

**WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE**  
5:45 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Loftus, Stone, Thomas and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Treasurer Suggs, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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 Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 17, 2013 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Financial Statement – Treasurer Suggs**

A. **Financial Statement**

The financial statement under review is through September, one quarter into the FY14 fiscal year. With a target of twenty-five percent (25%), all departments are at or below target, with the exception of BSOs which is a cyclical expenditure that will even out in the coming months; overall the City is at twenty percent (20%) of budget. On the revenue side, Property Tax revenue represents collections for July and August which the City did not receive until October and November respectively last year. Local Option Sales Taxes are running ahead of last year, and Business Licenses and Building Permits are quite ahead of last year due to two (2) big projects, i.e. a renovation project in Shipwatch and the water and sewer plant on 41<sup>st</sup> and Waterway. Rental Licenses, that were due on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, are lower than last year; two hundred (200) letter recipients have not responded, and staff is working to determine if these people are no longer renting their home. Some may be included in the single payment from Wild Dunes. Parking also is quite ahead of the previous year; the change year-over-year of approximately fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) is made up of a timing difference of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000), twelve thousand eight hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$12,858) for the increase on the monthly payment, one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the rental of space in the lot during the rehabilitation of the water tower, and twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000) in parking meter revenues partially due to the increased hours. The Treasurer noted that the new kiosks will have much better reporting capabilities.

Councilmember Loftus commented that the parking lot fee had increased by one dollar (\$1.00) per car and questioned how that figured into the equation. Treasurer Suggs responded that Mr. Schupp does a true-up of the gross collections over the base rental; in the calculation, he backs into the number of vehicles parked over the summer, which will give some indication of the revenue attributable to the increased rate.

Councilmember Stone added that, without a true vehicular count, the impact of the additional dollar is impossible to know.

Treasurer Suggs explained that the difference in the City's cash position this year versus last year is that the seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) Council transferred to the Capital Projects and Disaster Recovery funds from the General Fund was done in September this year and in October last year.

## **B. Tourism Schedules**

The City received the September payment for Municipal Accommodations Fee in the amount of one hundred thirty-seven thousand six hundred eighty-six dollars (\$137,686), making collections year-to-date twelve percent (12%) ahead of last year. This represents taxes on properties rented August.

The City has not received the September quarter of State Accommodations Taxes or the semi-annual payment of the Charleston County Accommodations Tax Pass-through.

The City collected approximately sixty-six thousand eight hundred dollars (\$66,800) in Hospitality Taxes from twenty-six (26) payers; one (1) payer is delinquent with an eight thousand dollar (\$8,000) payment. If that is added in to the year-to-date figure, collections are running nine percent (9%) ahead of FY13.

## **C. Projects Status**

Expenditures to the Beach Restoration project for September were to Coastal Science and Engineering and bank service charges; a balance of approximately six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$625,000) remains to be spent.

The only change to the Phase II Drainage schedule is the addition of the one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) grant from CTC awarded in September.

A small amount was paid to Stantec for wayfinding sign installation; this schedule will be replaced by a worksheet for the new work task assigned to Stantec for beach access parking.

The final schedule is for the watersports dock; figures at the top included the amount budgeted for the project less the executed contract and associated amendment; the lower half of the page is the analysis of spending on the executed contract and amendment.

Mayor Cronin announced that the auditors will attend the City Council meeting of October 22 to present the FY13 audit results; Treasurer Suggs stated that copies of the audit will be in meeting packets for review prior to the meeting.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Update on Issues Related to Front Beach Restrooms**

Administrator Tucker recalled that the Committee had discussed whether to replace the Front Beach restrooms or, if the fifty percent (50%) rule allowed, rehabilitate them. In order to assess the feasibility of rehabilitating the facility, the City needed an up-to-date appraisal of the building and a list of the necessary tasks involved in a rehabilitation with their associated costs. The Administrator referred to an email she had sent out earlier in the day that was an analysis of the fifty percent (50%) rule and how it applies with the information obtained from the appraisal; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting. Director Kerr took the podium to review the information about the fifty percent (50%) rule, as well as the pros and cons to renovation versus new construction.

Recapping the fifty percent (50%) rule, Director Kerr stated that it covers everything that is done to the building, i.e. repairs, alterations, renovations and additions; he added that the City is at a disadvantage in that the City is aware of every penny spent on the restrooms versus other non-City owned buildings. In talking with a contractor about ways of doing things that would not count against the fifty percent (50%) rule, they discussed detached showers on the beach- side, demolition, design, permitting and other soft costs. He and David Matthews of Harbor Construction went through and developed a fairly stripped down budget to get ventilation to the building, painting, replacing the toilets and sinks, doing some electrical upgrades, replacing all of the steel in the building and ways to save money yet pull the rusted steel out of the building; they settled on a project cost of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for work that would count towards the fifty percent (50%) rule. There would be other costs such as design, permitting, showers, demolition, decking, etc. added to that figure.

The Director then reviewed the figures as follows:

Appraised value of building	\$253,000
50% of appraised value	126,500
Repairs previously executed under 50% rule's 5-year rolling average if work begins October 2014 or after	(20,800)
Limit of work that can be done under 50% rule	105,700
Contractor's estimate to replace fixtures, add ventilation, repair rust and paint	150,000

In the course of the review, the Director commented that it would not be prudent for the City to spend up to the limit of one hundred five thousand seven hundred dollars (\$105,700) because the smallest repair would toggle the City over the fifty percent (50%) rule, requiring the City to tear the building down and to build a compliant structure.

Councilmember Carroll stated that he did not think that the replacement of toilets and regular maintenance would count against the fifty percent (50%) rule; Director Kerr stated that he had studied the statutes, but they clearly say "any and all repairs."

Administrator Tucker noted that there was nearly forty-three thousand dollars (\$43,000) in repairs done over the five (5) years; staff did extract from the total expenses for grading, paint supplies, a Servicemaster cleaning and pressure-washing. As indicated, the repairs were reactionary, i.e. something broke or leaked and someone was called to repair it; these repairs average about eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) per year, which obviously was only enough to keep the facility functioning.

Councilmember Buckhannon asked if there was some kind of an appeal process to FEMA; he stated that "there was always a loop around to almost every regulation." Director Kerr said two (2) things could come into play; one is to request a variance which must be reported to FEMA. FEMA records it and does not tell you when it is going to affect the island's insurance rating, but they let you know that it could. He indicated that the Board would be encouraged not to grant it, because one must show that "but for" the variance, the property cannot be used. The City's code is the absolute minimum required by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with the exception of the five-year (5 yr.) cycle; the City has gone above and beyond the FEMA standard with five-year (5 yr.) recurring cycle, but the City did that to get CRS ratings to get the additional break. [The objective of the Community Rating System is to reward communities that are doing more than meeting the minimum NFIP requirements to help their citizens prevent or reduce flood losses.] According to Director Kerr, the City has the power to amend the code to take that element out, but to take that element out the City would lose the CRS credit. That would get the City out of the five-year (5 yr.) recurring issue, but there would be a lot of hurdles to do that, including potentially affecting the CRS rating, but it still does not get past the fifty percent (50%) toggle.

Mayor Cronin stated that the City's CRS rating qualifies all property owners and residents for a fifteen percent (15%) discount on flood, insurance, and with Biggert-Waters going through that becomes a much bigger number for property owners on the island.

Responding to Councilmember Carroll's question, Director Kerr said that the Front Beach restrooms are at an elevation of twelve (12) feet, and, in a V zone the elevation should be nineteen (19) feet. If the restrooms were not in a V zone, a structure could be flood-proofed and could be constructed on the ground; the break in the flood zone is across the street.

Councilmember Bergwerf remarked that, if new restrooms were constructed in the edge of the municipal parking lots, the structure would not have to be elevated, and she thought it was a great location.

Administrator Tucker stated that this moves the discussion to the next level where the City develops an RFP to get some expertise to evaluate options for the existing location or perhaps an alternative site.

Councilmember Buckhannon suggested that outdoor showers could be constructed where the restrooms are now situated.

Councilmember Stone stated that, if he owned a two hundred fifty thousand dollar (\$250,000) structure, he would do a lot to avoid tearing it down to construct a seven hundred fifty thousand

dollar (\$750,000) replacement. He asked what could be eliminated from the scope of work to get through a five (5) year period.

Administrator Tucker detailed the items included in the renovation budget as:

Paint	\$20,000
Windows	16,000
Plumbing lines	25,000
Toilets and sinks	20,000
Replace ceiling with slats	5,000
4 large exhaust fans	6,000
Electrical work	8,000
New doors and partitions	20,000
Accessories	10,000
Profit and overhead	<u>20,000</u>
TOTAL	\$150,000

In addition, the Administrator stated that the budget excludes design, permitting, shower pedestals and decking in the back area, replacing all water lines and using wood or laminate doors instead of steel.

The Administrator noted that Harbor Construction Company had built the addition to the Recreation Center and David Matthews, who owns the company, served on City Council on the island at one time.

In her opinion, the list is the “bare-bones minimum” that needs to be done; it does not address the complaints of the aesthetics of the building, how it represents the Isle of Palms or encourages beach visitors to stop parking in the neighborhoods and to park in the municipal lots instead. While it will look nice for a little while, it is still going to be what it is now.

Administrator Tucker reminded Council that the parking lot is deed restricted to always be available public parking for beach access; the Administrator does not think this would be a deal-breaker, but it would be legal business to be addressed if Council moves in that direction.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to develop an RFP for the engineering scope of building a new facility; Councilmember Ward seconded.**

Administrator Tucker stated that she understands the directive to be the same as it was originally, i.e. to put together an RFP to get architectural/engineering talent to look at the City's options and give the City direction.

Councilmember Bettelli opined that, if the City decides to build a new public restroom, the City would look to Charleston County to be an active participant.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to make Kiosks and Parking Lot Hours 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the Beach Season**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to make kiosk and parking lot hours 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the beach season; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Responding to Councilmember Stone, Administrator Tucker stated that the kiosks and parking lots are operational from St. Patrick's Day in March to the Connector Run the first Saturday in October.

The Administrator recalled that the original decision to expand the hours was done for the 2013 season and to be re-evaluated at the end of the season. As Treasurer Suggs reported earlier in the meeting, the City cannot quantify the revenue generated by the extended hours. More importantly, the extended hours did help the City to control a problem occurring at Front Beach with an unruly crowd coming to the island as soon as the parking lots became free at 6:00 p.m. In the Public Safety Committee meeting, Chief Buckhannon strongly recommended that the City continue the policy from here on out.

Councilmember Buckhannon voiced concern that some of the Front Beach businesses were very unhappy that the City had extended the hours for kiosk enforcement; many of their customers were residents who were now being expected to pay-to-park. The Councilmember would like island residents to be exempt from paying to park after 6:00 p.m.; a hurricane sticker or a Wild Dunes sticker would indicate to BSOs that a vehicle belongs to an island resident.

Councilmember Ward said that the extended hours may have accomplished the desired job, but it has been very unpopular with the local population.

Mayor Cronin suggested that the issue be referred back to the Public Safety Committee, and he withdrew his motion.

Councilmember Bettelli withdrew his second and commented that the City may need a legal opinion on exempting island residents.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that the City can make its own regulations for City-owned property.

## **6. New Business**

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

- 1. Consideration of Hiring 1 Additional Firefighter for each Shift (3 total) for Fire Station 2 effective November 1, 2013**
- 2. Consideration of Increasing the Salary Ranges for the Fire Department**
- 3. Consideration of Increasing the Merit Pool to 6% for January 1, 2014**

Chief Graham and Battalion Chief Jason Smith distributed a handout; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting. The Chief stated that they were seeking approval to hire three

(3) firefighters for Fire Station 2; to adjust the salary ranges in the Fire Department and to increase the merit pool effective January 1, 2014.

Chief Graham stated that, currently, Fire Station 1 has five (5) personnel on duty for each shift and Fire Station 2 has four (4) personnel on duty for each shift. The equipment at the two (2) stations ranges from fire trucks to ATVs to jet-skis, and each firefighter must be proficient in the operation of each piece of equipment. For a minor medical call, Fire Station 2 would respond with both the engine with two (2) personnel and the ladder truck with two (2) personnel; if another person were added for Station 2, the ladder truck could remain at the station and the supervisor could go to the scene in a pick-up truck. By keeping the ladder truck at the station, overall wear-and-tear on the vehicle would be reduced, as well as the cost of tires that are six hundred thirty dollars (\$630) each. In a structure fire for a ground level residence of approximately fifteen hundred square feet (1,500 sq. ft.), crews from both Station 1 and Station 2 would respond for a total of nine (9) personnel on the scene; according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) national standards and accreditation and OSHA require fifteen (15) personnel for an initial response. Chief Graham stated that she is not looking to meet those NFPA standards at this time, but she wants the response to any situation to be same whether it comes from Station 1 or Station 2.

Battalion Chief Smith explained that, currently at Station 2, the most experienced person would be on the engine in the initial response to a structure fire which means that he or she is assigned the task of hooking the hose to the hydrant, a simple task in firefighting, and delayed in attacking the interior of the structure by five to seven (5-7) minutes. Administrator Tucker added that the most senior member of the crew should also be the Incident Commander which he or she is unable to do when stuck at the hydrant.

On page 9 of the handout is a listing by year of the number of employees who have left the IOP Fire Department from 2003 to the present. Ten (10) personnel of varying ranks have left in 2013, and Chief Graham reported that several other firefighters have interviewed with other local departments. The Chief acknowledged that there have been some morale issues in the Department, but those do occur periodically in every department. Although a disparity in pay has led to the resignation of some; others have left due to disabilities, some left involuntarily, some left to follow a buddy to another department. Of the eleven (11) full-time personnel who have left since September 2012, they took with them forty-four (44) years of "island" experience and ten thousand five hundred sixty (10,560) hours of departmental training.

Councilmember Ward asked how many personnel make up the Fire Department, and Chief Graham stated thirty (30) plus the part-time secretary. He noted that the losses represent a sixty percent (50%) turnover in one (1) year. The Councilmember asked how many of those who have resigned stated that their main reason for leaving was money, and Battalion Chief Smith stated that he had posed that question to the crew on duty yesterday and all nine (9) stated that the number one morale issue was pay. Chief Graham stated that one (1) captain and one (1) acting captain actually took pay cuts when they joined another local fire department as firefighters, knowing that they would be making more in three (3) years with the new department than they could make at the Isle of Palms even with a higher rank. Battalion Chief Smith quoted *Fire Engineering* magazine as saying that a healthy attrition rate is five percent (5%).

Battalion Chief Smith recounted a conversation he had with Chief Graham several months ago regarding the retention rate and experience “walking out the door” translating to a safety issue for both Fire Department personnel and residents of and visitors to the Isle of Palms. The initial steps in this process were taken before the attrition rate became critical, but the critical level has become a reality. He was most complimentary of the new hires, but noted that, although certified, they have no real firefighting experience.

Councilmember Ward asked that, if money is the Number One morale problem, what is the Number Two problem? Chief Graham stated that she has been told that personnel do not feel safe at work due to the lack of experience of their co-workers; there was also a situation where the supervisor was likely a part of the morale problem. Although attempts are always made to address the issue immediately, when the responsibility lies with the supervisor, an even bigger problem results.

Councilmember Loftus stated that the primary reason people change jobs is not money, but the person for whom they are working. Battalion Chief Smith agreed that might be the case when people are making enough to pay their bills, but, when bills cannot be paid by doing one’s best at a job one loves, making more money becomes the issue. In addition, he stated that, when one is unable to meet financial obligations, little things that would ordinarily be overlooked evolve into morale issues.

Returning to the presentation, Battalion Chief Smith stated that it takes a firefighter three (3) full summer seasons to be able to function on the island with limited supervision. The first year is spent in familiarizing the new firefighter with the island and its surrounding waters; the second year the firefighter is directly supervised; and, by the third year, the firefighter functions under limited supervision.

With the level of turnover that the Fire Department is experiencing, the Department is in a continuous cycle of basic training and that draws attention away from development of the upper ranks, adding to the situation of not being able to promote from within. The City is hiring firefighters that have completed the Fire Academy, so the City is not incurring that expense.

Due to the variety and the high level of training that IOP firefighters receive, they are very attractive candidates for other local departments. Currently the Isle of Palms’ Department is not attracting firefighters from other local departments but has become a training ground for out-of-state firefighters.

Councilmember Bettelli noted that Mount Pleasant is building a new fire station that will require twenty (20) firefighters.

Councilmember Loftus commented that another reason people leave jobs is because there is no room for growth; he indicated that the lack of potential growth or advancement with the IOP Fire Department may be another contributing factor to the turnover. Battalion Chief Smith disagreed with Councilmember Loftus, stating that, when he took the test for engineer, he was in a group of eight (8) and the other seven (7) firefighters did not leave the Isle of Palms because they did not get the promotion in that round. He indicated that promotions to engineer occur about every



six (6) months, and today there are promotional opportunities that cannot be filled due to existing employee not being adequately experienced or trained yet to take the test.

At this point in the presentation, Battalion Chief Smith distributed a pay voucher for a previous employee who came to the City with a bachelor's degree and seven (7) years of firefighting experience. After eighteen (18) months, this is a typical paycheck he received with a take-home pay of seven hundred thirty-six dollars and thirty-one cents (\$736.31) for two week's work. Chief Graham added that this person was not the lowest paid firefighter in the Department.

The recommendations from the Fire Department are as follows:

- Increase the staff at Fire Station 2 by 1 firefighter per shift, total of 3, effective November 1, 2013; this action has an approximate budgetary impact of \$103,427 in FY14 including scheduled overtime, fringe and bunker gear.
- Increase the wage ranges by 10% for all positions in the Fire Department effective November 1, 2013 with a potential budgetary impact of \$83,525 for FY14 including scheduled overtime and fringe.
- Increase the FY14 merit pool by 3% to a total of 6% effective January 1, 2014; this action has a budgetary impact for the Fire Department of \$18,251, and a budgetary impact if implemented City-wide of \$54,761.

Councilmember Bettelli asked where the Isle of Palms' Fire Department ranked in salaries with other local departments that were contacted; Chief Graham said that the City ranked at the bottom of the six (6) departments that responded. In addition, some departments give a bonus of seventeen hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) for completing EMT training which was added into the calculation of the average pay for various fire positions. The City's pay scale was more than ten percent (10%) below the average, but ten percent (10%) does make the City competitive.

Councilmember Loftus asked if the wage brackets were regularly changed; Administrator Tucker stated that the wage ranges are adjusted annually based on the CPI, but these changes only affect new hires. The Administrator added that there have not been corresponding adjustments on performance-based merits.

Chief Graham stated that the cost of living has increased six and eighty-seven one hundredths of a percent (6.87%) since the cost of living adjustments were eliminated in 2009.

**MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to hire three additional firefighters, 1 per shift, for Fire Station 2 effective November 1, 2013; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Councilmember Bergwerf asked how the City proposed to pay for these new firefighters.

Councilmember Loftus said he did not have enough information to make a decision tonight since he was hearing this presentation for the first time. Councilmember Buckhannon stated that there needed to be a motion in order to discuss the issue.

Administrator Tucker stated that staff has not gotten to the point of studying the budget and available fund balances to assign them to these expenses because staff did not presume to know the will of Council on the three (3) recommendations. The Administrator expressed the belief that there is sufficient support for the fact that many of the calls for Station 2 are tourist related, so those funds will be strongly considered.

Mayor Cronin said he would prefer to work to figure out “can the City afford this action and when” as opposed to taking action now. The Mayor indicated that he would rather see the motion withdrawn and to determine what funding was available.

Councilmember Bergwerf remarked that there are three (3) different recommendations on the table and it may be that the City cannot afford all three (3). She indicated that she would prefer to delay any action to a later meeting giving Councilmembers an opportunity to absorb the information they received at this meeting.

Chief Graham stated that the reason this has returned to the forefront is that the Department is under-staffed, and over the summer they were “run ragged” by the volume and seriousness of calls for Station 2. That discussion led to the question of how to keep people once hired, which brought up the issues of a competitive wage in the market and, therefore, the recommendation for an increase in the wage ranges. The final recommendation grew from discussions on the committee level on how to retain current employees.

Councilmember Ward stated that he did not feel that he had a complete package; he feel the issue needs a lot more work and that the issues should have come up in the budget process not three (3) months into a new budget year.

Councilmember Stone stated that he understood that these problems were not evident when the City was developing the FY14 budget, but the loss of personnel and the increasing number of calls has forced the issue to the top of the Fire Departments agenda.

Mayor Cronin said that he does not think Council can wait until the next budget cycle to address these problems.

Councilmember Loftus indicated that he would like to know that the turnover rate is with other local departments, as well as the wage comparisons that were obtained the other local departments before he would be willing to make a decision.

Responding to Councilmember Loftus' question, Chief Graham stated that the Department currently has four (4) part-time firefighters and that these firefighters have full-time jobs at other departments and often discuss how much money they are making. The City has ten (10) volunteers, but can only count on one (1) to respond when called.

Mayor Cronin suggested withdrawing the motion and for staff to put more data together and provide possible ways to fund the options on the table. He also challenged the members of Council to be creative with ways that the City can respond to the needs of the Fire Department.

Councilmember Buckhannon praised Chief Graham and Battalion Chief Smith on the presentation and advised that Council will look at what it can do within the constraints of the budget.

Battalion Chief Smith responded that the Department had tried to step back from the problem to make an honest assessment of what was at its root and realized that the solution(s) rested in the hands of City Council. He noted that the Department had done everything they knew to do to handle the issues in the Fire Department before coming to Council; the Fire Department does not want to put a financial burden on the City, but they do want to offer the City the highest level of fire protection, medical care and water rescue skills possible for the residents and visitors to the island.

Councilmember Bettelli reiterated the Mayor's comments that the City cannot wait until the next budget cycle to address these issues, and he reminded the Committee that the City ended the last fiscal year with an eight hundred thousand dollar (\$800,000) surplus.

Councilmember Stone stated that he reluctantly withdrew his motion because he is of the opinion that the City is "living on borrowed time."

Councilmember Bettelli withdrew his second to the motion.

The Mayor ended the discussion and noted that it will be on the agenda for the November meeting.

#### **B. Recommendation from the Real Property Committee**

##### **Consideration of a Change Order to the Coastal Science and Engineering Contract to Increase Frequency of Monitoring to Quarterly in Reaches 1 and 2**

**MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to amend the Coastal Science and Engineering Contract in the amount of \$20,880; Councilmember Loftus seconded.**

Mayor Cronin indicated that the contract amendment and the draft minutes of the Real Property Committee had been included in meeting packets as information.

Administrator Tucker explained that there are four (4) options relative to Breach Inlet; they are as follows:

- 1) Do nothing and hope that the area heals itself;
- 2) Seek a permit that is a six (6) figure expense;
- 3) Get a feasibility study that is a five (5) figure expense; or
- 4) Increase the monitoring frequency at Breach Inlet to know what is happening and learn whether it is going to recover or need an action by the City.

Councilmember Bettelli asked what the source of funding was, and the Administrator responded that the cost will be covered in the Beach Maintenance Fund, which had approximately four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) at the beginning of the fiscal year.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Update on Tidal Wave Dock**

Administrator Tucker recalled that City Council had approved the design for the replacement of the Tidal Wave dock, the City applied for a permit, and, in the public notice phase, the adjacent neighbor objected to the design. The Real Property Committee and the stakeholders in the project met numerous times to reach a compromise, but no compromise was reached. Knowing that the City has envisioned an overall master plan for the marina, the Committee conceded to the management of Tidal Wave Watersports to delay construction of a new dock and to make the necessary safety repairs now with a portion of the funds earmarked for replacement. Assuming that this Committee agrees, this will change the scope of work for the engineer to be a work write-up to make the rehabilitation of the Tidal Wave dock. Due to the dramatic change from what was approved and budgeted, the Administrator wanted all of Council to be aware of what would be happening at the marina.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Mayor Cronin informed the Committee that the City has sent letters to representatives in Congress urging the delay of the Biggert-Waters Act; Tim Scott and Mark Sanford had acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

Councilmember Stone reported that Mississippi is suing for the federal government to stop with implementation of Biggert-Waters until the financial impact study that is in the bill is executed; FEMA says there is no money for the study so it will not happen and that there is no language that says the law cannot be implemented without the impact study. Louisiana is suing; Florida is joining on another level with another federal law suit to stop it; and South Carolina is looking at it very intently and meeting with the attorney general and governor.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, November 19, 2013 in Council Chambers.**

**8. Executive Session – not needed**

**9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk