and a very detailed review at the end of the season. In an update on coyotes, Councilmember Bettelli reported that the Wild Dunes' and the City's traps have captured only a raccoon and a possum; additionally, he reported that the overgrown lots are being addressed by the City. He also asked that citizens report any areas of public property where coyotes are sighted repeatedly; he reminded the Committee that the City cannot trap on private property. The new rescue truck has arrived on the island, and Awendaw has taken possession of the old rescue truck. Administrator Tucker announced that the mayors of the three (3) East Cooper communities are jointly advocating to

the County to fund and install cameras on the approaches to the islands. The feed from the IOP Connector camera will go live on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and the feed will be added to SCDOT's SC511 service. Additional crosswalks on Palm Boulevard were also discussed' currently there are five (5) stamped crosswalks on Palm. Based on SCDOT regulations, Chief Buckhannon noted that crosswalks are only allowed about every three (3) blocks, he recommended the placement of a painted crosswalk at 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Palm.

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the application for an encroachment permit and a painted crosswalk at 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Palm Boulevard; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Administrator Tucker commented that this new crosswalk comes as a request from a resident.

Although the City has been using body-worn cameras for some time, the policy for the use of them was re-written in the past thirty (30) days; the re-write met the requirements of CALEA and the City's insurance carrier, and it was approved by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy Training Council pursuant to state law. Having only a three-year (3 yr.) lifespan, new body-worn cameras are a part of the FY17 budget. The handheld ticket devices recently purchased are going to be exchanged with a model that uses small tablets for capturing information. Like all committees, the Public Safety Committee reviewed the proposed FY17 Capital budget and the ten-year (10 yr.) Capital Plan.

From the Fire Department report for February, Councilmember Bettelli noted that personnel responded to a call on February 8<sup>th</sup> on Barnacle Row where a man had fallen approximately thirty feet (30 ft.) from a ladder; the patient was transported to a local trauma center. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, personnel responded to a call of debris washing ashore at Breach Inlet and numerous pieces of boat wreckage were found, collected and taken to Fire Station 1; the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard searched the waters around both islands and offshore for signs of a boat mishap, but nothing was found. The situation is under investigation. In the month, personnel responded to a total of forty (40) calls; nineteen (19) were EMS calls. Twenty-six (26) fire inspections were performed, and ten (10) violations were cited. All career personnel participated in driver and pump operator training, officer exam preparation and response protocol review. Vehicle maintenance costs were relatively higher this month due to the replacement of a fuel pump on Engine 1002 at more than sixty-six hundred dollars (\$6,600) and the replacement of the steering gear box assembly on a ladder truck for approximately twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

Chief Graham reported that Bill Jenkins was retiring after thirty-five years (35 yrs.) of volunteer service to the IOP Fire Department. Seth Bacon was promoted to Captain, and Jeff Stickney was promoted to Engineer to fill Captain Bacon's previous position.

From the Police Department February report, Councilmember Bettelli stated that, in the early hours of February 20<sup>th</sup>, officers responded to a call of three (3) subjects attempting to break into a car; with the aid of a Sullivan's Island police officer and two (2) County Sheriff's Deputies, a perimeter was established and the three (3) suspects were arrested. During an interview with one (1) of the suspects, he stated that they had come to IOP to break into cars because "they are always unlocked and have valuables inside." Command Staff commends Pfc. Storen for being

selected as the Officer of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2015 by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Network; he conducted a total of two hundred fifty (250) traffic stops that resulted in nine (9) arrests for Driving Under the Influence. In addition, the Command Staff recognizes Tracy Waldron who fulfills multiple roles in the Department; she is the Administrative Assistant to Chief Buckhannon and also handles records requests from the public and attorneys, supplies various reports as requested, and assists the Communication Specialists in the Dispatch Office. Officers Maloney and Postell took part in the “Kids and Cops” program at the Recreation Center. Sgt. Meekins, ACO Enourato, BSO Skinner and BSO Tyson attended Doggie Day at the Rec and sold sixty-nine (69) dog licenses.

In the month of February, the Communication Specialists responded to four thousand fifty-three (4,053) calls, and three thousand two hundred thirty-seven (3,237) calls were for the Police Department. Officers made two hundred fifty-one (251) traffic stops, and seventy-four (74) of them received tickets. Twenty-seven (27) arrests were made in February for a variety of offenses; Animal Control wrote four (4) citations and seven (7) warning tickets. With the rapid onset of the season, training hours are dwindling. Thirty-three (33) coyote sightings were reported in the month, and they were primarily in Wild Dunes.

When discussing the recruitment of BSOs for the summer, Elizabeth Campsen suggested that the City contact Operation Palmetto Employment that helps veterans find jobs.

The Public Safety Committee will hold its next meeting at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Conference Room.

Responding to the Mayor’s question, Clerk Copeland stated three (3) new BSOs have been hired this week and that she was not aware of any others pending at this time. Councilmember Harrington stated that the Department planned to hire five (5) more BSOs.

Councilmember Rice asked if anyone knew when the residential parking stickers would be mailed to residents; although the stickers have arrived, no one had a date for mail-out. The Administrator reported that Chief Buckhannon had been asked to attend the County Council meeting this evening because the cameras for beach-goers’ traffic information was to be voted on tonight.

Councilmember Ferencz noted that she has received questions about the Waterway Boulevard parking, and the minutes state that an ordinance change would be required to allow parking there. On the other hand, the ordinance states the following:

**“Sec. 8-2-32. - Resident parking districts; boundary descriptions.**

The designated resident parking district shall include all public rights-of-way along streets within residentially zoned districts, with the exception of the following areas:

- (b) The parking lots at Breach Inlet, the Marina, and the Recreation Center;”

Councilmember Ferencz stated that she did not think that Waterway Boulevard could be considered a part of the marina parking lot; additionally, the area of the ordinance that lists where parking is allowed does not include Waterway Boulevard.

Attorney Halversen stated that the parking ordinance includes the sign plan, which is the governing document now, and any changes would have to be made by ordinance. She recounted that City Council intended for the areas of Breach Inlet, the marina and the Recreation to be left out of the plan now; she agreed that there were discrepancies between the ordinance and the sign plan and Council's intention that they will all be resolved at the end of the season along with other unintentional mistakes. In her opinion, the City must live with the problems and inconsistencies for the season, but, in the meantime, figure out what Council wants to do in those areas to have it written into the ordinance.

### **C. Public Works Committee**

Councilmember Ward reported from the meeting held on March 1<sup>st</sup> that was attended by all members and two (2) guests from SCE&G, Westy Westmoreland and Evan Wheeler to provide information and answer questions about the Non-standard Service Clause in the City's franchise agreement with SCE&G. The focus of the discussion was the undergrounding of power lines on the island, a very expensive project, and the best use of the non-standard service clause funds. On the other hand, the Administrator stated that it was difficult to find small projects, and she cautioned the Committee that the cost of the electricity on the lights, like at Front Beach, is billed at a higher rate, thereby increasing the City's operational costs and that the City seldom has enough money to meet the desired goal. The Director stated that, normally, February is the month that Public Works starts maintenance on the beach access paths in anticipation of the beginning of the season; however, he spent several days in February pumping water. Since the island remains saturated, the maintenance has not begun because the equipment could do more damage on some beach paths than waiting until they dry out. He reported that they had completed clearing the ditch on the non-ocean side of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue for the resident who had complained. For the month of February, yard debris was low, but three (3), maybe four (4), loads remain to be taken to the landfill. Garbage was up by a small amount. On vehicle maintenance, he noted that the repairs to the Caterpillar ran quite high, but he believes that the problem has been identified and remedied. In addition, the hydraulic cylinder on the oldest truck in the fleet was replaced, but he intends to keep the truck for several more years as the primary debris truck. Administrator Tucker reported that the design and permit request have been submitted to SCDOT for the golf cart path, and they have responded with some comments/concerns.

Responding to Councilmember Ward's request for a further update, Administrator Tucker reported that the City had received comments and concerns from SCDOT relative to the encroachment permit application submitted to SCDOT; the City has responded and thinks that their requests can be handled, and the application will be re-filed with SCDOT, anticipating a positive result.

The Committee also had a lengthy discussion about the public restrooms and beach accesses; summarizing the comments, Councilmember Ward stated that the consensus of the Committee was that the City would have to make a financial contribution to the project to garner support from other entities and there is nearly a quarter million dollars (\$250,000) in the FY16 budget. Councilmember Kinghorn asked if the existing public restroom had a footprint that was large enough to build a structure that would have a commercial aspect to it that, over the long-term, would help to fund it.



On the topic of the NPDES improvements to the Public Works site, the Administrator reported that the draft has been completed and has been sent to the County for their review to determine how much could be covered by NPDES funds; the project is close to going to bid.

The sign for the Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park will be unveiled at a ceremony to be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The update on the Phase II drainage project was that letters have been sent to the property owners where the City needs temporary construction easements.

The meeting was adjourned after the review of the proposed FY17 Capital Budget and the 10-year (10 yr.) Capital Plan.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers.

Mayor Cronin announced that the Hazardous Household Materials and Shred Day is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and noon in the big parking lot; participants will be limited to four (4) boxes to be shredded.

On the subject of the public restrooms, the Mayor reported that the City has asked the County to participate with the City on the engineering of the new restrooms and the City has received a lukewarm response.

#### **D. Recreation Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of March 1, Councilmember Carroll reported that, on February 18<sup>th</sup>, eleven (11) Keenagers had gone on a field trip to the Nathaniel Russell House Museum followed by lunch at Page's Okra Grill. According to the Director, Doggie Day at the Rec was "awesome;" seventy (70) dogs participated in the contests and fifty-three (53) got rabies shots. The Middle School Dance was attended by only twenty (20) youths; Seacoast Church had an event for young people of the same age on the same night and drew those that would have normally attended the Middle School Dance. Upcoming events included the Front Beach Fest planned for Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> featuring *The Catalinas* and *The Tams*; more than forty (40) local craft vendors, restaurants, businesses and free entertainment will be present. The annual Isle of Palms Easter Egg Hunt will be at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 26; as in the past, jump castles, a balloon artist, a photo booth, a face painter and an appearance by the Easter Bunny will be part of the fun. The date for this year's Yard Sale is Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. til noon, and spaces are available for five dollars (\$5). At Councilmember Rice's request, a food truck featuring breakfast foods will be available to seller and buyers at the Yard Sale. Responding to Councilmember Kinghorn's request, Director Page significantly reduced the Department's monthly report; Councilmember Carroll asked that the number of participants or the number of teams be added to the athletics report. The pickle ball net is to be put up this week at the tennis courts, and, like the tennis courts, it will be used on a first come-first served basis. The pump for draining the Doggie Park has been slowed by an equipment mix-up, but the water will be directed to the same storm drain as the building. The Committee viewed proposed FY17 Capital budget and the 10-year (10 yr.) Capital Plan; the FY17 capital budget was reduced by almost half (½) from what rolled forward into the budget year and what was actually requested. Upon Councilmember

Kinghorn's suggestion that the Rec Department look into non-traditional funding, Director Page reported that she has been looking into grants, but, from past experience, she knew that it was difficult for the Isle of Palms to get grants because the community is considered to be too affluent. She recalled that she did get a CDBG grant of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for HVAC for the

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gym based on the degree of use by senior citizens; each year the City receives a PARD grant distributed by Charleston County based on population, ranging from fifteen hundred to three thousand dollars (\$1,500-3,000). Councilmember Kinghorn reiterated his position that the best way to raise money through contributions was registration, and, whether paper or electronic registration, a blank could be inserted encouraging contributions to the Building Fund, for example. A similar space could be placed on the Recreation Department website, assuming that was the direction Council wanted to go. Another discussion centered on partnering with other entities, Director Page stated that the Rec Department has partnered many times with groups such as the Red Cross, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission. Director Page is also working on a survey to distribute to Recreation participants to learn how the Department is doing? Do the programs offered meet their needs? What would they like to see added?

The next Recreation Committee will be at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Conference Room.

Mayor Cronin announced that the City has received an Achievement Award from the Municipal Association for Doggie Day at the Rec.

#### **E. Personnel Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Councilmember Harrington reported that the Committee had unanimously approved the purchase of JEMS software for the online payment of criminal and traffic tickets for the court system and the 2016 floating holiday for employees.

**MOTION: Councilmember Harrington moved to designate Veterans Day, Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> as the 2016 Floating Holiday for employees; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 8 to 1 with Councilmember Carroll casting the dissenting vote.**

Of significance in the General Government proposed FY17 Capital Budget was the purchase of tablets for Council, the City Administrator and Assistant Administrator, IT staff, department managers and City Clerk; this is a result of advocacy from Council to rely less on paper and to move to an electronic format.

The Administrator reported that the Public Works Committee had a presentation from SCE&G about the non-standard service clause of the franchise agreement; the result of the discussion was to begin to accumulate funds rather than to re-budget the same seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) year after year in order to do a meaningful project in the future. Councilmember Ferencz asked that the money budgeted for the undergrounding of utility lines be moved to the Public Works capital budget, and the Administrator saw no problem with doing that.

Currently the Police Department needs to hire five (5) additional BSOs, but no other department has job vacancies.

January Safety Sweepstakes Winners

Recreation Department – Aaron Sweet	Fire Department – Capt. Seth Bacon
Police Department – PFC. Kurt Zimmerman	Public Works – George Myers

February Safety Sweepstakes Winners

Building Department – Rhonda Gibbons	Fire Department – Eng. Bill Pesature
Police Department – Sgt. Jamey Meekins	Public Works – Willie Powell

**F. Real Property Committee**

Councilmember Bergwerf reported that, at the meeting of March 2, Jay Clarke of Morgan Creek Grill stated that he was in the process of getting pricing for the installation of an elevator since ATM has made the presentation of their concept for the future of the marina that does not contemplate the relocation of any structures. He also indicated that, once the lease extension has been signed, he will be ready to proceed with fencing to camouflage the dumpsters; for the time being, they have been relocated. In accordance with the noise control ordinance, the City has received a draft noise control agreement, and a copy was given to Mr. Clarke prior to his leaving the meeting; the agreement needs to be signed before the lease extension would be finalized. The City has two (2) projects that qualify under FEMA's Category G, and they are the 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue beach access that needs to be repaired and the portion of the sand loss related to Joaquin that occurred on the northeast end of the island; the FEMA reimbursement will be seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible costs. The major offshore dredging project is being planned for the fall of 2016, but there is a lot of work to be done to make that target date. The Committee received information requests from the McDowells about creating passive park areas from which to enjoy the Hammock Islands. The Committee agrees, in principle, that such spaces would be positive to the City, but more consideration is required; for instance, many of the locations the McDowells suggested are on private property. Councilmember Rice suggested that the space at the ends of 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues might be suitable for a kayak landing spot. Administrator Tucker stated that the more public spaces the City creates, the more public spaces the City must maintain, and she acknowledged that the more passive areas are lacking in maintenance. When Chair Bergwerf asked about other possible spaces on the island, the Administrator noted that there are properties on the island belonging to the Beach Company that they would divest themselves of because they have approached the City in the past about them. One (1) such space is a small boat launch/landing at the end of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. From the review of the proposed FY17 Capital Budget, two (2) major budget items are still in flux, i.e. the off-shore dredging project and the marina redevelopment; the impact of the marina on the coming year's budget are unknown and will remain so until Council holds its workshop on the Marina Redevelopment Plan on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The off-shore dredging project is estimated at fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000); the City's portion would be paid from the entirety of the June 30, 2016 balances in the Beach Preservation Fee Fund and the Beach Maintenance Fund plus a possible loan in the amount of one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000). Also included in this budget is seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for ongoing shoreline monitoring and the re-budget of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for updating the Beach Management Plan. For Breach Inlet, the rehabilitation of the ramp and gate replacement have been deferred

until FY18. The marina FY17 Capital Budget includes the mandatory replacement of the four (4) under-ground fuel tanks with double walled tanks at three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000); twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) has been budgeted to replace the dockside fuel dispensers, only if they fail. Staff has estimated forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for painting the bulkhead; the Administrator reported that staff has reached out to ATM to get a more accurate estimate for the job. The following items located at Morgan Creek Grill were deferred to FY18: the generator, walk-in freezer, hood/ventilation system and sprinkler system. The Front Beach FY17 Capital Budget includes the design costs for new public restrooms of one hundred one thousand thirty-four dollars (\$101,034) based on Liollo's old estimate, the repair/replacement/addition of a beach access at one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the replacement of four (4) bollard lights near the County Park at seven thousand dollars (\$7,000) and a piece of public art to replace the informational kiosk for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). A new savings fund for a future project is seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to replace the underground infrastructure in the Front Beach area. According to the Administrator, the City still needs to replace part of the white fencing at Front Beach, but it has been deferred to FY18.

Councilmember Rice asked again that the City consider hiring a parks and grounds person, who would also oversee Front Beach; she opined that it needs much more attention than it is getting. Director Pitts stated that staff does not have time to monitor the City's property and facilities around the island and a person in that capacity would be an asset for the City.

The next meeting of the Real Property Committee will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room.

**5. 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

Mayor Cronin asked that Councilmembers to refresh themselves before the workshop on April 28<sup>th</sup>; he stated that the minutes provide some insight into the ideas about the marina since the ATM master plan was presented.

**6. Reports from Special or Joint Committees** – None

**7. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of** –

8. Handled early in the meeting.

**9. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**

Proclamation for April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to suspend the reading and to adopt the Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**10. Miscellaneous Business**

Councilmember Kinghorn suggested that the City Administrator facilitate holding one (1) City Council meeting per year inside the gates of Wild Dunes. The said that he thought there would be no problem doing so.

Councilmember Ferencz thanked Treasurer Suggs for developing the project worksheet on the Managed Beach Access Parking Plan.

Next Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2016

**11. Executive Session** in accordance with S.C. Code Section 30-4-7(a)(2) to receive legal advice related to a pending claim concerning the Public Safety Building.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. in accordance with S.C. Code Section 230-4-7(a)(2) to receive legal advice related to a pending claim concerning the Public Safety Building; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.; Mayor Cronin announced that Council had not taken a vote or any action while in Executive Session

Administrator Tucker stated that she had received a text from Chief Buckhannon who told her that the cameras had passed County Council on a vote of 6 to 3 and that they were currently arguing over NPDES fees.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie B. Copeland  
City Clerk