

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 25, 2011

City Council held its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bergwerf, Buckhannon, Duffy, Loftus, Stone and Thomas, Mayor Cronin, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, City Attorney Halversen and City Clerk Copeland. Absences of Councilmembers Bettelli and Piening were 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. The Pledge of Allegiance followed a brief invocation offered by the Mayor; Clerk Copeland called the roll.

2. Appointment and Administration of Oath to New Employee

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to appoint Randall Wynkoop to the Police Department; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Cronin issued the oath to Patrol Officer Wynkoop and welcomed him to the City.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 27, 2011 as submitted; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens' Comments

Sarah Finkelstein of 54th Avenue explained that the end of 54th Avenue had been left discolored following the completion of the drainage project and that she had asked the City to remove the stains. She stated that the City had responded promptly and that the residents were most pleased with the results; she expressed her thanks to Council.

Presentation of FY2011 Financial Audit by David Phillips and Genia Kornegay of Greene, Finney and Horton

Mayor Cronin introduced David Phillips and noted that Greene, Finney and Horton have been the City's auditors for a number of years. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and the management letter are attached to the historical record of the meeting.)

Mr. Phillips stated that small changes remain to be made before the final financial statements are published; the final reports will be issued in the next couple of weeks. The purpose of the presentation is to provide the City with an overview of the FY11 audit results. Key components of the presentation include the following:

- Fund balance for the General Fund increased approximately one hundred eleven thousand dollars (\$111,000) inclusive of an approved transfer to the Capital Projects Fund of five hundred seventy-one thousand dollars (\$571,000).
- The City received an “unqualified” opinion from the auditors, which is the best opinion the City can receive.
- The City has met the Government Finance Officers Association’s most recent recommendation of at least two (2) months of operating expenditures.
- The City’s revenues were flat which is very consistent with the auditor’s experience with other local governments for 2011.
- Expenditures in FY11 from the Capital Projects Fund include six hundred thirty-eight thousand dollars (\$638,000) on the 53rd to 57th Avenue Drainage project, two hundred fourteen thousand dollars (\$214,000) completing City Hall renovations and one hundred sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$167,000) for a new garbage truck, which was paid off in August 2011.
- Accommodations tax revenues were twenty-one percent (21%) higher than the prior year.

Mr. Phillips concluded his comments with a brief discussion of the new pension accounting that is some two (2) years away whereby local governments will be required to record their asset/liability in pension programs. With the under-funding situation in South Carolina retirement systems, the City would post a long-term liability.

Mayor Cronin commented on the fact that all fund balances increased to near record amounts.

Councilmember Loftus stated that City Council should recognize the City staff for the remarkable job they have done; Council applauded the City staff for their efforts.

Mr. Phillips voiced agreement with Councilmember Loftus; he commented that the City’s staff provides Council with good information on which to base sound decisions.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

Mayor Cronin reported that the Committee met on October 18th, and Treasurer Suggs presented financial information for the first quarter of FY12. General Fund revenues were at eleven percent (11%) of budget, while General Fund expenditures were at twenty-one percent (21%) of budget – the target for the first quarter is twenty-five percent (25%). In the tourism funds, the City has no collections in State Accommodations Taxes or the Charleston County Pass-through; Municipal Accommodations Taxes collections were fourteen percent (14%) ahead of FY11 with Hospitality Taxes lower than FY11 due, primarily, to a taxpayer who is delinquent.

In the Beach Restoration Fund, a balance of approximately nine hundred ten thousand dollars (\$910,000) remains for the focused erosion project. The 53rd to 57th Avenue Drainage Project is complete; the City hopes to expand the scope of the project to include 46th to 52nd Avenues and to convince Charleston County to allow the City to use the remaining funding toward it. Once

the data and electrical lines are relocated from 1301 Palm Boulevard, the building will be demolished; ninety-nine thousand dollars (\$99,000) remain in the project fund.

1. Award of Contract to Jones Ford to Purchase one (1) Budgeted Ford F150 in an amount not to exceed \$28,443, state contract pricing, for Public Works

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award the contract to Jones Ford as stated; Councilmember Duffy seconded.

Mayor Cronin commented that this truck is used as a shuttle, and Councilmember Duffy related that the truck has been in service for ten (10) years.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Approval of Recommendation for \$15,000 to 2012 Spoleto Festival

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve \$15,000 for the 2012 Spoleto Festival; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

The Mayor noted that the amount is the same financial commitment that the City has made for the past several years.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Approval of Recommendation for \$15,000 to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum for Study

Mayor Cronin stated his desire to defer action on this ATAX recommendation until he has the opportunity to discuss the matter with Mac Burdette, Patriots Point Executive Director.

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to defer action until the November meeting; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Award of Contract to Herndon Chevrolet for three (3) budgeted Chevrolet Impalas in the amount of \$59,871, state contract pricing, for the Police Department

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award the contract to Herndon as stated; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Approval of up to \$9,000 for Unbudgeted Expenses for installation of a Metro-E Data Line, Purchase of Cisco Router, Firewall and Programming Changes to the Records Management Systems Associated with the move to Consolidated Dispatch

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the unbudgeted expenses for the Consolidated Dispatch System as described; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of Ways and Means will be at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

B. Public Safety Committee

From the meeting of October 8th, Vice Chair Loftus reported that Diane Oltorik had detailed her proposed Medical Equipment Loan Closet; once the Committee approves the procedures for the loan closet, the Committee will present the package to City Council for approval and implementation. The Committee approved the vehicle purchases for the Police Department as well as the unbudgeted expenses related to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch program. Vice Chair Loftus informed the Ways and Means Committee that the patrol vehicles being replaced have at least one hundred thousand (100,000) miles on them and are being replaced in the six (6) year rotation cycle.

From the Police Department's monthly report, Vice Chair Loftus commented that four (4) incidents of thefts of personal property from unlocked vehicles; he stressed the importance of securing vehicles at all times. In the month of September, dispatchers handled thirty-nine hundred thirteen (3,913) calls; of that number, twenty-nine hundred ninety-seven (2,997) were for the Police Department. Chief Buckhannon was asked to make recommendations about ways to improve off-season parking on Front Beach to optimize parking for island businesses.

The Public Safety Committee's next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10 in City Hall.

C. Public Works Committee

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on October 4, 2011. Director Pitts reported that, although vehicle maintenance for the month was high, expenses year-to-date remain under budget. In addition, the Director noted that garbage collections for September were up from the prior year, but continued to trend down in general. Despite action by Council in June requiring the use of bio-degradable paper bags or plastic containers for yard debris, Director Pitts had informed the Committee that many residents persist in placing yard debris in plastic bags. Presently Public Works personnel are tearing open the plastic bags before placing the yard debris in the truck for disposal at the landfill; Director Pitts is addressing, on an individual basis, large numbers of plastic bags at a single residence. The Committee briefly discussed the City's request of Charleston County to be included in the single-stream recycling initiative; this program eliminates the need to separate recyclable paper from plastic from cans. The Director informed the Committee of his efforts to remove the stain at 54th Avenue. Pursuant to a citizen's request for trash barrels on the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard, Bill Schupp informed the Committee that the low volume of trash collected from the yellow barrels on the ocean side of Palm indicates the no need for barrels on the non-ocean side. The Committee agreed to offer the resident an additional roll-out cart at no charge in response to his request. The Committee approve the purchase of a new truck to replace the 2002 Ford.

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 2 in City Hall.

D. Recreation Committee – did not meet in October

E. Personnel Committee

From the meeting of October 5, Councilmember Thomas related that discussion centered on the appointments to 2012 boards and commissions; a total of nine (9) seats will expire at the end of 2011, and one (1) of those persons has opted not to seek re-appointment. The Committee agreed to interview the five (5) new candidates on Tuesday, October 11.

The Personnel Committee will meet at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

Councilmember Thomas announced the September Safety Sweepstakes Winners as follows:

Recreation – Karrie Ferrell
Police – Robert Nelson

Fire – Tywan Heyward
Public Works – Bernard Gourdine

F. Real Property Committee

In the meeting of October 12, Committee members were informed that the City has not yet received the Corps of Engineers permit for the focused erosion beach renourishment project. Due to the movement of the shoal that is proposed to supply the sand for the project, Coastal Science and Engineering is recommending that the City undertake the project sooner rather than later, assuming that the permit does not contain unreasonable stipulations that would make the project financially unfeasible. On the subject of dredging, the Chair reported that the City is in receipt of the Consent Agreement from the Corps of Engineers and the bid package and contract are getting legal review. Dredging is expected to begin in December 2011. Once a vendor is secured for relocating the data and electrical lines from 1301 Palm Boulevard, the City will proceed with the RFB for demolition.

The Real Property Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2 in the City Hall Conference Room.

Mayor Cronin announced that the GEL Engineering, the City's design engineer for the dredging project, has succeeded in convincing the Corps of Engineers that the sediment testing in the IntraCoastal Waterway is unnecessary, saving the City thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).

6. 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 announced that the Planning Commission will hold Open House Forums on November 9, November 13 and December 14 to discuss parking in various areas of the island. Once the off-site locations have been confirmed, the City will begin to advertise them.

7. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – None

8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of

Status of Referral of Petition from Residents of 54th Avenue

The petition is disposed of due to the successful efforts of the Public Works Department and the positive response from the residents of 54th Avenue.

9. Bills Already in Possession of Council - None

10. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations – None

11. Miscellaneous Business

Mayor Cronin reminded everyone of the Halloween Carnival at the Recreation Center beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31, 2011. He noted that it is always a very successful event drawing upwards of five hundred (500) young people from the area.

Councilmember Buckhannon announced that November is Men's Health Awareness month and that men are encouraged to grow moustaches as a sign of their participation.

Next Meeting Date: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 15, 2011

12. Executive Session – not necessary

13. Conclusion/Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.; Councilmember Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk