



**MUNICIPAL INAUGURATION**  
**5:00pm, Tuesday, January 6, 2026**  
**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and**  
**broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to order**

Present: Council members Ward, Carroll, Streetman, Pierce, and Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, various department heads

**2. Invocation – Paul Coleman, Deep Water Church**

**3. Presentation of Colors – Isle of Palms Police Department**

**4. Swearing in of City Council**

City Clerk DeNeane swore in Mayor Pounds and Council members Bogosian, Cohen, Miars, and Miller.

**5. Inaugural Remarks**

Mayor Pounds said, “Happy New Year to everyone! Congratulations to the newly sworn in Council members and welcome back to the Council members now halfway thru their current 4-year term. I felt it was important to have some opening remarks as this Council tenure begins to set the tone for what can be expected and how we will operate. Each new year brings a certain amount of hope, promise and anticipation. A recent article in the NY Times stated:

1. People don’t trust each other, the media or the government.
2. Most Americans, about 80 percent, don’t feel confident their children’s lives will be better than theirs.
3. About half the country thinks America’s best days are in the past.

“Well, that’s a bit depressing, but we will see we have some control over this type of thinking. The article went on to state: “Cynicism is vastly on the rise,” — BUT experts say it’s reversible if people cultivate hope that another future is possible. Hope, as a word, can be pat (like - does my waiter *really* hope I have a great day?). But it is also an action verb. One expert stated: “While optimism is the belief that the future will be better, hope is the belief “that we have the power to make it so”. Think about that for a minute and how that approach could change things personally or as a community.

“According to this article, to cultivate hope, people need three things: They first need to be able to envision a better future. Second, they need the willpower or motivation to move toward that future. And third, they must be able to chart “a path from where they are to where they want to be”.

“How can we be more hopeful? Experts say:

1. People can set specific goals and then “begin brainstorming the pathways or road maps” to achieve them. That can start small.
2. Replace cynicism (the belief that people are motivated purely by self-interest) with skepticism”. “Skepticism is not believing that everything will turn out great, but also not prejudging things as terrible, either.”

That can simply mean speaking more positively about other people. People gossip three times as much about the selfish things others do than about the generous things they do. We see this in our everyday walk of life. To address that, it is suggested we practice “positive gossip.” Each evening this author and his family try to share one story of something positive that somebody else did that day, “The research finds that when you know you’re going to have to share something, you pay a lot more attention to it. This article was a great reminder of some things totally in our control and how to bring some positive thinking into our daily lives. When the new year begins, some of us make resolutions. I hope we will ALL resolve to be an example for other municipalities to follow in how we live life – our approach to problem solving, our interactions, our willingness to help others, our generosity and our respectful approach to each other. People watch IOP – if you spend any time on local and sometimes national news sites - you know this. To the City Council members – we are 9 individuals elected by this community to serve in these roles. I appreciate our diversity – we come from different parts of the country, different work and personal experiences and with alternate views. I appreciate what this diversity means as we tackle projects or issues. Our residents expect us to be prepared, engaged, deliberate the issues constructively and fully and then to arrive at the best decisions for our community – that’s the ONLY agenda that should be driving us all! As Mayor, I also plan to devote more time to the SC Beach Advocates group that I chair, and the city is a founding member of. We must convince our state legislators to give us flexibility on revenue alternatives and different emergency measures for residents to protect their property. I will also continue to maintain an open and accessible environment – weekly office hours (thank you to the many that have taken advantage of this the past 4 years) and monthly coffees with the mayor – even though as many of you know I don’t even drink coffee! These are opportunities to ask questions, understand a project or issue on a deeper level or at the monthly coffees meet some new residents/visitors that you may not know. To our residents – we are 9 fellow residents that you have elected to represent you – thank you for this opportunity! These are roles that you have allowed us to use our time, talent and energy to help make this community better. I know we won’t agree on all decisions, but I hope we can keep perspective and realize – many other municipalities would welcome having our list of “issues” and “problems”. The past few years we have made significant progress on many fronts, and I know we will continue that progress. In line with the comments about hope earlier, and to make sure this Council agrees on our strategic objectives, we will be meeting next week to define our strategic initiatives for the coming years. My expectation is that we will decide what big tasks we want to accomplish together over the next few years. I felt it was

critical to schedule this session shortly after inauguration to help set the foundation for a successful, unified team all focused on the same strategic objectives for our community.

“I recently saw a definition of community as: *Feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals*. I challenge each of us in the new year to renew our commitment to our community and become more involved and make an extra effort to get to know our neighbors. There are some fascinating residents on our island, from many different walks of life - if you take the time to engage with them. Thank you for listening. I’m excited for our New Year, this new Council and what we can do together. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or any other Council member to share your thoughts or ask questions. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you in these roles.

6.       **Benediction** - Paul Coleman, Deep Water Church

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk