

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2014

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2014 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Loftus and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen and Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban; 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. Following a brief invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Assistant Dziuban called the roll.

2. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 29, 2014 and the Public Hearing of May 20, 2014 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens' Comments

Gene Murray, of the Ocean Inn on Pavilion Drive, reported that the Police Department had done a good job controlling the crowd on the island over the weekend. Mr. Murray stated the only problem that sees people who are jumping the City's fence, cutting through their property, and jumping the fence again upon their return. He was interested in having a sign on the ocean side of the fence noting private property. Mr. Murray said that the HOA had decided against posting "No Trespassing" signs.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

At the meeting of May 20th, Council heard a presentation from Perrin Lawson and Frank Fredericks about the Charleston Visitors Bureau and what it does to promote the region overall and especially what they do for the Isle of Palms. Treasurer Suggs reported that General Fund revenue is at six point seven million dollars (\$6,700,000) which is eighty-two percent (82%) of budget. Property tax revenue for FY14 is not expected to exceed budget; staff is hopeful that property tax revenue will meet budget. With a target of eighty-three percent (83%) of budget, General Fund expenditures are seventy-eight percent (78%) of budget. Receiving forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for April, Municipal Accommodations Taxes are running seven percent (7%) ahead of FY13 for the same period; the City received the third quarter installment of State Accommodations Taxes and is running eight percent (8%) ahead of FY13; and Hospitality Taxes are running thirteen percent (13%) ahead of FY13. The second and final payment for FY14 from the Charleston County Accommodations Pass-through is typically received in July. For April, there was very little activity in the City's ongoing projects for the month.

A lengthy discussion occurred on the marina and actions of the Real Property Committee involving with the tenants who have now proposed to step back and to take a serious look about

a long-range plan for the entire marina. The Planning Commission and the Real Property Committee will work with the marina tenants to devise a long-term plan over the coming year that will benefit the City, the tenants and patrons. The Committee then reviewed the FY15 budget; changes were made by several committees since the budget workshop in April. The Mayor noted that Councilmembers voiced concern about future years and whether the City can sustain the level of activity related to fund balances; the City has been using tourism fund balances quite heavily to sustain the City through FY15. (The policy of amortizing future expenditures for major capital equipment, i.e. garbage and Fire Department trucks) Staff was asked to look into tweaks that will not be as draining to the City's annual budgets.

1. Approval of Change Order #3 from Ocean and Coastal Consultants reducing their contract to \$30,300 and award of a contract in the amount of \$1,750 to SHFR Waterfront Solutions.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the change order and to award the contract to SHFR Waterfront Solutions; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Mayor Cronin stated that a contract for seventeen hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) would ordinarily come before Council; however, this is a change to the contract and the award is closely tied into the change order make it a Council matter.

When asked by Councilmember Ward's question about where the money could be found in the budget, Administrator Tucker explained that this was part of the Tidal Wave Watersports Dock and funds budgeted there.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Award of a sole source contract in the amount of \$16,196 (plus applicable sales taxes) to Deschamps Mat Systems for FY14 budgeted purchase of Mobi-mat (FY14 budget - \$25,000)

Motion: Mayor Cronin moved to award the contract to Deschamps Mat Systems as detailed above; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Ways and Means Committee also considered a part-time position for a City-wide mechanic and wage range adjustments for various personnel in the City; the wage ranges were sent back to the Personnel Committee for further development. The Palm Boulevard crossing by the Phase II Drainage project was also discussed as it is related to re-surfacing because the repaving has not proceeded as expected.

3. Consideration of Award of Contract for Message Boards

Administrator Tucker reported that the City had opened sealed bids on May 22 and received two (2) bids; the apparent low bidder was St. Clair Signs at thirty-eight thousand one hundred sixty-four dollars and thirty-six cents (\$38,164.36). (Jim Harrison from St. Clair Signs is in attendance tonight.) The second bidder quoted twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) per sign for a total

of forty-four thousand dollars (\$44,000); the amount budgeted in the FY14 budget was thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000).

MOTION: For the purpose of discussion, Councilmember Bettelli moved to award a contract to St. Clair signs for digital message boards; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

Rusty Harrison of St. Clair Signs approached the podium and offered to answer any questions Council may have. Councilmember Bettelli asked that Mr. Harrison provide Council with a detailed description of the appearance of the message boards he quoted to the City. A computer will operate in the background and the LED board on which to display messages; he anticipates seven (7) seconds of readability based on where they are. The board will have the capability to run as many lines as desired with whatever size letters are preferred; based on his trip onto the island today, he suggested six inch (6 in.) letters in general and larger letters if communicating an alert of some kind. The board itself can be controlled in different ways; someone could log on with an iPhone and the security code from the police or fire departments if there was an urgent message to be disseminated. The board will have automatic sensing and dimming. Programming and off-and-on capabilities will all be done on-line from different access points if necessary. Personnel, other than the Administrator, can be allowed different levels of accessibility that is funneled through one point of contact before being visible on the board. Mr. Harrison stated that a month's meetings could be programmed into the message board when the month begins – no longer waiting until a day or two (2) before the event. In addition, he suggested that there be some default information in an effort to keep the message fluid. Mr. Harrison noted that Homeland Security has the capability to put Amber alerts on one's phone in the locale where the alert is initiated, and it could be directed to the message boards.

Councilmember Harrington asked how the electronics would handle the island's harsh environment; Mr. Harrison reported that the signs are designed to operate in extreme temperatures as high as 140° Fahrenheit. The manufacturer knows that the boards will be outside and must be able to withstand the conditions; he commented that his company has never had a sign malfunction due to extreme heat.

Mayor Cronin stated that some think an electronic sign is too commercial for a small town like the Isle of Palms; Mr. Harrison responded that the placement of the City's message boards will make them appear less commercial and reminded Council that the brightness can be controlled.

The Mayor explained that one (1) attractive quality that particularly appealed to him was the ability quickly to put up safety alerts, such as rip tides or an approaching weather event. But the problem he sees is that electronic message boards are very expensive.

Mr. Harrison indicated that making the sign blend into the surrounding environment and eliminating a commercial look make the signs costly; he commented that he, personally, likes that the design because it stays with the island's mentality.

Councilmember Ferencz asked what the dimensions were of the electronic portion of the sign and whether it would be white letters on a black background or something else entirely.

Councilmember Bettelli responded that the electronic portion of the new signs would be very close to the message area on the existing signs.

Mr. Harrison added that the City can decide what color the lettering and background are to be. The quoted signs will be on separate sets of LED boards with two hundred (200) LED lights each.

Councilmember Harrington asked Mr. Harrison the expected useful life of the boards and the length of any warranty attached to it. Mr. Harrison replied that the electronic boards come with a five-year (5 yr.) parts and labor warranty, and the average life span is fifteen years (15 yrs.).

Referring to the steel casing of the electronics, Councilmember Carroll stated that he had looked under his house and had seen the corrosion that is there. He asked whether St. Clair Signs had other sign installations in beach locations and he stated that he thought an electronic sign does not promote the laid-back, island lifestyle and does commercialize the island.

Mr. Harrison repeated his earlier comments that the inconspicuous location of the City's message boards tends to take the commercial aspect out of the picture. As to the useful life in saltwater conditions, Mr. Harrison explained that these signs are coated with a special paint product, similar to the coating put into the bed of pickup trucks and is considered a "green" paint process; he repeated that his company has had no issues with signs in this type of environment.

Councilmember Ferencz asked how the message is carried to the message board; the City will have a selection of methods, i.e., a secure wireless line, a cable or whatever is the most secure for the City.

Councilmember Buckhannon commented that, this weekend, he saw the need for an immediate change to the message boards; for instance, traffic coming onto the island was not allowed to go straight because the parking lots were full. People had no idea what was going on and why they were being directed away from the beach. Using a PDF or WORD format, the City could, theoretically, recreate what exists now – the size of the letters, the font, etc. – so that many people will not realize there has been a change, unless a message change occurs while looking at the board. The Councilmember indicated that he would like to make the trip to the College of Charleston to see St. Clair Signs' installation there to get an idea about the appearance of a new sign.

Mr. Harrison stated that he has a demo model on a trailer that he would be happy to bring to the island.

Mr. Harrison reported that a year's free programming was included with the bid to aid in learning the process.

Mayor Cronin agreed with Councilmember Buckhannon to take no action at this meeting, but to go to the College of Charleston to see an actual sign; Mr. Harrison said that he would provide the City with several installations for review, including some in North Charleston.

Administrator Tucker noted that the City's code does not allow for such signs and that there are controls in place to prevent proliferation of electronic signs on the island.

The Administrator asked Mr. Harrison how long the bid pricing would be honored if the City delays another month in making a decision, and Mr. Harrison replied ninety (90) days.

Noting that technology has improved, Councilmember Ward stated that residents want Council to make a decision; he had hoped for a vote at this meeting and reminded Council that there was a motion on the floor.

Mayor Cronin moved to suspend discussion and defer to next month.

With that, Councilmember Bettelli withdrew his motion, and Councilmember Carroll withdrew his second.

When asked whether the demonstration model was comparable to the sign contemplated for the City, Mr. Harrison said it would be larger than the new IOP sign.

Councilmember Ward questioned, procedurally, that the withdrawal of a motion needed a vote of Council; Attorney Halverson indicated that a vote was not necessary. Councilmember Ward asked that his objection to withdrawing the motion be noted in the permanent records.

The next Ways and Means Committee meeting will be at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, July 17th.

B. Public Safety Committee

From the meeting of May 6th, Councilmember Bettelli also discussed the FY15 budget, and Councilmember Carroll applauded all City employees "who took the time, headaches and efforts to create those additional tools" that Council has used as the basis on which to make budgetary decisions. On the subject of the traffic counters, the City continues to wait for the SCDOT permit, and the Committee had a lengthy discussion of the digital sign. Under "New Business," the Committee approved the following recommendations as requests for 2014 Charleston County Transportation (CTC) funds, in priority order: Phase II Drainage project, handicap accessibility at 21st Avenue and bike paths from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved for approval to submit the projects detailed above for 2014 CTC funds; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

From departmental reports, Councilmember Bettelli commented that, it is clear "that summer is here;" not only has the Fire Department located several lost children, but there has been one (1) fatality on the beach. As usual, there were a couple of small fires and false alarms; in addition, there were three (3) boats taking on water at the marina. The Chief reported that personnel had responded to eighty-nine (89) calls in April of which thirty-four (34) were EMS calls.

From the Police Department report, Councilmember Bettelli noted that there have been a couple of larcenies on the beach; he commented that beach-goers should secure any valuables, which likely means someone should remain in close proximity to keep an eye on them. In one (1) case, someone reported that a shoulder bag, cooler and towel were removed from the beach while he was swimming; the victim's car was missing from the municipal parking lot when he went to leave. The vehicle was recovered after it was found burned in Berkeley County. Another problem police are seeing is the theft of golf carts; the Chief said carts look alike and use the same key; people are picking up the wrong golf cart when they leave the beach. A suggestion from the Committee was that golf cart owners should put some kind of distinguishing decal or mark on them to identify their cart; the carts should also be locked. A "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for Thursday, May 8th in front of 3504 Cameron Boulevard; the residents are hosting the event from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. During the month of May, dispatchers responded to five thousand five hundred twenty-four (5,524) calls; of the total, four thousand three hundred twenty-seven (4,327) calls were for the Police Department. There were four hundred three (403) traffic stops where one hundred fifteen (115) received tickets. Of the twenty-eight (28) arrests in May, the majority were for alcohol and/or narcotics. Officers wrote nineteen (19) warnings for noise violations and two (2) citations were written. Administrator Tucker announced that she received notification yesterday that the Isle of Palms has been named one (1) of forty (40) Safety Cities in South Carolina. When discussing the Connector widening on the Mount Pleasant side, Chief Buckhannon remarked that SCDOT would not put up the sign that he wanted, but they did put up a sign directing people to the second egress lane from the Connector. Mount Pleasant agreed to alter the timing of the light at Rifle Range Road by May 21st which was the grand opening of the road improvements.

Councilmember Carroll reported that he had rented a couple of houses a couple of weeks ago and thought that the renters might be disruptive to the neighbors; therefore, he went to the Police Department and gave a special patrol request by those houses. He indicated that he was very pleased with the result, and he suggested that other rental agencies on the island should take advantage of this service by the Police Department,

A proclamation for Safe Boating Week was read into the minutes.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Monday, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

A request from the Committee was to discuss with other committees about the possibility of holding all committee meetings on one or two (1-2) days a month.

Referring to the discussion about golf carts, Mayor Cronin remarked that the law regulating golf carts was changed a couple of years ago and states that they must be registered by 2014; if registered previously, they must register again no later than September 30th or October 31st of 2014. This registration is good for five (5) years. The Mayor said that, to adhere to the law, he went to the DMV to re-register his golf cart, and they give him a blank stare. The Mayor then gave the site manager the reference in state code; she called him back two (2) days later to acknowledge that he was right. Mayor Cronin commented that, as a courtesy to residents, the City should make sure that they are aware of the law and how it affects them.

The Mayor then thanked the City's entire staff for their involvement in offering one of the better Disaster Expos that was held at the Public Safety Building on May 21st; he stated that there were several residents who said they had not attended the expo for several years. Attendees took advantage of the City's staff, vendors and other governmental agencies to learn how to prepare themselves in today's world. Based on the level of work that it takes to provide this to residents, the Mayor said that he had hoped more residents would attend. He also noted that this year's event was far better attended than at expos held in the recent past.

Councilmember Loftus added that Charleston County has approved the hiring of fifteen (15) additional EMS personnel; he continued that considering the concentration of people on the island in season as the most popular beach in Charleston County, the City should lobby for additional coverage. The Councilmember indicated that he would like to see EMS personnel on the island seven (7) days a week, not just on weekends.

The Mayor stated that he would talk with Charleston County about the best way to use their resources.

C. Public Works Committee

Reporting on the meeting of May 7th, Councilmember Ward stated that the focus of Public Works Director Pitts report was that the island is getting busy; he specifically commented on the volume of yard debris removed from the island in April. The Hazardous Household Materials recycling event was well-attended, and this year Charleston County allowed paint to be taken as well, filling the flatbed truck. Administrator Tucker announced that the Director had become a grandfather for the second time today; his granddaughter was born around 11:00 a.m. on May 7th. The Administrator related receiving a phone call from a Mrs. Sims who was coming onto the island about 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. when she witnessed CDL driver Rob Graham basically saving the lives of a lot of people with his actions driving the garbage apparatus. Mr. Graham was returning from the yard via Hungryneck Boulevard; a woman was driving in the wrong direction on Hungryneck and there was a line of traffic behind Mr. Graham. He was able to stop and avoid hitting her and get her stopped; she was completely turned around from where she needed to be. In addition, he got her vehicle turned around and got her headed in the right direction. According to Mrs. Sims, he was barely able to stop; if he had not been able to do the job that he had done, it probably would have been a three (3) or four (4) car serious pileup. One of the vehicles was a completely filled concrete truck. Director Pitts will write this up, recommending some type of recognition for Mr. Graham, but Mrs. Sims went emphasized that it was "nothing less than miraculous what he had done." The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the FY15 Capital and Operating budget; highlights of that discussion were as follows:

- Administrator Tucker went to the fund balance roll-forward schedules and directed attention to the first column entitled "Assigned for Capital Projects," which shows that the amount to be added in FY15 as five hundred seventy-seven thousand three hundred thirty-three dollars (\$577,333). The Administrator explained that the amount fluctuates because the schedule modifies each time an asset is replaced. Chair Ward stated that he thought it was a good idea when originally proposed, but he voiced his concern that the City can afford to continue to put aside such large sums of money; he noted that, in two (2) years, the fund balance has gone from two point

two million dollars (\$2,200,000) to six hundred twenty-two thousand dollars (\$622,000)

- When discussing the new firefighters, the Chair asked how much these personnel were going to cost in the future and what the millage increase would be to pay them; the Administrator's response was four hundred forty thousand dollars (\$440,000) which equates to approximately two (2) mills.
- Councilmember Ferencz voiced a lack of understanding that one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000), now two hundred three thousand dollars (\$203,000), is being taken from the General Fund to go to Capital Projects in the FY15 budget when, at the same time, the City is tapping into tourism funds by nearly six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000).
- Chair Ward recited previous year-end fund balances and stated that the fund balance over recent years has been significantly higher than one million dollars (\$1,000,000). In his opinion, that is not a good trend; the Chair noted that all fund balances are going down dramatically, especially in the tourism funds.
- Councilmember Ferencz indicated that she would find it difficult to explain to a resident that property taxes are going to increase when the City is saving such large sums of money to be used later. The Councilmember added that she was not advocating ending the process, but suggested assigning what is absolutely needed.
- Councilmember Loftus moved away from the capital budgets to voice his concerns over the fact that, since 2007, the operating budget has increased from six point two million dollars (\$6,200,000) to over nine million dollars (\$9,000,000), a forty-five percent (45%) increase.
- Councilmember Ferencz summarized the discussion noting that the City should investigate whether it can afford to continue to put away as much into savings as it does now and, in this current year, look at whether the City can afford one hundred eighty-thousand dollars (\$180,000) going to Capital Projects from the operating budget.
- Concerning the marina, the FY15 budget includes one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) to be spent there; the Committee, as a whole, voiced concern over this item in the budget.

Councilmember Ward noted that a tax increase was not considered for FY15, but he indicated that it would be part of the budget discussions in future budgets if the City continues to spend at the rate that it is. He continued by stating that transfers-in to balance the General Fund have doubled – a one hundred percent (100%) increase in two (2) years. Councilmember Loftus reiterated that the City is spending at double the inflation rate. Discussions revealed anxiety among members of the Committee regarding the FY15 budget.

The following discussion related to the fact that the City is out of compliance National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) regulations in two (2) areas at the Public Works site and the improvements the City must make to be in compliance. Several options for resolving the problems were presented to the Committee.

Another item considered was timing for the Palm Boulevard crossings that will be necessary for the Phase II Drainage project; this item was discussed in the Ways and Means Committee last week.

Other topics briefly discussed included recycling at the beach and Front Beach Lighting.

The Public Works Committee will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 4th in the Conference Room.

Mayor Cronin commented that the blue recycling bins appear to be working very well; the Administrator stated that the opinion that this endeavor has been a tremendous success – so much so that the City must get an additional containers for what is collected. By Saturday, the City had to place additional blue bins on the beach because they will filling with recyclable materials.

D. Recreation Committee

From the meeting on May 5th, Councilmember Carroll referred first to the monthly departmental report noting that all adult sports will conclude by June 3rd, including the highly competitive ping-pong league. The Fast Start baseball for three and four (3-4) year olds ended in April, but baseball for other age groups continues into May. Registration for boys' lacrosse for ages eleven through fourteen (11-14) began May 5th and continues through the month. The Recreation Department provided organized activities for spring break as part of School's Out Program. The 2014 Isle of Palms Beach Run is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th, and the 16th Annual Half Rubber Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th and August 17th if necessary. BOSU will carry on through the summer at both the Recreation center and at the Public Safety Building; the BOSU program offered at the Public Safety Building continues to have good employee participation. The Keenagers met on April 2nd with thirty-nine (39) seniors in attendance; many stayed after the meeting to assist staff in stuffing candy bags for the Easter Egg Hunt. The last Middle School Dance for this school-year will be Friday, May 30th. Participation in tennis continues to go very well. Participants in the "Writing from Memory" classes had their readings for family and friends on Friday, April 11th. Twenty (20) children enjoyed the Egg-cellent Craft on April 17th as they dyed and decorated three (3) eggs each. Despite the less than perfect weather, approximately six hundred (600) children came to the Easter Egg Hunt which took place under Plan B, moving the activity to the Recreation Center. The annual Yard Sale had a great turnout on April 26th; only a few booths were unoccupied. "Music in the Park" drew more than a hundred people on Saturday, May 3rd for "Sweet Potato Pie" to serenade; Chair Carroll stated that he thought this could become an annual event. Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest will take place at Front Beach on Saturday, June 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m., and judging will take place in seven different categories from Young

Adult to Best in Show. All sessions of Camp Summershine are full, and the Director is in the process of hiring two (2) camp counselors. On Wednesday, April 23rd, sixteen (16) employees participated in friendly games of volleyball and corn hole as part of the City's Employee Wellness program; a new activity for Employee Wellness, boot camp, will begin on May 1st.

Councilmember Carroll reported that the Recreation Committee also discussed in depth the FY15 budget; they acknowledged that expenses outside the City's control only had a two percent (2%) increase. Items under the City's control in the Recreation Department is the twenty-seven hundred dollars (\$2,700) to reline the gym floor; the budgeted increase to part-time salaries is due to increased activity in programs. From the Capital Fund, several items are budgeted for replacement "only with failure." The Director stated that the ball fields need to be rehabilitated because they are unsafe for adult players; the Director offered fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the Recreation Building fund toward this project.

The Recreation Committee will hold its next meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2 in the Conference Room.

Mayor Cronin commented that he had attended the Music in the Park event and that it had been very well received. He recommended that such an event be repeated, possibly more than once a year.

E. Personnel Committee

Reporting on the meeting of May 1st, Councilmember Ferencz noted that the first order of business had been the presentation by staff of the wage range study that has been ongoing for several months; Councilmember Bettelli voiced the opinion that the Ways and Means Committee should be made aware of the information gathered and subsequent recommendations; Councilmember Harrington agreed. The Chair agreed to present the assignment, the data that was gathered and the subsequent recommendations, but the Committee was not prepared to make specific recommendations at the meeting. When presented to the Ways and Means Committee, the study was sent back to the Personnel Committee for further study and a recommendation. At the time of the meeting, the Police Department was looking to complete the complement of BSOs; since that time, the Police Department is actively looking for two (2) patrol officers and one (1) captain; no other department has personnel vacancies at this time. Consideration of City-wide mechanic also took place; Councilmember Harrington was of the opinion that this position has been more than justified and should be included in the FY15 budget; at the Ways and Means Committee, the decision of Council was not to add this position at this time. Administrator Tucker reported that the Department Managers have decided to generate an evaluation tool, using the Omni form as a model, to copy the City's original form. Chief Buckhannon has agreed to be the architect; once the form has been completed and reviewed by the Department Managers, it will be presented to the Committee for their review; no progress has been made by the Committee on the Administrator's evaluation tool. Since the Committee has much work to do, the Chair suggested that the subject of a strategic plan versus a comprehensive plan be deferred to a point in the future when there is time to dedicate to it. A great deal of time was spent discussing various lines in the FY15 budget. One (1) item of "New Business" was a discussion about reimbursements to the City for training provided for employees; after an extensive explanation

of the City's reimbursement policy, Chair Ferencz summarized that the City has mechanisms for training reimbursement for tuition and for the police academy, but conflicts with labor laws prevent the City from pursuing reimbursement for EMT training. Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the Committee will need to make mid-year appointments to Boards and Commissions; there is a vacancy on the Code Board of Appeals, which meets very infrequently, and one (1) vacancy each on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission. At the June meeting, the Committee will review the candidates remaining in the pool.

The Personnel Committee will hold its next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 3rd in the Conference Room.

Councilmember Ferencz announced the Safety Sweepstakes winners for April as Emily Dziuban from General Government, Russell Roper from Public Works, Shena Crockett from the Police Department and Joey Teague from the Fire Department

F. Real Property Committee

Reporting on the Real Property Committee meeting of May 6th, Councilmember Loftus reported that the cleanup work at Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park has been completed and Charleston County has agreed to do that work at no cost to the City. The next step is to think about a dedication; the City needs to get a sign made meeting Greenbelt requirements and consider having a ceremony to unveil the sign officially dedicating it to Mayor Carmen R. Bunch. The rehabilitation of the watersports dock has been completed, and Tidal Wave is fully operational. The Committee reviewed the Ocean and Coastal Consultants change order and thoroughly discussed the new contract with John Shaffer. John Tarkany and John Shaffer made a presentation to the Committee about the ideas the tenants have for improving the entire marina complex. The consultants were invited to make their presentation to the full Council, which was accomplished at the Ways and Means Committee meeting last week; the decision was made to use the one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) in the FY5 budget for a comprehensive Marina Site Enhancement Plan. Like other committees, the Real Property Committee reviewed and discussed the FY15 Capital and Operating budgets. Councilmember Loftus noted that, since the City purchased the marina in 1999, there has not been a clear understanding of the responsibilities borne by the City and those to be borne by the tenants; both the Marina Market and Morgan Creek Grill expressed a desire to detail these in any new lease amendment. An example of the problem is the fact that the store badly needs to have a non-functional walk-in freezer replaced; the Committee recommended to allocate a portion of the funds for replacing the fuel dispenses at the dock in order to fund the replacement.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 10th in the Conference Room.

6. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

- A. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – minutes attached
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals** – no meeting in May
- C. Planning Commission** – minutes attached

7. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – None

8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – None

9. Bills Already in Possession of Council

Second Reading of Ordinance 2014-03 – An Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014 and Ending June 30, 2015. (Deferred to June)

Mayor Cronin remarked that staff's recommendation is to delay the Second Reading until June because several issues were sent back to Committee for meetings in June, to ensure that the budget to be approved includes all of the possible changes recommended at those meetings and to re-budget those projects not completed in FY14, for instance the generator and the traffic counters.

Councilmember Carroll agreed that Council's decision to create a sinking fund to pay cash for fire and garbage apparatus, saving the City the interest expense on capital leases, was a good one, but he also commented to the fact that all Committees would be discussing ways to decrease the amount the City must add to the Reserve for Fire and Garbage Trucks annually. He voiced his support for extending the life span of these pieces of equipment by two or three (2-3) years in an effort to draw fewer dollars from other funds to balance the City's annual budget. He also stated that he was in favor of detailing tenant/landlord responsibilities in the marina tenants' lease.

The Mayor reported that the Real Property Committee is "dissecting" the leases to accomplish that task. On the subject of the sinking fund, the Mayor reiterated that the money is still here and still available for the City's use should a need arise.

Administrator Tucker recalled that staff was given assignments at the Ways and Means meeting related to the budget, and staff needs time to complete them and to report to the appropriate committee. One (1) of those tasks was to take a new look at the debt avoidance schedule and to consider several possibilities to tweak the requirement from year to year.

10. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations

First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2014-04 – An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 1, Business Licenses, Article A, General Provisions, Section 7-1-22, Classification and Rates of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Increase the Business License Fee for Non-Residents from One Hundred Fifty Percent to Two Hundred Percent of the Rates for the Applicable Class.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2014-04 by title only; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Miscellaneous Business

Consideration of alternative for City Council and Committee meeting times and dates

Mayor Cronin noted that there had been discussions at Committee meetings about a way to condense the number of days that Committees and staff meet, possibly holding two or three (2-3) meetings the same day.

Administrator Tucker commented that this topic has been brought up before and continues to be brought to her attention by Councilmembers; there was consideration of the timing of Committee meetings and the time of City Council meetings. It is on the agenda for this meeting to allow the full Council an opportunity to consider options. The Administrator noted that some local governments hold all of their committee meetings in one (1) day; some others condense them into two or three (2-3) days; and others do as the Isle of Palms. Additionally, the Administrator stated that some municipalities hold all of their meetings during the day; some even hold their Council meetings during the day as well. After reviewing the meeting dates and times for June, Administrator Tucker said that, if the dates and times were more specific, the Committees would no longer be individually scheduling the meetings from month to month since the meetings would be on a set day and time every month.

Mayor Cronin asked if any Councilmember had limitations/restrictions on time.

Councilmember Ferencz stated that her concern was posed at staff and their preference. Administrator Tucker responded that, globally, staff prefers earlier meetings; the Administrator indicated that her experience has been that, if there are community concerns, people make arrangements to attend the meeting whatever the time might be. When there are so many working parents, they tend to highly value their family-time and do not want to leave them after they get home from work to attend a meeting. One (1) other factor to take into consideration is that people are generally plugged in electronically to check the City's website or to watch the video of a Council meeting the next night. An additional benefit to meeting during the day is that staff has all of its resources readily available. The Administrator concluded by saying that staff is subject to the will of Council and will do whatever Council wishes.

Councilmember Carroll stated that he had put the issue before the Recreation Committee earlier in the month; he noted that Mount Pleasant holds its meetings in one (1) day. He commented that, for staff, after-hours meetings make for a very long day, and he agreed that having all of the City's resources available would be a positive thing. The Councilmember questioned the 7:00 p.m. meeting time for City Council; he looked around the room and saw only a handful of residents in attendance. He was in favor of holding the Council meetings at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Cronin asked that each Councilmember e-mail him their schedule limitations and preferences, and staff will try to have a recommendation by the July meeting.

Councilmember Harrington asked that a decision on moving Council meetings up an hour could be addressed at this meeting, rather than wait two (2) months.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to change the time of City Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

City Attorney Halversen commented that, to effect this timing change, there must be an ordinance change, and Administrator Tucker said that she had advised Councilmembers of that fact.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 8 to 1 with Councilmember Loftus casting the dissenting vote.

Administrator Tucker summed up the discussion that the time change would be effective for the July meeting, and the process for changing the ordinance would begin at the June meeting.

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

12. Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice related to settlement of a legal claim concerning the Public Safety Building.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to receive legal advice.

Attorney Halversen interrupted the Mayor to tell him that the Executive Session was not necessary at this time.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.; Councilmember; Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk