

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

March 20, 2007

Council Chambers, City Hall

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at Council Chambers, City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Mayor Sottile, Council members Bettelli, Buckhannon, Cronin, Hanbury, Marino, McMackin and Taylor. Also present were City Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Chief Graham, Recreation Director Page, Public Works Director Pitts, Planning Director Kerr, Treasurer Debbie Suggs and Real Property Advisory Committee member Jim Raih.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order and stated that members of the press and the public had been duly notified in accordance with State Law.
2. **Approval of Previous Month's Minutes**

MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury made a motion to approve the February 20, 2007 minutes, with minor corrections; seconded by Councilman Bettelli; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

MOTION: Councilman John Marino made a motion to suspend the rules to amend the agenda to move Item 6 (C), the Recommendations of the Public Works Committee, up to the next order of business, seconded by Councilman Bettelli; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

6. C. Recommendations from the Public Works Committee

Administrator Tucker stated that all local governments are now required to come into compliance with the federally mandated NPDES requirements related to storm water. The City needs to decide how this NPDES program will be administered. There are six elements of the program including storm water run-off, public education and monitoring. There are two upcoming deadlines, the first being May 1, 2007 when the City has to declare who will be administering the program. The City will need to pass ordinances regarding this program. For administering the program, the options the City can choose from: partner with a larger local government for them to administer the program on the City's behalf; partner with a consulting firm to administer; hire new personnel to administer. However it is administered, there will be an associated expense. If the City decides to administer it, we would need to have studies done to determine the fee amount to charge. The EPA has demonstrated that they are serious about charging fines for non-compliance; the City has heard they have already issued an \$800,000 fine to another county in another part of the state. The Public Works Committee has recommended for the City to partner with Charleston County for NPDES compliance. If the City partners with Charleston County, it will mean that in addition to the solid waste fee the taxpayers of the Island pay, there will be a new fee of approximately \$36 for this program.

MOTION: Mayor Sottile made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Public Works Committee to partner with Charleston County at the \$36 annual fee; seconded by Councilman Cronin.

Councilman Bettelli stated that if the fee is over the amount of the cost to run the program, the overage will be refunded to the City in the form of public works projects. Councilman Cronin noted that we need to review the agreement which ties down the County's legal obligations, the City's obligations and the financial cost. Councilman Marino stated that he also needs to know the terms of the agreement, since he believes that after the initial start-up, the City will be able to provide the program cheaper for its residents. Councilwoman McMackin inquired about what types of things will be done for storm water management and who will the County work with at the City of Isle of Palms. Administrator Tucker explained that the first element is to have a program where plans are evaluated and certified when someone applies to develop, to ensure that they are in compliance with the requirements. It is still unclear as to what size of development is affected – whether it is all residential development, or if it has to be a certain size. Also, there has to be monitoring of all the ditches to make sure there are no illicit discharges, and public education to instruct people why they should not do certain things, and how those things can harm the environment. Planning Director Kerr stated that the City's current ordinances deal more with water quantity, as in how much run-off there is on the property. The NPDES ordinances will be geared toward water quality such as silt fencing around property to stop pollutant run-off. Administrator Tucker will be the contact for reports and administration; Public Works Director Pitts and Planning Director Kerr will work with the drainage system and construction. Administrator Tucker noted that they already work with the County on that level; the network is already in place. Councilman Cronin stated that monitoring will be the difficult element. Mayor Sottile stated that residents are not going to like this tax; that information needs to be relayed that this is a federally mandated requirement. Councilman Marino stated the City's legal representation will review the agreement.

Call for the question: MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

3. **Citizens' Comments** - No comments

4. **Financial Statement**

Treasurer Suggs presented the February 2007 financial statement, and noted no items were extraordinary. The City is 64% collected in general fund revenue; the final December payment for property taxes was received in February, and building permits are about 10% below where they should be. Expenditures in the general fund are overall within budget. Councilwoman McMackin stated she would like to receive a more comprehensive report on the hospitality tax, with revenues and expenses on one sheet, along with an explanation of restrictions for spending the funds.

5. **Old Business** – *Turtles on the Town*

Administrator Tucker stated the City is participating in a fundraiser for the aquarium. The aquarium personnel try to rehabilitate any kind of marine life found on the City's beach, primarily loggerhead turtles, because the aquarium has an excellent turtle hospital. As part of their fundraiser, *Turtles on the Town*, the City has committed to one turtle sculpture to go at the front beach. The Mayor, Councilwoman Rice and Administrator Tucker visited the aquarium to pick an artist to develop the turtle. While at the aquarium, they believed it would be appropriate to also place a turtle at the marina, although exact location has not been decided. They verbally committed to the second turtle sculpture, and asked the Committee to support them. This will help to raise another \$5,000 for the aquarium. Administrator Tucker stated she does not yet have an answer on if the City can keep the sculptures when the project is over.

MOTION: Councilwoman McMackin made a motion to authorize an additional \$5,000 for the turtles; seconded by Councilman Bettelli; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

6. New Business

A. Recommendation from Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee
(No meeting)

B. Recommendation from Public Safety Committee

MOTION: Motion was made by Councilman Bettelli to approve the purchase of new Public Safety digital radios from funds reserved; seconded by Councilman Cronin; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

MOTION: Motion was made by Councilman Cronin to approve spending \$2,700 from Municipal Accommodations Tax to purchase a new traffic counter to move from location to location; seconded by Councilman Marino; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

D. Recommendations from Personnel Committee
No recommendations.

E. Recommendation from the Real Property Advisory Committee

MOTION: Motion was made by Councilman Bettelli to authorize up to \$3,200 to install irrigation in the front beach parking lot; seconded by Councilman Cronin; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

F. Review of Departmental Operational Budgets

Administrator Tucker reviewed departmental operational budgets. The next budget work session will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. on April 17, 2007. Administrator Tucker noted that a change in state law last year could

affect millage and municipal budgets. Typically, the City looks at the CPI for an increase in millage. This new component in state law concerns the increase in population. The City does not yet have those figures from the Department of Statistical Research and the Department of Revenue.

7. Miscellaneous

A. Recommendation of award of contract for re-codification and digitizing of Code

Administrator Tucker stated that Municode Corporation is the lowest price; General Code and Quality Code Publishing also submitted prices. The quotes were \$7,400, \$8,350, and \$9,500. All these prices are base, plus expenses for additional hard copies; or a trip here for consultation. Administrator Tucker noted \$20-25,000 was budgeted for this project. The base price is well under-budget, but the City needs flexibility beyond the base price.

MOTION: Mayor Sottile made a motion to award a contract to Municode Corporation not to exceed \$15,000 for the re-codification and digitizing of the Code; seconded by Councilman Cronin; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A. Request from Tidal Wave for bulk payments.

Administrator Tucker reported that Tidal Wave Water Sports has made a request to the City that they be able to change their method of paying their rent. This was done for the prior business owner. The City allowed them to pay their rent in bulk in their flush months, when the tourism season is in place. Their proposal is to split it up – April May and June on July 1; August, September, October, November on August 1; and December, January, February and March on September 1.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli made a motion to approve Tidal Wave Water Sports to change the method of rent payment to four bulk payments; motion seconded by Councilwoman McMackin; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Administrator Tucker reported on the progress of the proposed new website.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Sottile made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilman Marino; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Chairman Taylor

