

## **WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE**

5:45 p.m., Tuesday, August 21, 2012

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held at 5:45 p.m., August 21, 2012 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Loftus, Thomas and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, City Attorney Halversen and City Clerk Copeland. A quorum was present to conduct business despite Councilmember Stone's excused absence.

1. Mayor Cronin 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 July 17, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments** – None

4. **Financial Statements** – Treasurer Suggs

#### **A. July Financial Statements**

Since July was the first month in the new fiscal year, Treasurer Suggs stated that there was little financial information to share; much of the revenue received in July was actually earned in June and, therefore, accruals for FY12. General Fund Revenues were at three percent (3%) of budget, and General Fund Expenditures were at six percent (6%) of budget – the target for one (1) month into the fiscal year is eight percent (8%). The General Fund cash balance is at thirty-two percent (32%) of annual budgeted General Fund expenditures.

#### **B. Tourism Schedules**

The cover page of the tourism schedules was a bar graph depicting tourism revenues from all sources for the years 2007 through 2012; the graph clearly illustrates that revenue from each source exceeded revenues for the five (5) prior years.

Municipal Accommodations Taxes revenue ended the year with an increase of thirteen percent (13%) over FY11.

State Accommodations Taxes revenue was twenty-five percent (25%) greater than FY11; Treasurer Suggs reminded the Committee that the City had received a correction from a prior year that added to the increase.

The Charleston County Accommodations Tax Pass-through collections for FY12 were thirteen percent (13%) greater than FY11, exceeding three hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$312,000).

Hospitality Tax collection approached five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$550,000) in FY12.

In Councilmember Loftus' words, the City's tourism revenues show that "the state of the economy, as far as tourism, is alive and well on the Isle of Palms."

Mayor Cronin added that the state's beach communities have had exceptional increases in the last year or two; he stated that "tourism is back in full swing in South Carolina, particularly along the coast."

### **C. Project Status**

For the Beach Restoration Project, the only July expense was the checking account service charge; funds remaining to be spent are four hundred six thousand dollars (\$406,000).

Civil Site Environmental invoiced the City for engineering, surveying and drawings in July for the Phase II Drainage project; the balance remaining is one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000).

### **5. Old Business – None**

### **6. New Business**

#### **A. Recommendations from the Public Safety Committee**

- 1. Award of a contract to Safe Industries in the amount of \$27,086.31 for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) (budgeted expenditure; state contract pricing)**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to award the contract to Safe Industries as stated; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 2. Authorization for Stantec to proceed with Phase 2 of wayfinding signs to expand island-wide, facilitating the encroachment permit for Phase I and incorporating beach access parking**

Administrator Tucker reported that the Public Safety Committee discussed the wayfinding sign initiative along with its assignment of beach access parking; the Committee dialogued about partnering with Stantec on the issues related to beach access parking. The City has provided Stantec personnel with minutes from Planning Commission meetings related to parking management, minutes from the joint meetings of the Planning Commission and City Council, the videos of the public forums on parking and any other relevant materials on parking. Before giving Stantec the "green light" to proceed with a work plan incorporating beach access parking, the Committee wanted to know that the entire City Council would support widening the scope of Stantec's work to include beach access parking.

The Public Safety Committee also discussed the fact that the wayfinding signs project needed to be broken down into increments; the Administrator also recounted that SCDOT indicated that

they will entertain issuing an encroachment permit for the signs Council has already approved only if the City commits to a long-term and comprehensive wayfinding sign program. At the Committee meeting, a possible next step in wayfinding signs could be signs to major destinations on the island such as the marina, the Recreation Center or to Sullivan's Island, etc.; coupled with that would be the initiation of work on beach access parking.

Administrator Tucker described the work with Stantec to the work with Coastal Science and Engineering on beach restoration where the City was given a "menu" from which to select the next step, and so on to fruition; the Administrator anticipates that Stantec would be working on wayfinding signs and beach access parking in tandem.

Jerry Regenbogen of Stantec indicated that components of the beach access parking that will impact on signage and vice versa. The proposal will be presented in such a way as to be phased in through the City's funding cycles.

Councilmember Bettelli commented that, as the City has attempted to tackle the parking issues on the island, it has learned that knowledge of SCDOT regulations is vital, and, in his opinion, Stantec brings that expertise to the City.

Mayor Cronin added that a basic tenet across the state is that SCDOT lacks fiscal resources and that roads and bridges are in terrible condition. One (1) option open to the Isle of Palms and other local governments is to take control of the roads, but that brings with it an unknown financial obligation. The City needs qualified professional input to gauge the financial commitment necessary to assume control of state roads on the island.

Assuming that Council agrees with the concept of combining wayfinding and beach access parking, Administrator Tucker indicated that a full proposal with initial steps would be available to Council at the August meeting.

Councilmember Buckhannon noted that he had suggested that right-of-way encroachments be included in Stantec's work; SCDOT wants to know the City's long-term plan and, in the Councilmember's opinion, rights-of-way management is a part of the City's long-term plan.

Mayor Cronin spoke for Council and gave the Administrator and Stantec the authority to proceed with broadening the scope of work.

**B. Award of a Contract to Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$18,953.00 for one (1) 2012 Chevrolet Colorado regular cab for BSOs (budgeted expenditure; state contract pricing)**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to award the contract to Love Chevrolet as described above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Administrator Tucker explained that Chief Buckhannon had not had all of the information to present this purchase to the Public Safety Committee; based on timing issues with the state contract, the item was placed on this agenda.

Chief Buckhannon reported that the City originally planned to purchase the small Ranger model, but it is no longer manufactured; the Colorado is its replacement and will not be made after 2013.

Responding to Councilmember Loftus' question about the truck that is being replaced, the Chief stated that the vehicle is used extensively on the beach and has considerable rust on the underside; in addition the drive shaft has been replaced once and another will be needed soon. The mileage on August 9 exceeded one hundred six thousand (106,000).

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Award of a 5-year Contract to Docu-graphics in the amount of \$35,364.00 for new copiers for General Government, Fire and Police Departments (budgeted expenditure; state contract pricing)**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to approve the copier contract with Docu-graphics as stated above; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

Treasurer Suggs commented that the copiers would be on operating leases with the same vendor that the City currently has; the new lease is less than the amount budgeted and less than the City is currently paying.

Responding to Councilmember Ward's query, the Treasurer stated that a total of four (4) copiers will be included and that maintenance on the copiers is included in the pricing.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. Resolution to Approve and Support the FY13 CARTA Budget**

At the request of the Mayor, Administrator Tucker read the resolution into the minutes; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the resolution as read; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Miscellaneous Business**

### **Mayor's Report Regarding Community Offerings in Wild Dunes**

Mayor Cronin related a conversation he had with Frank Fredericks, Managing Director of Wild Dunes, where Mr. Fredericks offered the use of Palmetto Hall for community functions at no charge to the City as outreach to the island. He suggested that anyone who had any ideas should contact Frank Fredericks to see if it might be scheduled similarly to the way the Island Swim Team utilizes the Wild Dunes pool for organization and swim meets.

**Net Meeting Date: 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, September 18, 2012.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk