

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

6:45 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2011

The City Council of the City of Isle of Palms held a Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the hearing were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Loftus, Stone and Thomas, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, City Attorney Halversen and Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban. The absences of Councilmembers Buckhannon, Duffy 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.

### **2. Public Hearing**

#### **An Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011 and Ending June 30, 2012.**

Responding to Mayor Cronin's request, Administrator Tucker went to the podium to summarize the highlights of the FY12 Operating and Capital Budgets as follows:

- The budget does not support any new personnel, but, as in the FY11 budget, allocations from the Hospitality Fund and the two (2) accommodations funds totaling four hundred sixty-eight thousand dollars (\$468,000) are being used to cover tourism-related expenses associated with the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments.
- A three percent (3%) merit pool has been established for employees deserving of a merit increase for calendar year 2011.
- Fuel expense for both diesel and unleaded have been estimated at four dollars twenty-five cents (\$4.25) per gallon for all departments.
- The change to the State Health Plan for employees has created a savings of sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$67,000).
- City Council unanimously agreed to pay off the lease for the 2009 Mack garbage truck with a savings of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) to the General Fund.
- Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) has been allocated to complete the 53<sup>rd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Project currently underway.
- An additional eighty-six thousand dollars (\$86,000) has been designated for the design and permitting of the next phase of the drainage project from 46<sup>th</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
- One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) has been reserved for the replacement of the lights and the reconfiguration of the ball fields at the Recreation Center, and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) has been reserved for a future beach restoration project.
- Although the triggers that indicate the City should proceed with the focused erosion project have not been reached, City Council set aside six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) for this project; permitting is being considered by OCRM at this time.
- Additionally, City Council has allocated three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for dredging at the marina in the fall of 2011.

The actions described above are being accomplished with no tax increase to residents through existing revenues and healthy fund balances from accommodations taxes.

Administrator Tucker stated that the “pink” version of the FY12 budget reviewed was slated for Second Reading at the City Council meeting to follow, but staff was asking for the Second Reading to be deferred until the June meeting. The “pink” version of the budget includes an allocation of funds for the initiation of a parking management plan for the island, but City Council has unanimously agreed to proceed with one (1) segment of the parking initiative. Mayor Cronin will be calling a special meeting to discuss the sources of funding for this initial phase for parking improvement with the impact on the FY12 budget. Therefore, another version of the budget will be developed with those inclusions; another public hearing will be held with final budget approval at the June City Council meeting.

Mayor Cronin thanked staff for their dedication of bringing to Council a balanced budget with no tax increases for the residents.

No one came forward with comments on the FY12 Budget.

### **3. Adjourn**

Mayor Cronin closed the Public Hearing at 6:53 p.m.