

RECREATION COMMITTEE
9:00 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2015

The Recreation Committee held its regular meeting at 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2015 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Buckhannon and Harrington, Chair Carroll, City Administrator Tucker, Administrator Dziuban and Director Page; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Carroll called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Harrington moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2015 as submitted; Councilmember Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Departmental Report for January 2015 – Director Page

Director Page reported that adult sports are becoming very active with co-ed volleyball; softball, basketball, soccer and table tennis are registering participants. Youth basketball is about one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the way through the season; the Rec Department has teams for youth beginning as small as five years old. Baseball registration started last week, and today is the first day for off-islanders to register. The Director said that parents were waiting outside the Rec Center at 6:30 a.m. to register their children. The Middle School Dance was held Friday, January 30th drew approximately three hundred fifty (350) youths.

Administrator Tucker asked the Director to recount for the Committee that "almost" incident from the dance. Director Page explained that a father delivered his son and another boy at the dance and he chose not to stay to see them go into the dance. As the father drove off, he watched his son and the other person not go into the Rec Center, but head off for another party on the island.

The parent went into the Rec Center and reported that his kids had not gone to the dance, but elsewhere, but he did not want the fact that he had reported them made known to the boys. The parent wanted someone to locate the boys and to scare them and impress upon them the seriousness of their actions. Since police officers were on-scene, as they are at all dances, they located the boys and questioned them; during the questioning, one (1) boy was found to be carrying what appeared to be a paring knife and the other had something resembling a letter opener. Officers also located a third boy who was thought to be going to the same party while his parents thought he was attending the Middle School Dance; the officers then had three (3) boys trying to outsmart their parents; all parents were called and told about the incident. Director Page said that she was proud of the way the police officers handled the matter; she overheard Sgt. Maloney tell the boys that it was easy to get into trouble, but difficult to get out of trouble and that it would be much simpler for them to straighten out now than in the future. Responding to Chair Carroll, the Director reported that the boys were not island residents.

Director Page explained that a construction-type fence is put up at the front of the Rec Center

where children wait until the dance begins; they are monitored and no one is allowed to leave. The boys were released to their parents, but the officers did write up an incident report that ensures a detailed record of the issue.

The annual Doggie Day at the Rec will take place on Saturday, February 7th and start at 9:00 a.m. According to Director Page, registrations keep coming in, but she did not know how many. As in the past, rabies shots will be offered for ten dollars (\$10.00), and IOP Animal Control officers will be on-hand selling dog licenses. Cupid's Card Shop will be held on Thursday, February 12th, and Island Gras is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Front Beach.

Programs and classes, generally, remain the same; work has been initiated on the classes for ocean education, and staff is working on setting up the photography classes/program suggested by Councilmember Loftus at the January Council meeting. An adult painting party is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd, and three (3) people have pre-registered. Another babysitting course will be offered on Saturday, May 16th offered through the Red Cross, and another session of "Writing your Story" will begin on Tuesday, February 3rd; six (6) people have pre-registered.

In looking at the sign-up sheet for the Cardio Room, Director Page noted that either usage was down or people were not signing in. The sign-up sheet was moved to the front desk, and now usage is up substantially or users are now signing in. The Director expects the number to be much more accurate for the month of February than before.

Shelia Redmon and Nick Bako continue to do an excellent job; recently they have been working on getting estimates for the FY16 budget.

5. Old Business

Update on Message Boards

Director Page reported that she has been working with Sign Design for some time; for this version, the Director provided them with the specifications Stantec had developed for the message boards. Director Page distributed photos of two (2) message boards, one constructed using wood and the second using an aluminum composite material. The Director recalled that the design at the top of the sign which the Committee selected at the January meeting is used on the signs in the photos distributed; Sign Design has provided two (2) options – the first wooden and the second an aluminum composite material. The Director recommended the first option, the enamel painted aluminum composite, and noted that it is warranted for ten (10) years. The prices between the wooden and the aluminum are very close.

The Director informed the Committee that Sign Design does not want to produce the sign in wood for the City; they explained that it would need the same maintenance the City has been doing for years, i.e. painting it and repairing it every year. This company made the sign for Boone Hall at the entrance from Long Point Road.

Chair Carroll questioned that the aluminum would not need painting every year, and the Director confirmed that he as correct; she referred him to a website where he could get additional information about the aluminum material.

The Chair asked whether this as an immediate need or one that could be made later. Director Page commented that the funds for the signs were in the FY15 budget; she added that the company is saying that the turnaround would be three to four (3-4) weeks. Director Page stated that a decision was not needed today, but it should be soon to have it completed in this fiscal year.

Director Page said that the lettering would be with the same letters the City has now; the backing of the sign would not be plywood but the same aluminum product. The sign is reported to be more durable and to withstand winds up to one hundred twenty (120) miles per hour. The strips that hold the letters would be ordered from a different company, and they would not crack and warp as the current ones continue to do.

Administrator Tucker stated that she worries whenever metal products are recommended because they deteriorate so much quicker in the ocean-air than elsewhere.

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to recommend to Ways and Means the first option for the message boards in the amount not to exceed \$7,000.

Assistant Dziuban questioned that one (1) option indicates that quote does not include sales taxes, while the second has different wording. Director Page assured the Committee that the pricing for Option 1 includes sales taxes.

Treasurer Suggs mentioned that, for the budget, the message boards were included in the way-finding sign initiative and would, therefore, be paid from that pool of money.

Chair Carroll seconded the motion.

Councilmember Harrington asked whether the Director had gotten quotes from other vendors, and she replied that she had not.

Chair Carroll asked whether the two (2) existing signs were in poor condition; Director Page responded that the only thing holding the back on the Breach Inlet sign was the electrical panels attached to it.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Since replacing the message boards has been a sensitive subject, Administrator Tucker recommended that this be brought before Ways and Means and City Council later in the month.

6. New Business

B. Review of FY16 Revenue Projections

Administrator Tucker stated that she would go through the revenue projections rather quickly and only stop at those that have information of which Council should be aware, beginning with the General Fund; she noted that the majority of the revenue lines are based on the past twelve (12) months' actual numbers or historical financial information.

The Administrator asked that the Committee focus on the Business License and Residential Rental License lines, commenting that both lines have been increased; she then asked that the Committee consider the sum of the two (2), which make up a significant part of the annual budget. The Administrator reported that there are two (2) bills before the State Legislature currently; one would totally eliminate municipal business licenses and the other suggests capping them at one hundred dollars (\$100). The passage of either of these bills or both of them would have a serious impact on the City's budget; therefore, she suggested that Committee members pay close attention to communications from the Municipal Association and to communicate with the island's legislative representatives asking that they leave municipal business licenses alone.

The increase on the Public Utilities line is the result of Council's decision to increase the franchise fees collected by SCE&G by two percent (2%) to the maximum of five percent (5%) during the FY15 budget process.

Administrator Tucker stated that a sign to her that the economy was picking up was the increase to Building Permits for FY16; in FY15, the City received a substantial permit fee from Wild Dunes for renovations to the condos that the City will not see in FY16. On the other hand, new constructions have continued to pick up on the island.

Court Generated revenue has decreased somewhat from FY15; any additional revenue from the parking plan has not been factored in for this budget. Intergovernmental Transfers have been increased by the CPI; funds the City receives from Sullivan's Island for its share of the costs for maintaining the twenty-four hour (24 hr.) dispatch on the island.

The State Shared Funds is another revenue source that the Legislature is considering reducing despite its being established by State law. This is another fund that will generate information from the Municipal Association and the newspapers; the Administrator again asked the Committee members to contact the local legislative representatives to express their concerns over changing this fund.

Over the past two (2) years the City has received money from SCLGAG as it has been dissolved; that process has been completed, so the City will not have Miscellaneous Revenue from that source.

Transfers-in have been laid into the budget at the same level as they were in FY15; adjustments can be made as expense budgets are completed.

Councilmember Buckhannon requested the current schedule of how much of the City's resources are consumed by visitors and how much are consumed by residents; this schedule justified the logic behind the transfers-in to the General Fund from tourism funds.

In moving on to the Capital Projects revenue, Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that the only source of revenue for this fund is the General Fund; when the City has a good financial year, money is transferred-in to the Capital Projects Fund from the positive net results at the end of the prior year.

For the first time in many years, a transfer of money to the Capital Projects fund was actually included in the budget.

The Administrator recounted that Council has watched the collections from the tourism funds increase year over year. Municipal Accommodations Taxes are projected at nine hundred nineteen thousand dollars (\$919,000); collections for FY15 are expected to be eight hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$858,000). Based on payments received over the past twelve (12) months, projected Hospitality Taxes are budgeted for six hundred thirty-six thousand dollars (\$636,000). Administrator Tucker noted that the amount in line 234, State ATAX Promotion should be five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). State ATAX payments are projected to be in excess of one million six hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$1,645,000) based on the past four (4) quarters.

A new revenue source is shown on the Beach Restoration Fund; it is the one percent (1%) of additional accommodations taxes approved by the referendum in 2014.

No transfer-in is shown for the Beach Maintenance Fund since the City has the new revenue source; an adjustment will be made if it is the will of Council.

Revenues for the Marina Fund represent the annualization of the monthly rent from the tenants, except for Morgan Creek which typically pays the City approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) a year in additional rent. The Administrator said that the additional rent from the other tenants has not been a significant amount.

The only revenue reported for the Disaster Recovery Fund is Interest Income; no amount has been budgeted, but it can be done if the will of Council.

The Federal Narcotics Fund is expected to be exhausted in FY16. Court assessments in the amount of ninety-five hundred dollars (\$9,500) are projected to be income for the Victim Assistance Fund; this amount is higher than the amount budgeted in FY15 and very close to the actual payments in FY14.

Income to the Plant-a-Palm fund comes from the sale of commemorative bricks on Front Beach; the Recreation Building Fund grows from the State ATAX Committee's sponsorship of the IOP Beach Run, registration for the Beach Run and a donation from the Connector Run. The Volunteer Fire 1% Fund is getting a nice boost in FY16 based on the money the fund has received over the past twelve months, and the City is only the custodian of the fund. This money is a percentage of premiums for fire insurance across the state; the money is paid to a state entity that distributes it and sets the rules for spending it, which is primarily for recreation, entertainment, additional insurance and retirement.

The large spreadsheet shows what percentage of the total revenue comes from each revenue source; the summary is in the box at the lower left corner. The Administrator noted the years in the box should be FY15 of the left and FY16 on the right. Additionally, the Administrator pointed out that the tourism funds revenues are twenty-five percent (25%) of total revenue for the City.

Councilmember Buckhannon observed that revenues have increased over FY15; Administrator Tucker commented that the City will need these revenues as staff contemplates the year and what the revenues will be to offset the implementation costs of the first years of the parking plan.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 2, 2015 in the City Hall Conference Room.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m.