



## **SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING -- WORKSHOP**

**5:00pm, Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Present: Council members Bogosian, Streetman, Anderson, Ward, Hahn, Carroll, Miars, and Mayor Pounds

Absent: Council Member Pierce

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, various department heads

#### **2. Citizens' Comments – none**

#### **3. Special Presentations – FY26 CVB Budget**

Laurie Smith and Cat Dority of the CVB presented their proposed budget for FY26. They shared the breakdown of funds among TERC-approved categories – Advertising/Marketing, Marketing Support, Group Sales, Media Efforts, and Visitor Services – as well as providing details of the IOP-specific programming efforts.

Council Member Streetman spoke highly of the CVB's work and their relationship with the City's ATAX Committee.

#### **4. Dashboard of City Operations and Short-Term Rental Report**

Administrator Kerr said the short-term licensing year that ended 4/30/24 ended with the City having issued 1,784 short-term rental licenses. He said this number is slightly lower than last year, but staff has been more vigilant in pulling inactive licenses from the rolls. Mayor Pounds asked for a breakdown of short-term rental incomes by range.

All Police Department vacancies are filled, but there will be two more vacancies in City Hall as two people are leaving the Building Department.

#### **5. Departmental Reports**

**6. Financial Review**

**A. Financial Statements and project worksheets**

Director Hamilton said the General Fund has collected 80% of the revenues for the year. Business licenses and permits are performing well above budget. Parking revenues are trending lower than prior year, but there are still 3 months' worth of revenue to collect.

General Fund expenditures are tracking at 79% compared to 83% of the budget. She anticipates overages in fleet repairs, dumpster expenses, and legal fees.

The City has \$51 million in cash and investments. The City received \$1 million from SCPRT for beach renourishment.

\$56,000 has been received in Municipal ATAX fund, which is 9% over prior year. State ATAX receipts were \$399,000, which is 8% over prior year. The County pass-through has not posted yet. Hospitality tax and LOST are 1% over last year.

**B. Review of Draft 4 of FY26 Budget**

Director Hamilton said no changes have been made to the budget since First Reading.

**7. Procurement**

**A. Tide valve purchase - \$67,845.34 + \$11,800 installation Truluck – FY25 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, \$1.03M**

Administrator Kerr said this is a custom-made valve for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue drainage basin.

**B. Discuss purchase of Office 365 Migration, \$34,019.40 one-time, \$2,564 recurring monthly – VC3, FY25 Budget, General Fund, \$30,000**

Administrator Kerr said that Council Member Pierce and VC3 are working together to ensure all old emails are properly secured upon migration.

**8. Capital Projects Update**

Administrator Kerr reported that the City has received 7 of 22 hold harmless agreements needed to move forward with the flood mitigation project at the Wild Dunes Golf Course. A meeting was held with property owners last Friday. He said they are having trouble contacting some of the property owners. He will send the list of those owners they have not heard from to City Council to see if they can help with making contact.

The Emergency Beach Access Path is 99% complete.

The USACE project is progressing slowly as expected. The contractor for the supplemental work has completed their job of shaping the new berm. The shoal management project is expected to be completed in the new few days.

9. **Strategic Plan Policy Initiatives and Priorities**

A. **Livability**

**Discuss amending period to trigger revocation hearing from calendar year to 365-day rolling period and two garbage can violations equating to one founded complaint**

Administrator Kerr said these come as recommendations from the Public Safety Committee. The trash can violations were being handled in this manner (2 garbage can violations = 1 founded complaint) administratively, and now it will become part of the ordinance.

B. **Environmental**

**Discuss prohibiting pools seaward of the maximum build line**

Administrator Kerr said this suggestion came out of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee. New pools would need to be built landward of the maximum build line should this pass. Ordinances are already in place to deal with legal, non-conforming pools.

Passing such an ordinance will require two readings, a public hearing, and review by the Planning Commission.

C. **Public Services**

D. **Personnel**

E. **Other items for discussion**

i. **Discuss seasonal parking passes and afternoon parking rates**

Administrator Kerr explained the Public Safety Committee's recommendations regarding the sale of seasonal parking passes and an increase to \$3/hour for the parking rate in the municipal lots after 4pm. The seasonal parking passes will be sold for \$225 each. Up to 350 will be sold to the general public. Other passes will be sold for employees of front beach business. There will be no cap on the sale of passes to employees. Weekly passes are still available for \$100/week.

Mr. Kwento Ikwuezunma of PCI presented some data regarding these options and their effect on parking income. That presentation is attached to these minutes.

ii. **Discuss assignments of recommendations to various committees**

Administrator Kerr reported that staff and the Planning Commission developed a matrix containing recommendations from the various plans (Comprehensive Plan, Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, Community Enrichment Plan) and divided them among the standing committees. He asked Council members to review the matrix so that he can send out the recommendations to the appropriate committees. It will be up to the committees to sort and group their assigned recommendations.

**iii. Discuss LENS request for signage at island entrance**

Administrator Kerr said LENS has requested a sign of their logo be added to the signs at the entrances to the island. The Public Services & Facilities Committee recommends denying the request. However, if City Council were to approve the request, the Committee requests that a transparent and equitable policy for such signage be developed. Council Member Miars expressed concern that if City Council allows one sign, then all the non-profit organizations on the island will make the same request.

Administrator Kerr said City Council's options include denying the request, granting the request and develop a sign policy, or authorizing the sign's placement in the right-of-way, which will require the organization to request an encroachment permit from SCDOT.

Mayor Pounds and Council Member Ward did not favor the idea. Council members Carroll and Streetman spoke in favor of allowing the sign and spoke to the work the LENS program does for the first responders and the community.

Council Member Ward suggested a place for signage where there is more foot traffic, such as the public restrooms at the front beach.

Administrator Kerr will ask LENS for their feedback on City Council's discussion and put the matter on the May 27 meeting agenda.

**10. Legislative Report**

Mayor Pounds said the State House and Senate are in recess until May 28 at which time they will work on the budget.

**11. Adjournment**

The next City Council Workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 5pm.

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk