

Ways and Means Committee
5:45 p.m., Monday, November 19, 2007
Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held at 5: 45 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2007 in City Council Chambers, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairman Dee Taylor, Council members Bettelli, Cronin, Hanbury, Marino, McMackin, Rice and Mayor Sottile, City Administrator Tucker, City Treasurer Suggs, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Councilman Buckhannon was excused; there was a quorum present to conduct business.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order and announced that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom on Information Act. Councilman Taylor recognized Councilmen-elect Duffy, Loftus and Piening as being present.

2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes**

MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury moved to approve the minutes as presented; Councilwoman McMackin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments.** None.

4. **Financial Report – Treasurer Debbie Suggs**

As for the Financial Statement for October 2007, Treasurer Suggs stated that there is very little to discuss since everything is in line for this time of the year. She did note that ATAX receipts are very good; she directed the Committee to page 43 of the report where the September quarter receipts were the biggest the City has ever had. The Treasurer attributes some of the increase to the short-term rental licenses; she knows of at least sixty (60) new accounts.

In the statement on Fire Station #2, there is retainage due to Trident of \$2,500, and \$352,936 in accumulated bond proceeds that can be used to service the bond debt.

Treasurer Suggs directed the Committee to the letter from the office of the State Auditor on the audit of the City's court. She was happy to report that there were no significant findings; the biggest problem for the state was the timeliness of the City's payments, and the City has now gone to automatic draft to eliminate the issue.

When Chairman Taylor asked for questions from the Committee, Councilwoman Hanbury asked why more money was budgeted for drainage for 54-57th Avenues than for the balance of the island when the population was denser in other areas of the island

than it is in the 54th-57th Avenue areas? She also brought up the subject of dog licenses. She commented that the dog population on the island is basically a stable one, but she believes that less than fifty percent (50%) are licensed. She volunteered her services to go door-to-door to obtain a dog census beginning January 2008. Her third issue was about the City's landscape contractor and their incessant watering.

Chairman Taylor took this opportunity to thank Council persons Leola Hanbury, John Marino and Jane McMackin for their hard work and contributions to the committee.

5. **Old Business.** None.

6. **New Business:**

A. Public Works Committee recommendation to award 2008 Street Sweeping Contract to Sweeping South Incorporated in the amount of \$12,677.40.

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that three (3) bids had been received and that the low bidder had been eliminated because the company did not have DOT approved equipment.

MOTION: Councilman Marino moved to award the 2008 Street Sweeping Contract to Sweeping South Incorporated in the amount of \$12,677.40; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Real Property Advisory Committee recommendation to award the marina store lease to Marina Outpost LLC, Brian Berrigan, Managing Partner.

Administrator Tucker reported that the information submitted by Marina Outpost LLC was the most complete of the three (3) received; it had touched on all aspects of the RFP. Mr. Berrigan's partners are Joe Rice and Binee Wallace. One change they had asked was an initial lease term of two (2) years should they find it impossible to turn the store around financially.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to award the management of the marina store to Marina Outpost LLC, Brian Berrigan, Managing Partner, on the following stipulations:

- **Rent in the amount of \$5,500 per month with an escalation clause stating that, when the gross revenue exceeds \$500,000, 2% of the excess is paid to the City, and, when the gross revenue exceeds \$1,000,000, 3% of the excess is paid to the City;**
- **A storm clause will be included in the lease that is satisfactory to all;**

- **An indemnity clause will be included in the lease that is satisfactory to all;**
 - **The food provided by the marina store is marina store is only “on the go” food;**
- Councilwoman McMackin seconded.**

There was some discussion among the Committee members that expressed their agreement with Mr. Berrigan’s knowledge of the marina, its customers and their needs.

Call for the question: Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Taylor added that negotiations were underway for continuity of operations and on buying the existing inventory.

C. Public Safety Committee recommendation for approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that, in the past, they had allocated five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a consultant to research the feasibility of a County-wide dispatching system. The results had been positive and the plan is moving forward; the County is seeking commitments from the local municipalities by the end of the year. She informed the Committee that the City’s involvement would only cost the City a small amount of overtime while our dispatchers are being trained; ultimately the City will save in that it will no longer have the expense of these salaries. Mayor Sottile has requested that the City be given a seat on the Consolidated Dispatch Board, or, at the very least, that an Islands seat be established for Sullivan’s Island, Isle of Palms and Folly Beach with rotating representation.

MOTION: Councilman Marino moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center; Councilman Bettelli seconded.

In the discussion that followed, Councilman Marino stated that he believes that this is potentially a good thing. He added that it is his understanding that the earliest the center will be operational is 2012.

Councilman Taylor asked if Livability calls would still ring into the City and was told that they would.

Councilwoman Hanbury asked if Sullivan’s Island would share in the overtime costs that the City would incur during the training period since the Isle of Palms dispatches for

them as well. Administrator Tucker stated that she did not foresee there being a problem.

Call for the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Before moving away from the Public Safety Committee, Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that discussions are taking place with Charleston County about the availability of funds for a roundabout at 41st and Palm Boulevard. Mayor Sottile stated that, based upon the estimated costs, he has asked the Administrator to pursue grant funding because without 100% grant funding he does not see how the City can take on the project in the project in the near future.

- D. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee recommendations:**
- 1. Annual Holiday Tree Lighting, December 6, 2007 - \$5,000**
 - 2. LowCountry Blues Bash, February 9-10, 2008 - \$9,550**
 - 3. Annual July 4th Fireworks Display, 2008 - \$30,500**

Administrator Tucker pointed out that these are repeat events for the City.

MOTION: Councilwoman Rice moved to approve ATAX funding for the Annual Tree Lighting, the LowCountry Blue Bash and the 2008 July 4th Fireworks Display; Councilman Marino seconded.

In discussion, Councilwoman McMackin stated that she would approve the motion, but she cautioned the Committee that the time might come when the funds may not be available to fund these events, which the island has become so accustomed to, and, if it is the City's intention to use ATAX funds to fight beach erosion at the same time.

Councilman Marino asked if state accommodations tax funds were available for beach renourishment. The Administrator responded that beach renourishment is a lawful activity for state accommodations tax money.

Call the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Pursuit of Permit for Beach Renourishment and Report on Actions of Charleston County

Administrator Tucker said the good news is that the Wild Dunes Community Association has already engaged the services of Dr. Kana of Coastal Science and Engineering. The typical expense for the permitting process like the City is now beginning to pursue can run from \$300,000 to \$500,000; the difference in the probable amount of expense lies in the degree of survey work that has to be done, the number of questions asked by

the public when the permit is put out for public comments, whether or not there are public hearings required, etc. Very likely the City is looking at a figure well in excess of what is budgeted in this year, which is \$200,000. There is the need to keep Chris Jones involved and there is an expense associated with his work.

The Administrator continued by saying that, if all of the negatives do not occur, it could be that the City could take the money it has garnered in excess of what is required for the permit and put it toward the actual execution of the permit – if the City is fortunate enough to get one. She stated that the money that is available in the City's budget along with whatever participation the City can get from Charleston County will be put either towards the cost of the permit or towards the expense of renourishment.

Administrator Tucker related that Mayor Sottile and Councilman Taylor had gone before Charleston County Council last week indicating to them that the City needs the County's ATAX money to be earmarked for beach renourishment and needs it immediately to help the City get through the permitting process.

She also reported that, based on Dr. Kana's work, Administrator Tucker expects to receive the final permit document and associated maps, which will list the City of Isle of Palms as the Applicant, Tim Kana with Coast Science and Engineering as the Applicant's Agent. Assuming there are no grave errors, she indicated she expects to attach the \$250 permit fee check and forward to OCRM and the Corp of Engineers. Another important piece of information the Administrator wanted to share was that, at any point in time in the permitting process before one gets to the point of executing, if there is a decision to transfer, whomever the applicant or the applicant's agent is, it is possible to do that.

Mayor Sottile stated that it is imperative that the permit goes out tomorrow. He expressed his feeling that the extension on the sandbags hinges on this application.

On the subject of the County Council Meeting, Mayor Sottile related that County Council is planning to establish a beach renourishment fund using County accommodation money (they have undesignated funds every year). They will establish a policy on how the funds will be distributed between the beach communities in the county; the fund is approximately \$1.4 million dollars and may increase annually if not used.

Administrator Tucker wanted the Council to know that the Wild Dunes Community Association is not expecting any reimbursement for Dr. Kana's work to date. Having that work done and paid for is a significant benefit for the City.

MOTION: Councilwoman McMackin moved to have the \$200,000 in the budget go toward the permit process and to retain Chris Jones as the

City's Coastal Engineer at hourly rate; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Beach Management Plan – Consideration of additional expense associated with OCRM revisions

G.

Administrator Tucker recalled that on Tuesday of last week, she and Chris Jones had met with representatives of OCRM concerning what else they felt they wanted for the Beach Management Plan. It is very important to get this plan approved in order to be eligible for state funding for all activities related to the beach. Based on an estimate of the time Chris Jones will be required to address these revisions, he quoted \$6,700 unless a public hearing is required. The Administrator, therefore, requested a motion of up to \$8,700.

MOTION: Councilman Marino moved to approve up to \$8,700 in additional expense for the revisions to the Beach Management Plan; Councilman Bettelli seconded.

Councilwoman McMackin asked what the revisions were, and Administrator Tucker responded that the OCRM representatives arrived with two (2) pages of concerns. The concerns were on two (2) different levels, i.e. some which must be done or the City could go no further and others, which should be done. The Administrator said that the complication comes in that OCRM has changed requirements.

Councilwoman Hanbury asked where the funds were going to come from; Administrator Tucker answered that there would be an over budget in the line item from which the expense had been paid before.

Call for the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. Award contract for demolition of Fire Station #1 to B&B Demolition at \$18,500.

Administrator Tucker commented that the lowest bidder B&B Demolition is a contractor that the City has used before.

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to award the contract for demolition of Fire Station #1 to B&B Demolition for \$18,500; Mayor Sottile seconded.

When asked how quickly the demolition would take place, Administrator Tucker stated that it was contingent upon securing the permit from DHEC, and the paperwork is in process to acquire the permit.

Call the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. Approval of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000

1. \$23,087.00	Jones Ford	F150 4x4 Pickup Truck (EMS)
2. \$10,429.65	NAFECO	49-Superpass II Pass Devices (motion only)
3. \$21,380.00	Burns Automotive	F250 4x4 Pickup Truck (Public Works)
4. \$11,230.00	Sanders Brothers	Marina Resurfacing/Paving

Administrator Tucker stated that the City's procurement ordinance requires that Council will approve all contract in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the items listed; Councilman Marino seconded.

Councilwoman Rice asked that the City's attorney raise the threshold to \$25,000.

Call the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting will be 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, January 15, 2008.

MOTION: Mayo Sottile moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:
Dee Taylor, Chairman