

MINUTES OF THE ISLE OF PALMS
SPECIAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
June 21, 2016

The Isle of Palms Planning Commission held a special meeting in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard on June 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Members attending included Vince DiGangi, Lewis Gregory, Noel Scott, Richard Ferencz and Bill Mills; the Director of Planning Douglas Kerr was present as well. Ron Denton and Lisa Safford were absent. The press had been notified of the meeting and the agenda for the meeting was posted in City Hall and the Building Department to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Richard Ferencz called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ferencz opened the floor to public comment, but no comments were made.

DISCUSS SEPTIC POLLUTION STUDY

Mr. Kerr explained that the Planning Commission had been discussing the possibility of testing samples of stormwater for pollutants to determine whether the levels of fecal coliform are different today from what they were in 2002 when the City conducted a fairly large testing project. He stated that Ross Nelson with Tidewater Engineering was present and he conducted the study in 2002 and he had provided pricing for various tests for comparisons.

Mr. Ross Nelson explained that the 2002 work was primarily paid for with grant money from EPA's 319 grant funding and his first recommendation would be to determine if this grant funding is available to conduct another study.

He explained that originally the 2002 project did not include the ribotyping testing, but this portion of the project was added to determine which animals were producing the pollutants. He stated that in 2002 it was determined that 90% of the fecal coliform bacteria in the waters were from animals (45% wild animals and 45% domesticated animals) and 10% was from human sources.

He stated that he has been back in touch with the company that did the ribotyping testing and determined that it would cost approximately \$1000 per sample/ per event. He stated that he thought the minimum number of locations he believed would be useful would be five and the minimum number of events he thought it would be useful to sample would be two. Therefore a study that included testing five locations twice would cost approximately \$10,000.

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Mr. Kerr stated that there was money included in the current budget for a Planning Commission project. He suggested a strategy of moving forward with testing five locations twice in the short term and pursuing 319 grant funding, if available, for a larger scale project in the long term.

Mr. Nelson stated that it may be useful to ask the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission if they conduct any testing and if not, if they would be interested in sharing the cost to study pollutants in the stormwater.

The Planning Commission generally discussed the project and agreed that it would be useful to give the project some thought and discuss it further at their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Ferencz, Chairman