

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee was held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee members Burgis, Covington, Nelson and Rice and Chair Russell, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, City Treasurer Suggs and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Russell 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: Chair Russell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2014 as submitted; Ms. Rice seconded.

Ms. Rice stated that a correction needs to be made in the first paragraph on Page 1; she is not shown as attending the meeting, which she did.

VOTE: The motion to approve the corrected minutes PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Financial Statements – Treasurer Suggs

Preliminary and Unaudited FY14 Results

Treasurer Suggs reported that the City has received the fourth quarter State ATAX payment; the amount to the ATAX fund was three hundred fifty-nine thousand dollars (\$359,000), which is substantially higher than the fourth quarter in previous years. With this final payment, the ATAX collections for FY14 were thirteen point six percent (13.6%) greater than FY13. The Treasurer indicated that she would be more comfortable with the amount once she gets the County accommodations taxes to "true up" the amount and to look for any possible discrepancies. The Treasurer stated that the issue of taxpayers reporting for the wrong municipality continues which can occur when a taxpayer has properties in multiple jurisdictions; the City learned that money that should be coming to City of Isle of Palms has been going to Charleston County.

In reviewing the Balance Sheet, the Treasurer noted that there could be additional invoices from June that have not been received, but based on the existing data, the ATAX fund ended FY14 with a surplus of three hundred seven thousand four hundred dollars (\$307,400).

Revenues shown on the first page of the revenue statement are the quarterly payments from the state, the proceeds from the sale of surplus equipment originally purchased with ATAX funds, and interest earned.

On the expenditure side, several accounts were over budget as follows:

1) Public Restroom Operations \$1,285.36

The overage was caused by work done by Liollo toward a new facility and the cost of pressure washing every month.

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$1,285.36 for public restroom expenses; Ms. Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2) Beach Trash Barrels 763.34

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$763.34 for beach trash barrels; Mr. Burgis seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3) Charleston CVB 72,658.19

This line was over-budget as the result of the amount of ATAX collections in FY14; no motion was needed for this overage.

4) Music Event (Island Gras) 304.30

MOTION: Ms. Rice moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$304.30 for the music event; Mr. Nelson seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5) One Police 4-Wheel Drive Patrol Vehicle 714.63

This overage was the result of outfitting the vehicle and installation.

MOTION: Ms. Rice moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$714.63 for one patrol vehicle; Chair Russell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6) Police Body Armor 37.24

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$37.24 for body armor; Ms. Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7) One Ford F150 Truck for the Fire Department 370.61

This overage is the result of outfitting the truck.

MOTION: Ms. Rice moved to approve the over-budget amount of \$370.61 for the Fire Department Ford F150 truck; Mr. Nelson seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer Suggs noted that a substantial portion of the FY14 surplus can be attributed to the fact that the dune walkover at the public restrooms, budgeted for ninety-five thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$95,750) was not done; it has been re-budgeted in FY15. Another part of the surplus is twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) budgeted for fifty percent (50%) of the cost of fabricating wayfinding signs; this project also was not done and has been re-budgeted for FY15. In addition, the decision to rehabilitate the watersports dock rather than replace it saved the ATAX fund one hundred twenty-two thousand one hundred five dollars (\$122,105).

With an FY14 surplus in excess of three hundred seven thousand dollars (\$307,000), the ATAX fund will carry forward approximately one million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000); expenditures anticipated for FY15 total one million eighty dollars (\$1,080,000).

5. Old Business – None

6. New Business – None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Consideration of Moving the ATAX Meetings to Noon

Assistant Dziuban explained that the City is trying to consolidate committee meetings into two or three (2-3) days; the ATAX Committee meeting conflicts with another committee meeting; therefore, staff is seeking to move the ATAX meetings to noon.

The members of the Committee had no objections to the meeting time change; ATAX meetings in the future will begin at noon.

Assistant Dziuban announced that the City will hold a parking roundtable at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 21st in Council Chambers.

Ms. Rice asked when Liollo would be making a presentation on new public restrooms.

Assistant Dziuban stated that she was unaware of any planned presentation by Liollo, but reported that they have completed the site evaluation and recommended two (2) possible sites, i.e. the large municipal parking lot and the existing location. City Council approved additional funds for Liollo to generate a construction timeline and cost estimates for both locations.

Treasurer Suggs stated that the FY15 budget does not contemplate construction in FY15, but in FY16; in addition the ATAX fund is paying fifty percent (50%) of the cost for Liollo's services.

Next Meeting Date: Noon, Wednesday, October 8, 2014 in Council Chambers

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m.; Mr. Burgis seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk