

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

5:45 p.m., Wednesday, November 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Personnel Committee was held at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bettelli and Piening, Chair Thomas, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Thomas 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. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2011 as submitted; Councilmember Piening seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Old Business

Consideration of Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Chair Thomas noted that appointments to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAX) look to be the most difficult since the members must reflect specific fields, i.e. hospitality, cultural and lodging. The problem is further complicated by the fact that two (2) members of the ATAX Committee were elected to City Council in the municipal election held the previous day.

For the Planning Commission, Chair Thomas commented that those whose terms were expiring wanted to be re-appointed and most people in the candidate pool wanted to serve on the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Ron Denton and Noel Scott and appoint James Owens to the Planning Commission. The motion died for lack of a second.

MOTION: Chair Thomas moved to reappoint Ron Denton, Diane Oltorik and Noel Scott to the Planning Commission. The motion did not get a second.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Ron Denton and Noel Scott and to appoint Wayne Jones to the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Piening reminded Chair Thomas and Councilmember Bettelli that Mr. Jones had sent an e-mail to members of this Committee "subtly implying that Council and the Committee members were brain dead." Councilmember Piening stated that he would not support his nomination to the Planning Commission because, in the Councilmember's opinion, "the people on the commissions work very hard and take their jobs very seriously; parking is a very difficult issue, and I don't believe any of them are brain dead."

Chair Thomas stated that his primary concern was to have a group of people who could work together to get things done.

Councilmember Piening recalled that Mr. Jones wanted to make Palm Boulevard a one-way street and has offered a one thousand dollar (\$1,000) donation toward the City's purchase of 3206 Palm. In addition, Chair Thomas stated that Mr. Jones was of the opinion that Councilmembers should have term limits.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Ron Denton and Noel Scott and to appoint Patrick Harrington to the Planning Commission. The motion did not receive a second.

Councilmember Piening stated that he could not support this motion because he continues to believe that people should serve no more than two (2) terms on committees when there are citizens of the island that want to serve their community; he noted that, in the four (4) years he has been on Council and on the Personnel Committee, the Committee has followed that concept in making appointments. Since Ron Denton has served two (2) terms and since sixteen (16) residents have expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission, he could not support the re-appointment of Mr. Denton.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Noel Scott to the Planning Commission; Councilmember Piening seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Ron Denton to the Planning Commission; the motion did not get a second.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to re-appoint Diane Oltorik to the Planning Commission; Chair Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 2 to 1 with Councilmember Bettelli casting the dissenting vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to appoint Patrick Harrington to the Planning Commission; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Thomas questioned if a professional facilitator should be hired to work with the Planning Commission; Councilmember Piening reminded the Chair that the Planning Commission must work independently from City Council. Administrator Tucker commented that the Personnel Committee's purview was, through its appointments, to have people on the committees who will get things accomplished.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to reappoint Mary Carter and William Mitchell to the Code Board of Appeals; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Michael Layman to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Chair Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-appoint Sandy Ferencz to the ATAX Committee; Chair Thomas seconded and the motion passed on a vote of 2 to 1 with Councilmember Piening voting against the motion.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to appoint Mary Alice Kruesi to fill the Cultural seat on the ATAX Committee; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker explained that the Committee could change David Nelson's designation from Hospitality to Lodging since he was employed by Wild Dunes, which is in both the hospitality and lodging industries. The Administrator suggested that the Committee might more easily fill one (1) Hospitality and one (1) Lodging seat than two (2) Lodging seats.

The Administrator expressed the need for a change in the law related to the designations for ATAX seats; despite the variety in the Isle of Palms, the City has difficulty in filling the seats.

Administrator Tucker pointed out that a new application had been received earlier in the day from Glenn Thornburg; Mr. Thornburg is a friend of Jimmy Ward's and indicated he would like to fill the seat being vacated by Mr. Ward. The Administrator thought that Mr. Thornburg might have been under the impression that Mr. Ward's CPA experience had qualified him for the Committee when it is his affiliation with the Crabpot Players.

Another option for the Committee, in the Administrator's opinion, was to re-open the process by advertising for the specific talents needed. The ad could direct interested parties to the website to complete the application and respond to the questions asked of candidates in the interview process. The Committee agreed that time did not permit interviews for those who respond to the ad; a deadline for the applications was set for 5 p.m., Monday, November 21st.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to re-open the application process for Hospitality and Lodging seats on the ATAX Committee with applications due by 5 p.m., Monday, November 21st; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

An ad will be placed in *The Moultrie News*; the information will be on the City's website and Assistant Dziuban will send out a newsletter with the information.

The Committee set a special meeting for 5:45 p.m. on Monday, November 28th to review the applications and select appointees.

5. New Business

Set Floating Holiday for 2012

Administrator Tucker remarked that the City staff votes the floating holiday each year; the date is presented to the Personnel Committee for affirmation. The date selected for 2012 is Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve.

MOTION: Councilmember Piening moved to approve Monday, December 24th as the 2012 floating holiday; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Administrator Tucker reported that Assistant Dziuban has been attending training sessions where discussions took place about local governments moving to City-sponsored Facebook pages and using Twitter and YouTube; many local governments in South Carolina have been using these social media sites for some time. The City has moved at a slower and more controlled pace hoping to learn from the mishaps of others and to avoid them. The process is being studied; therefore, ultimately the staff will propose policies to government activities related to these new communication measures. The ability for citizens to view the Council meetings on the website has been very well received, but the City's present vendor does not allow for archiving, so old meetings are not available for viewing. Use of these social media sites is encouraged by MASC as a way to further communications with the community.

Next Meeting Date: 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room.

7. Executive Session – Not needed

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.; Councilmember Piening seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk