

**CITY OF ISLE OF Palms
Regular City Council Meeting
October 23, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Isle of Palms City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending were Mayor Sottile, Council members Bettelli, Buckhannon, Cronin, Hanbury, Marino, McMackin, Rice, Taylor, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, Attorney Sottile and City Clerk Copeland. Also present for the meeting were City Treasurer Suggs and Auditor Larry Finney. There was a quorum for conducting business.

1. Introduction of Meeting

Mayor Sottile called the meeting to order and stated that members of the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Mayor offered the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Clerk then called the roll noting that all members of City Council were present.

Mayor Sottile acknowledged that Administrator Tucker was out of town and that he was pleased to have Assistant Dziuban on the dais.

2. Appointments and Administration of Oath to New Employees. None.

3. Reading of the Journal of Previous Meetings:

As the Mayor called for approval of the minutes, Councilwoman Hanbury directed the Council's attention to the top of page 6 of the minutes of September 25, 2007 where Mayor Sottile's name was indicated as voting twice; the first reference to the Mayor's name should be replaced with Councilman Taylor's name.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved for the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of September 6 and the regular meeting of September 25, 2007 as corrected; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

A. Presentation of Audit Results for Year Ended June 30, 2007 by Larry Finney of Green, Finney and Horton, LLP

Attached to the master copy of the minutes is a copy of the Powerpoint presentation Mr. Finney made to the meeting. The Council was also provided a "Basis Financial Statement" or summary statement in their packets for the meeting.

In addition to the information in the presentation, Mr. Finney stated that the purpose of GASB 34, which has been talked about for several years, was to take all the different funds that the City has, pull them together and to say what the City looks like overall. The City of Isle of Palms has thirty million dollars in total assets, twelve million dollars in total liabilities and eighteen million dollars in net assets. There are eight (8) new requirements that will take effect in 2008 that all center on internal controls.

In summarizing, Mr. Finney stated that the City is managing its finances very well, and he was most complimentary of the staff.

Mayor Sottile thanked Mr. Finney and his staff for their efforts on behalf of the City then thanked the City Treasurer and City Council for their hard work and dedication to the welfare of the City.

Councilwoman McMackin joined the Mayor in congratulating the staff on a job well done.

B. Larry Pierson, 22 Dune Ridge Lane

“Less than two years ago the City was aware of the erosion problems in Wild Dunes on the northeast end of the island. Six months ago you hired a beach task force to present you with findings and recommendations on how to repair that erosion problem. It is a very, very serious problem, as you know. On November 13, it is my understanding that the beach task force is going to report to you and tell you what their findings are and their recommendations. I will submit to you that it is your responsibility and your most important responsibility to act upon this request or recommendations, not two weeks or a month at your next Council meeting, but immediately. I don't think November 14 would be out of line. So we need help, and we need your recommendations. We need your help. We need your financial help. We need whatever your can do to resolve the problem that we need to attack today, not tomorrow.”

Mayor Sottile encouraged all residents to attend the meeting of Tuesday, November 13 to hear the results of the Long Term Beach Management Committee.

5. Reports from Standing Boards and Committee

A. Ways and Means Committee

Councilman Taylor added his voice to the much-deserved chorus of praise for Treasurer Suggs.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved to transfer the surplus component of the 2006-2007 Budget of approximately \$667,000 to the Capital Projects Fund; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved to approve as a sole source provider Schupp Enterprises for the renewal for five (5) years for the contract for beach trash pickup; Councilman Marino seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved to commit to Charleston County to switch to digital radio service between May 16 and July 31, 2008; seconded by Councilman Marino and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY,

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilman Marino stated that the Committee had discussed the responses it had received from the SC DOT on several issues as follows:

- 25th Avenue – SC DOT had placed an additional barricade at the end of the street and placed a number of “No Parking” signs along the street; and
- Traffic studies for Palm/12th-14th Avenues and Palm/41st Avenue.

With the condominiums in Wild Dunes being available in the spring of 2008, the traffic at 41st and Palm will become even more of a public safety issue. The traffic study offered several viable options, and the Committee anticipates quick action to determine the best option then to fast track it into action.

Councilman Marino reminded all present of the ribbon cutting at Station #2 on Wednesday, November 14 at 3:00 p.m. There will be light refreshments and tours of the station. He was quick to report that the station was finished on schedule and under budget. Everyone is invited to attend the ribbon cutting.

Public safety issues related to the serious erosion event in Wild Dunes of a couple of weeks back. The Mayor and Administrator filed a Situation Report with the Charleston County Emergency Operations Center and the Governor’s ETV office; the Mayor also telephoned the Governor’s office.

The Committee felt that a switchover to digital radios between May and July 2008 would be most beneficial in that it gives Chief Buckhannon the time for equipment upgrades and tie-ins with Sullivan’s Island dispatch. Charleston County is offering financial

incentives to municipalities for making commitments to the time frame in which they plan to make the switch.

Councilman Marino informed the Council that the Fire Department had assisted with the contamination cleanup from the sinking of a 71-foot yacht at the Isle of Palms Marina on September 26.

Discussion was held by the Committee relative to the public safety of buildings raised up on pilings to be relocated like the one on Waterway Boulevard and the possible need for ordinances associated to the issue. The Mayor updated Council with the news that the house on Waterway was being moved as the Council was meeting on October 23.

Councilman Cronin commented to the September Police Department Report that stated arrest reports continue to increase; there were 60% more arrests in September 2007 than in September 2006. Councilman Marino stated that the arrests were primarily not Isle of Palms residents.

C. Public Works Committee

Councilman Bettelli stated that the Public Works Committee discussed the letter from SC DOT since it addressed the right-of-way issue which Public Works has been working on for several months. In the letter, DOT did indicate some of the streets in its system, but not all of the records are in Charleston; therefore, the information they provided was incomplete. To compile a current and accurate list of Isle of Palms streets and who has jurisdiction over them, someone must take the time to go to Columbia, go through the old records and reconcile them.

During the discussion on the ditch at Sundial Circle, information was provided that the pipe has been properly wrapped and that engineering was proceeding to determine that the elevation was correct.

The Public Works Committee was giving consideration to new ordinances on rollout carts and beach debris/holes. Any action on beach debris/holes was postponed until the Committee received recommendations from the Beach Advisory Committee since the topic was on the agenda for their October meeting.

The Committee has consulted with the NPDES authorities at Charleston County on a final decision on water drained from swimming pools; that decision is expected very soon.

Councilman Bettelli stated that the Committee had voted unanimously to renew the contract with Schupp Enterprises for beach trash removal; he added that Bill Schupp is a very good partner to the City of Isle of Palms.

D. Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rice announced that the “Ghostly Movie on the Beach” has been re-scheduled to Friday, November 16, 2007. Also on the recreation schedule for the near future are the Halloween Carnival for Wednesday, October 31 and the Tree Lighting on Front Beach, Thursday, December 6, 2007. Councilwoman Rice reported that the Connector Run had been a huge success with over nine hundred (900) runners and an unknown number of walkers involved (they were not counted). Other topics of discussion at the Committee meeting were the Special Events Permits – its purpose, the process, what it needs to achieve – and input from Council members was encouraged. There was discussion about the Recreation Department List Serve, and it was discovered that each member had a different idea about what it was to look like and what its purpose was. The last topics for discussion were requests to be submitted to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee in November.

Mayor Sottile congratulated the Recreation Department staff for the professional manner in which they handled the Connector Run.

D. Personnel Committee

As an update on the Compensation Study, Councilwoman McMackin reported that the Administrator had received a report, but was unsure if it was to be the final one. She wanted to read over both the report and the contract with The Archer Company before giving a copy of the report to the Personnel Committee members. She announced that the E-newsletter had been published about three (3) times to-date. The Committee discussed the *ad hoc* committees of the City Council, i.e. Beach Advisory and Real Property Advisory, in terms of whether to continue, reconfigure or sunset the committees. Councilman Taylor had commented that the Real Property Advisory Committee was probably the best-run committee in the City, so the Personnel Committee decided to leave it as is. There would be more discussions on the Beach Advisory Committee at the November Personnel meeting. The last topic for discussion was appointments to boards and commissions. Since there were three (3) new candidates, an interview date was set; the actual appointment recommendations would be made at the November meeting.

Councilwoman McMackin announced the September Safety Sweepstakes winners to be

Karrie Ferrell-Recreation
Kim Tapply-Public Works

Shaun Gadsden-Fire
Stephen Hicks-Police

6. **Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions**
 - A. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
 - B. **Planning Commission** – minutes attached
 - C. **Real Property Advisory Committee**

Councilman Bettelli announced that the RFP for the marina store has been extended to 10:00 a.m., Friday, November 2, 2007. He was very pleased to report that Charleston County had started grading portions of the parking lot at the marina in preparation for re-surfacing it.

7. **Reports from Joint or Special Committees**
 - A. **Accommodations Tax Committee** – no meeting
 - B. **Beach Advisory Committee** – minutes attached
8. **Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of** - none
9. **Bills Already in Possession of Council** - none
10. **Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**
 - A. **First Reading – Ordinance 2007-18, An Ordinance to Raise Revenue by Establishing a Property Tax Millage Rate for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008.**

Mayor Sottile reminded City Council that this millage had already been set and that this was a housekeeping measure.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to dispense with the reading and to adopt for first reading Ordinance 2007-18, An Ordinance to Raise Revenue by Establishing a Property Tax Millage Rate for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008; seconded by Councilman Taylor.

Councilman Marino congratulated the City Council for trimming the budget, as they had, to keep the millage as low as possible; he quoted the millage rates of the other local municipalities as North Charleston at 92.9, Charleston at 75.8, and James Island PSD at 55.2.

The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. First Reading – Ordinance 2007-19, An Ordinance Authorizing the Leasing of one (1) Mack Garbage Truck GU 713.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to dispense with the reading and to adopt for first reading Ordinance 2007-19 as stated above; Councilman Taylor seconded.

In discussion, Councilman Taylor brought to Council's attention that, when the City enters a lease agreement, it also enters a purchase agreement; the City owns the equipment at the end of the lease term. Councilman Bettelli added that one of the reasons that the City has been able to budget so well is that the Council spreads the cost of equipment over several years rather than having big hits to the budget year after year.

The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Executive Session, if needed. Attorney Sottile saw no need.

12. MOTION: With no further business to come before the Council, Councilman Marino moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland, City Clerk