

CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2015

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2015 in Council Chambers, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Loftus and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, City Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Buckhannon's absence was excused.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Following a brief invocation by the Mayor and the Pledge of Allegiance, Clerk Copeland called the roll.

2. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 31st and the Budget Workshop of April 13th as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens Comments

Despite being listed on the *Agenda*, Jane and Jim Gambrell did not attend the meeting.

Rennie Cosmos of 2403 Waterway Boulevard, Kathy Kent, Christie Humphries and Jackie Killroe attended the meeting to promote the cause of ending the use of single-use plastic bags on the island; all residents know the damage plastic bags do to turtles, wildlife and the beaches. She asked that the City be the first community in the state to ban the use of plastic bags. She stated that she has spoken with many businesses on the island who use plastic bags and reported getting a warm reception and an indication that they would participate.

Jackie Killroe, 25 Twenty-Sixth Avenue, stated that "every year one trillion plastic bags are used – that is one billion a day." Plastic bags were an increasing cause of suffocation, strangulation, fatal internal blockages of marine life from whales to dolphins, sea turtles, sea gulls, etc., and the problem continues to get worse. Goals of the group are to keep the beaches clean, to help to keep bodies clean since plastic pieces/ingredients are now being found in oysters and to help marine life.

Kathy Kent, 3 Nineteenth Avenue, said that the group was asking to ban the distribution of plastic check-out bags on the Isle of Palms because recycling is not a good option; they cannot be placed in the blue recycle bins, and, if they make their way to the sorting machines, they wrap around the machinery that then has to be stopped for an individual to get them out by hand. Based on EPA data, only seven point one percent (7.1%) of plastic bags were recycled in 2012. The group believes that the best alternative is reusable bags, but paper bags are also an option.

Christy Humphries, 1600 Dunes Boulevard, commented that the group was presenting a draft ordinance that was included in the handouts (A copy is included in the historical record of the meeting.) and were asking that the City pass it.)

She explained that they researched various other plastic bag ordinances and based their provisions on ordinances in areas like the City of Isle of Palms; she reported that the Outer Banks has had a ban-the-plastic-bag ordinance in place for five (5) years. Ms. Humphries added that she had also looked a smaller communities that have a similar population to the City's; since the Isle of Palms is a small town, they have tried to keep the ordinance they developed to the basics. Other ordinances were included in the handout as well. The group recommended that the City have a six month (6 mo.) transition period to allow vendors to use the balance of their plastic bag inventory and stock up on a new inventory.

Joe Settimio, 25 Twenty-Fourth Avenue, stated that he has moved around the island with a petition related to the proposed Managed Beach Parking Program; he gathered fifty-seven (57) signatures of individuals who believe that the City should hold a referendum on any parking management plan Council would select to be the best answer to the City's parking issues. Mr. Settimio added that the referendum should include the cost of the program, how many additional people the City would hire and what infrastructure would be involved. In his opinion, the general population does not know where the City is headed, what the programs would cost, or whether or not it would work. He added that no one has been able to tell him how many signatures would be needed.

Mayor Cronin stated that the number was five percent (5%) of the City's registered voters; Administrator Tucker suggested that he contact the Charleston County Board of Elections for the exact number and any other pertinent information. The Mayor noted that Council would be talking about parking later, and he hoped Mr. Settimio would stay to, possibly, get some of his questions answered. The Mayor explained that Council's intention from the beginning has been not to have the program cost the citizens anything, and the plan would be to hire only additional enforcement personnel.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to re-order the *Agenda* to discuss a ban on Plastic Bags listed in Miscellaneous Business; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Miscellaneous Business

Discussion of Possible Ordinance to Ban Plastic Bags

Mayor Cronin stated that it was obvious the ladies had done a lot of research and networked with all members of Council; he did not think that they had gotten any resistance from Councilmembers. The Mayor commented that he was pleased to hear that the ordinance would have a transition period for businesses. He asked whether the group had contacted "the big players," i.e. Harris Teeter.

Ms. Kent reported that they have reached out to Harris Teeter, hoping to have them as a partner in the initiative; she stated that she was unable to pass along an official statement from Harris Teeter because an official statement must come directly to the City. She did report that Harris Teeter has donated three thousand (3,000) reusable bags for the group to distribute on the island to assist in the transition.

Having mentioned the Outer Banks, Mayor Cronin said that they or their look-alikes have already converted to re-usable bags; the Mayor recalled that the assistant manager at the IOP store might have worked at one of those stores prior to coming to the island.

The Mayor's second question concerned Subway because everyone who leaves a Subway has a plastic bag.

Ms. Kent agreed, but she also was of the opinion that, with the two hundred ordinances in place across the County, they have addressed the issue somewhere. She added that the *pro forma* ordinance they have provided defines the bags as a single-use plastic checkout or carry-out bag.

Councilmember Carroll displayed a recyclable, washable DuPont bag made from Kevlar that rolls up in a small bag and holds up to thirty pounds (30 lbs.) of merchandise; he gave the remaining bags to the group to distribute as they saw fit.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to hold First Reading on an ordinance at the May meeting to ban the use of single use plastic bags on the Isle of Palms; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Cronin announced that the City and others have been working hard lobbying the Corps of Engineers about dredging the IntraCoastal Waterway near Breach Inlet, and those efforts have paid off with the Corps of Engineers working toward accomplishing this goal. The Mayor thanked Senator Graham and his office who worked diligently, and to County Councilmember Dickie Schweers who convinced County Council to dedicate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) toward the project. That seed money got the Corps' attention throughout their management team, and, as a result, they found between two point four and two point nine million dollars (\$2,400,000-2,900,000) for the work to be done. On their rating in three or four (3-4) categories, the silting problem near Breach Inlet fell below the mark in health and safety; the silting problem was rated first in the safety category, and, as such, will be the first project. The Corps plans have the bid package out in mid- to late August, the contract will be awarded in mid- to late September with a ninety (90) day construction period; the dredging could be complete by January.

The Mayor also acknowledged Administrator Tucker for her letter-writing campaign to all of the involved parties; he also acknowledged Marina Manager Brian Berrigan. The Mayor recalled taking a boating excursion about this time last year with the Corps of Engineers at Mr. Berrigan's coordination to see the extent of the problem.

4. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

From the meeting of April 21st, the Mayor stated that Laverne Smith of Waterway Boulevard addressed the Committee about the proposed parking management plan. Treasurer Suggs reported that the City was three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the way through the fiscal year; relative to budgets, revenue was at seventy-five percent (75%) of budget and one hundred four percent (104%) of revenue over FY14. He noted that Building Permits, Residential Rental Licenses and

Business License revenues were higher than the same period in FY14. Property Taxes were at ninety-eight percent (98%) of FY14, but the Mayor thought that the budgeted revenue would be met. General Fund expenditures were at seventy-two percent (72%) of budget overall.

The Committee discussed investing any available funds for which there was no immediate need in short-term CDs; the collective opinion was to look at local banks for better offerings on short-term CDs but not to go to institutions where the principal could be put in jeopardy in the event that the City had an immediate need for cash.

On the tourism funds, Municipal Accommodations taxes were up seven percent (7%) through March over the prior year; the Committee reviewed a new account established for the Beach Preservation Fees. Charleston County has committed to pay the City the first half of their accommodations tax collections which totaled two hundred sixty-four thousand dollars (\$264,000); this is the first payment that includes the additional five percent (5%), for a total of twenty-five percent (25%) to replace funding special needs, for example, for BSOs and for beach recycling efforts. State ATAX collections for the quarter should come in April, and Hospitality Taxes are running thirteen percent (13%) ahead of FY14.

1. Award of a contract to Carolina Sport Surfaces, Inc. in the amount of \$19,700 for the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Carolina Sport Surfaces, Inc. as detailed above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Award of a contract to Vic Bailey Ford in the amount of \$26,557 for one 2014 Ford Interceptor Utility vehicle to replace the vehicle totaled in collision of March 22nd

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Vic Bailey Ford in the amount of \$26,557 for the vehicle detailed above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Councilmember Carroll restated that the replacement of the vehicle was completely covered by insurance proceeds.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Extension of the contract term for five (5) years for Schupp Enterprises for the collection of beach and roadside containers

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to award the five year (5 yr.) contract extension for beach and roadside container collections; Councilmember Harrington seconded.

Administrator Tucker added that the motion includes "subject to revisions on the existing contract recommended by the City Attorney."

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY,

4. Award of a contract to VC3 for an upgrade to the City's website

Mayor Cronin explained that this work was originally budgeted in FY16, but, due to the machinations required of the website coordinator, the initial phases have been moved to FY15.

Assistant Dziuban noted that the total contract amount was approximately ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) plus five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for annual maintenance; she stated that she was hoping to capture fifty-seven hundred (\$5,700) available in the FY15 budget. Although the entire contract amount needs to be approved, approximately one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) would be paid from the FY15 budget.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to VC3 for the upgrade to the City's website; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Discussion of new concept for managed beach parking

Mayor Cronin recalled that the Ways and Means Committee discussed the managed beach parking program in detail because the City had received one (1) response to the RFB and, from that, staff had prepared a budget for the plan for the Committee to review. Staff had a teleconference with the vendor and were left with numerous questions about whether this was the right company for the City that could properly manage the program as they had offered it. In the budget, staff made several assumptions, such as the number of passes and one-time costs versus on-going costs to see what revenue the parking plan might generate since the program was to be revenue neutral to the City. While the assumptions were low, the budget indicated that the City would have a sixty-nine thousand dollar (\$69,000) cost over a ten year (10 yr.) period. Before the Committee began to tweak the assumptions made, Councilmember Carroll proposed another plan that would scrap the pay-to-park program and move to a plan that dealt with a resident-only parking areas in the residential areas. The areas that had been designated as paid parking would be open for parking with no fee.

This idea received a lot of support from the members of the Committee; therefore, staff was asked to generate a new budget with that plan in place; the plan has been designated Concept C.

(The handout detailing Concept C that was included in meeting packets has been attached to the historical record of the meeting.)

As the Mayor indicated, Concept C designated specific areas for beach parking; they are

- The Breach Inlet parking lot;
- 3rd and 4th Avenues between Ocean and Charleston Boulevards;*
- 5th, 6th, 7th 8th and 9th Avenues between Ocean and Carolina Boulevards;** and
- Palm Boulevard between 21st and 57th Avenues.

*Administrator Tucker noted that this item was more restrictive than the directive from Council because staff was informed by the Police Department that parking only existed between Ocean and Charleston on those streets.

**The Administrator recalled that, in Concept B, 10th Avenue was included as having available parking, but there was no available parking between Ocean and Carolina.

Areas where beach parking would not be allowed included streets between 43rd and 53rd Avenues; parking would only be allowed on Palm Boulevard.

The balance of the island's streets would become "resident only parking," and residents, who would park in the rights-of-way, would be required to display a sticker showing that they were residents, and, therefore, legally parked. Thought was being given to using the residential credentialing as a replacement for the hurricane re-entry stickers.

The same procedure for visitor passes would exist in Concept C as in Concept B, and Council would need to decide how many visitor passes would be issued and the cost. Administrator Tucker reminded Council that the City was trying to mirror the City of Charleston's residential parking district ordinance as much as possible, and they handle visitor passes in this manner.

The time period for the managed beach parking program would be consistent with what was established for Plan B, i.e. Memorial Day through August and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Accommodation must be made for the marina, the Recreation Center and Breach Inlet; at these sites there is insufficient space to meet the parking needs.

In Concept B, residents on the back side of the island and residents of Wild Dunes would not have been affected by the parking plan, but, in Concept C, any resident who might wish to park away from their home, not on the rights-of-way and during the season would require credentialing. In her opinion, it would be smart for every resident of the island to have their vehicle credentialed.

Signage would continue to be necessary to mark the districts as residential, the time period for "residential only parking," and the beach parking areas.

Using the budget developed for Concept B, a budget for Concept C was developed after deciding what would no longer be needed, but what would be needed in its place. The first item deleted was the software but the signage, stickers, public education program, enforcement, transportation and fuel plus additional clerical hours would continue to be needed. The projected annual expenses total eight-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$81,500); one-time costs total one hundred fifty-one thousand five hundred dollars (\$151,500); If Concept C was implemented as presented, total expense projections were two hundred thirty-three thousand dollars (\$233,000).

Continuing through the handout, the next page was a financial analysis that showed no revenue from the parking management plan; over a period of ten (10) years, the projected cost to the City

was approximately one million, two hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$1,270,000). Although fines are difficult to predict since the more people comply, the fewer the number of tickets issued, the next page analyzed the projected revenue from illegal parking tickets to be eight-five thousand five hundred dollars (\$85,500) annually. If the ticket revenue was applied to the expenses as defined, the ten-year (10-yr.) cost to the City would be approximately three hundred thirty-thousand dollars (\$330,000).

On the next pages were a list of pros and cons for Option C and the staff's considerations in preparation of the budget.

After praising staff on the work product, Councilmember Loftus stated that, with the low number of tickets expected to be issued, the City would not need to hire additional BSOs or to purchase any vehicles. He asked what the BSOs would be doing other than parking enforcement if only eight (8) tickets were issued per weekend day.

Administrator Tucker reiterated that revenue from fines was difficult to predict, and the measurement was based on current data that was skewed because the large majority of parking tickets were issued at Front Beach for meter violations. The six (6) BSOs currently being hired will be so busy on Front Beach that they have very little time to issue parking tickets on other parts of the island. As stated at the Ways and Means Committee meeting, the City did not want to appear to be setting a goal for parking tickets, and the number of tickets would likely be higher than predicted in the first year as visitors become familiar with the managed parking plan.

Mayor Cronin commented that he was disappointed that a way had not been found for visitors to pay for parking and he thought that a mechanism for charging needed to be found. He voiced the opinion that charging was a control the City would have in keeping people from coming to the island only when there was available space, rather than come over, ride around looking and hoping to find a space. He asked that Councilmembers and staff continue to investigate or devise over time a proper way to charge for parking.

In contrast, Councilmember Ferencz was of the opinion that the number of passes would not control the number of beach-goers coming to the island, but what would happen would be pass-holders coming to the island and finding no place to park. In a different vein, the Councilmember stated that, since Concept C was a plan supporting free visitor parking, she thought it was very unfair to charge residents for guest passes; she suggested that residents be given a quantity of guest passes when they register their vehicles. She stated that she supported replacing the hurricane stickers with the residential parking stickers. In addition, Councilmember Ferencz indicated that she would like to see the City go forward with the placement of signage, but that the public not be policed in the first year.

The Administrator remarked that staff had discussed no enforcement initially, and concluded that, if there was no enforcement, there would be wholesale violations of the plan and that word would spread quickly that parking regulations at the Isle of Palms were not being enforced, therefore, compounding the problem. She repeated that the complement of BSOs and members of the Police Department would be too tied up at their regular locations with what they normally do to enforce the managed parking program.

Administrator Tucker expressed the concern that, if the City implemented a free parking program in 2016 and a neighboring community implemented a pay-to-park system, the City would then receive more of their visitors than IOP was currently receiving – a point for consideration.

Councilmember Ward stated that he did not understand why City Council would not consider turning the entire parking management to a contractor who did nothing but handle parking.

Councilmember Bergwerf responded that Council had considered a third-party contractor, but had decided that a "rent-a-cop" issuing a ticket rather than an IOP employee gave a different message to island visitors.

Mayor Cronin indicated that he did not want to see parking meters lining Palm Boulevard, but he was interested in visitors paying to park.

Councilmember Ward stated that he thought the City should, at least, involve parking management professionals and get their ideas; he commented that he would support turning the entire parking issue over to a third-party.

Mayor Cronin noted that the communities with contracted services for parking management typically have parking meters and that the City would still have to bear the capital costs. He proposed that the City should move forward with "resident only" signage.

Councilmember Loftus agreed with Councilmember Ferencz that the parking should be initiated with a soft opening, but he would prefer that the vehicles in violation be issued a warning ticket. By issuing the warning ticket, the driver would be notified that, the next time he chose to park in the same place, he would be issued a ticket with a fine. The Councilmember also suggested an advertising campaign encouraging carpooling to come to the beach.

Repeating statements from Chief Buckhannon, Councilmember Bergwerf reported that the normal complement of BSOs and patrol officers are totally engaged in the Front Beach, on the beach and the balance of the island to be expected to devote any time to the managed beach parking initiative. To properly enforce the beach parking plan, the City must hire additional BSOs.

Councilmember Carroll suggested hiring additional off-duty Charleston County officers to enforce the beach parking plan.

Administrator Tucker confirmed for Councilmember Ferencz that the responsibility for the additional four (4) BSOs would be parking enforcement and added that, if the City had a major or catastrophic situation, BSOs would be assigned where they were needed

Captain Usry stated that the main focus for the four (4) BSOs would be parking enforcement, but the other duties as well; all BSOs would function as stated in the job description. The Captain explained that they work five (5) days per week for a total of forty (40) hours per week in nine (9) hour shifts with an hour for lunch. Efforts were made in scheduling so that they get two (2) consecutive days off as much as possible.

Councilmember Loftus stated that he saw the parking issues as a weekend problem and asked Captain Usry to explain why BSOs worked five (5) days a week.

The Captain explained that the BSOs were hired as part-time, seasonal employees; to reduce the hours would make recruitment more difficult.

On the subject of recruitment, the Captain reported that currently four (4) applicants have passed their drug testing and were scheduled to interview with the Chief toward the end of the week; in addition, four (4) other applicants would have panel interviews the following week.

Referring to signs, Councilmember Ferencz asked whether the new signs would follow the way-finding motif or be standard traffic signs. According to the Administrator, the signs must meet SCDOT requirements for parking enforcement signs, but the City would try to design them in the City's theme to be approved by SCDOT.

Mayor Cronin asked how much had been included in the FY16 budget for the managed beach parking program.

Administrator Tucker proposed that the amounts discussed relative to Concept C be made a part of the next version of the FY16 budget that would be produced for Second Reading.

The Mayor noted that funds were assigned for signage in the FY15 budget that he was indicated were not going to be spent, so the City could buy the signs in this fiscal year.

Administrator Tucker discouraged making any purchases for the parking management plan until it was fully adopted by City Council, approved by SCDOT and has been through legal review.

When the amounts were incorporated into the FY16 budget, Councilmember Loftus asked that the enforcement revenue be increased; he thought the number was too low as estimated in the handout for this meeting.

Mayor Cronin reiterated that the funds for the managed beach parking programs were going to come from the City's tourism funds and not from the General Fund.

Recalling the earliest discussions about parking, Councilmember Bergwerf stated that the goal was to push visitors to the lots on Front Beach by charging to park on the streets, but now the focus appears to provide free parking and hope that the overflow parks in the lots.

The remaining items discussed at the Ways and Means Committee meeting were an amendment to the City's procurement code and a request for financial support for CARTA; the Committee suggested that CARTA should be looking to Charleston County for the aid they need.

The next Ways and Means Committee was scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 19th.

B. Public Safety Committee

Reporting from the meeting of April 9th, Councilmember Bettelli stated that the Committee continued to discuss the City's need for a quick response vehicle (QRV) or similar vehicle and the most efficient way for the City to staff it; in the interim, the City planned to ask Charleston County to assign an emergency vehicle to the island full-time for the summer. Attorney Halversen was continuing her work on an amendment to the City's noise ordinance, but the City will delay further action until after the test period at Morgan Creek Grill. Carla Pope stated that the restaurant hoped to begin construction on the new stage next week and to complete it in ten (10) days to two (2) weeks. Additionally, the Committee discussed the issue of noise emanating from pool and porch areas of short-term rental properties.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to require additional signage relative to noise to be placed around pools and porches of rental houses and condominiums; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

Administrator Tucker indicated that she understood the Committee to have a desire to modify the short-term rental ordinance to include a requirement that any exterior porches, pools and decks be posted with a sign relative to noise violations. In the existing short-term rental license was a requirement to post a placard; the Administrator thought that the Committee wanted consideration of a requirement that owners also post pools, decks and porches.

As the owner of a property management company, Councilmember Carroll stated that he had made the original motion; he noted that the most frequently heard complaint was noise coming from pools and decks. He noted that the goal was to protect the neighborhoods, and he thought this responsibility should lie with the property owners.

The Mayor stated that Director Kerr and other members of staff would be assigned the responsibility for the preferred size sign and the working to go on it.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Bettelli continued and stated that the Committee had also discussed the RFP for the Managed Parking Software Vendor prior to its going to the Ways and Means Committee and the proposed FY16 budgets for the Police and Fire Departments.

Fire Department

From the Departmental reports, Chief Graham reported that on March 24th, both police and fire personnel responded to the report of a person being shot; the victim later died at the hospital. On March 22nd, fire personnel were called to motor vehicle accident involving a police vehicle; it was a two (2) vehicle accident, and both vehicles sustained major damage. The Fire Inspector made thirty-two (32) inspections and found thirty-three (33) violations. Fire personnel averaged forty-two (42) hours of training in March. Ladder truck 1001 received extensive maintenance during the month at a cost of approximately eighty-three hundred dollars (\$8,300). Included in the monthly report was a copy of a letter from the Town of Sullivan's Island thanking the Fire Department for its assistance at the structure fire of February 25th.

Police Department

Chief Buckhannon reported that the City had its first homicide in over thirty-five (35) years on March 21st that was initiated by a domestic dispute. In the area of Community Service, early in the month, officers attended the Keenagers meeting where they spoke with the attendees and assisted with filling candy bags for the Easter Egg hunt. The Department initiated a new program called "Kids and Cops" where officers interact with younger children who attend the pre-school activity at the Recreation Center; officers spoke on two (2) occasions on the topics of basic safety rules and bicycle safety. In addition, the first Coffee with a Cop of 2015 was held at the Acme Lowcountry Kitchen with ten (10) citizens participating. In the month, dispatchers received five thousand five hundred ninety-one (5,591) total calls of which four thousand seven hundred eighteen (4,718) were for the Police Department. Officers made three hundred ninety-seven (397) traffic stops in the month and issued one hundred twenty-eight (128) tickets.

Chief Buckhannon reported that four (4) officers were participating in classes for the safe installation of child safety seats which lasts three (3) days. Based on the City's participation in the classes, the City will be listed on the National Highway Traffic Safety website as a Car Seat Installation Agency. In association with gaining this training, the Department is working with DHEC to provide the City with car seats to replace faulty safety seats when encountered at an installation or inspection.

The Department received sixteen (16) noise complaints in March; two (2) citations were issued, nine (9) warnings were issued and five (5) were unfounded.

Chief Buckhannon reported that the Department participates in the Law Enforcement DUI Challenge with sixty (60) other agencies in the state; as a multi-faceted program, it involves reporting monthly on the City's traffic enforcement activities, but a large portion of it is reporting on the warnings, or as they refer to them "citizen contact forms." The IOP Police Department has received this award for three (3) consecutive years. Officer Storen is receiving a special recognition for his DUI enforcement; the award is known as the "DUI Bronze Heroes" for those officers who have written ten to twenty-four (10-24) DUIs in the year – Officer Storen had fourteen (14) for the period measured.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 6th in the Conference Room.

C. Public Works Committee

Reporting on the meeting of April 9th, Councilmember Ward stated that Robert Combs of 9 Forty-ninth Avenue addressed the Committee regarding his concerns about the dune and the way stormwater was being handles at the end of the street. Director Kerr gave the history of the issue that revolved a new modified septic system installed at the ocean-end of the street. Councilmember Loftus explained that the Committee had reviewed this issue at the March Real Property Committee meeting, and residents had attended that meeting to report the problems they had, like having difficulty getting to their cars due to the flooding. That Committee agreed that this was not the best solution, but it would suffice until the drainage project could be done. The Councilmember reported receiving several emails from residents of 49th Avenue, saying that they want the trench to remain because it had eliminated the flooding on the street.

The Committee unanimously approved the extension of Mr. Schupp's contract for trash removal from the beach and roadside containers. Administrator Tucker provided an update on the NPDES improvements for the Public Works sites; the Committee agreed to spread the replacement of the City's fuel tanks over two (2) years. The total cost for the fuel tank replacement and the NPDES improvements was four hundred seventy-four thousand dollars (\$474,000) with first year expenses totaling one hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$170,000).

From the monthly report, Director Pitts noted that garbage collections in March were at a five (5) year high; yard debris was also high. Drainage issues were discussed on Lauden, along the bike path on Palm Boulevard between 43rd and 42nd Avenues, the ditch at 29th Avenue and Palm and the handicap space at 21st Avenue. Upon further review of the old lights at Front Beach, Administrator Tucker recommended that the lights should stay, providing additional light to the area, and the four (4) that were not working could be repaired – assuming the repairs can be done at a reasonable cost. As in other committees, the Administrator reviewed the proposed FY16 Capital and Operating budgets. As in the past, the hazardous materials collection and shred day were a big success; this year Charleston County also took the island's e-waste.

In Councilmember Loftus' opinion, this year's event was the best one ever and was organized much better than in prior years.

The Public Works Committee will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 13th.

D. Recreation Committee

Councilmember Carroll reported from the meeting of April 6th that Adult sports were in full swing according to the Director; in addition, the Rec staff was working on the 17th Annual Half Rubber Tournament scheduled for Saturday August 15th and Sunday, August 16th if necessary. Plans for the IOP Beach Run scheduled for Saturday, July 25th are progressing; the Recreation staff expects to attract a large group of runner/walkers. For the first time, the walkers will be timed. The Wellness Walkers had fifteen (15) to participate in the Friday walks in March. A new babysitting course will begin on Saturday, May 16th. Staff members are researching photography clubs in general to collect information on how the clubs run and the type of activities included. Camp Summershine will kick off the Water Safety and Community Education program with a week of education on sea life, a field trip with Barrier Isles Eco Tours, and in another week have a field trip to the Aquarium. The March Keenagers meeting had sixty (60) participants; members of IOP Police Department attended also and called BINGO and assisted with filling bags with candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. The Island Gras event was well-attended on the afternoon of Saturday, March 7th. Musical performances were given by Haley Mae Campbell and the Dave Landeo Band; local business and organizations participated as well as eleven (11) craft vendors. Director Page reported that she has been interviewing for camp counselors; registration for Camp Summershine and Wee Camp have been filled with five hundred twenty (520) campers. The sport camps still have openings. The annual Easter Egg Hunt was another huge success. The Yard Sale was great; sales were brisk and many went home with new treasures. Upcoming events include Music in the Park scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 1:00 p.m. til 4:00 p.m.; the musicians will be John Emil and *Yeehaw Junction* and Long Island Café will again offer food. The 27th Annual Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest will be on Saturday, May 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Under New Business, the Committee unanimously recommended the contract award to Carolina Sports Surfaces, Inc. to re-surface the tennis and basketball courts; in addition, the Committee discussed changes to the Procurement Code. Councilmember Carroll stated that a budgeted capital purchase typically has taken the City approximately two (2) months from getting the required number of quotes to awarding the contract by City Council. The Committee reviewed the Department's capital and operating FY16 budgets. Councilmember Carroll stated that the Recreation Department has been searching for a pitching coach for island youths; on Sunday, there was hope that the position was going to be filled, but that as not to be the case. Crediting the courage displayed by the Mayor as he took the mound on Sunday, City Council and City staff presented him with a commemorative baseball signed by everyone.

The next Recreation Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

E. Personnel Committee

From the Personnel Committee meeting of April 8th, Councilmember Harrington reported that the Committee reviewed the proposed FY16 Capital and Operating budgets for the Building Department and General Government. New Business consisted of the consideration of a social media policy for City employees that was recommended by the City Attorney; the policy was intentionally broad to cover all situations.

MOTION: Councilmember Harrington moved for the adoption of the social media policy and its inclusion in the Employee Handbook; Mayor Cronin seconded.

Administrator Tucker stated that, if adopted, the policy would become part of the Employee Handbook.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The shift schedules for both the Police and Fire Departments were explained by the respective Chiefs; the two (2) departments operate differently and shift scheduling is complicated for both departments. The Fire Department is staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day and seven (7) days a week with ten (10) employees, five (5) at each station; during the week, Chief Graham, the Training Officer/Battalion Chief and Fire Inspector are also on the island to assist if needed. In the Police Department, officers work two (2) days and are off two (2) days; the shifts are twelve (12) hours each and start and end on the sixes (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.). The only position in the Police Department to have built-in overtime was the Communications Technicians in the front office; they also work twelve (12) hour shifts with two (2) days on and two (2) days off, plus every other weekend.

Patrol Officer Dylan Reynolds was recognized for his work on February 22 when he observed that the Department's low speed vehicle (LSV) was the reason for smoke in the garage area of the Public Safety Building. Realizing the danger, the officer expeditiously moved the vehicle from the garage to the open parking area where Fire department personnel severed the smoldering batteries from the LSV.

The Personnel Committee scheduled its next meeting for 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 4th in the Conference Room.

March Safety Sweepstakes winners were Emily Dziuban of General Government, Bernard Gourdine from Public Works, Frank Fitzpatrick from the Police Department and Garrett Meador from the Fire Department.

The five (5) vacancies in the Police Department are for BSOs; all other departments were fully staffed.

F. Real Property Committee

From the meeting of April 8th, Councilmember Loftus reported that the Committee has continued to work with Morgan Creek Grill on lease amendments they have requested. Jay Clarke and Carla Pope presented documents showing Morgan Creek Grill's plan for investing an additional three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000); their plans included:

- Insulating the building with closed foamcell system;
- Insulating and recovering the Upper Deck roof system, including the rear deck dining area;
- Modifying the restaurant dock to increase accessibility;
- Renovating/updating Waterway dining room; and
- Replacing first floor walk-in refrigerator/freezer unit and repairing/replacing kitchen floor.

The City Administrator clarified that these were not items the City was planning to replace, therefore, were not included in the City's budget. Ms. Pope noted that MCG would need to obtain a loan in order to make the improvements they propose, but they need a thirty-year (30 yr.) lease in order to get the loan.

Chair Loftus asked Mr. Clarke what the actual annual financial impact would be to the City by extending the lease; Mr. Clarke remarked that, without the lease amendments, MCG would be coming back to the City for capital improvements needs for the restaurant.

Mr. Clarke commented that the current lease terms were unsustainable; they would not be able to operate under the existing terms, and he asked that the City move quickly to amend the lease under the terms he had submitted to the Committee. The Committee indicated that they could agree to an extended term under the current lease provisions; Mr. Clarke countered that, since the noise issues in the late fall, revenues at the restaurant had been severely impacted.

On the subject of the sound abatement, Mr. Clarke stated that they would submit plans to the Building Department as soon as possible and hoped to begin construction in two to three (2-3) weeks.

The Committee discussed the possibility of replacing the kiosk at Front Beach with a piece of artwork and suggested that five to six thousand dollars (\$5,000-6,000) be added to the FY16 budget.

Pursuant to discussions at the March meeting, the Committee reviewed the possible use of Mobi-Mat for the 28th Avenue beach access; the idea was abandoned because the path has meandered off course and would have to be re-established.

Some of the City's crosswalks need to be freshened up; money was set aside in the FY15 budget to do this, but the City was waiting on the County to re-pave Palm Boulevard between 41st and 57th Avenues. Since the repaving work has started, the City would move forward with refurbishing the cross-walks.

The allocation of the Beach Preservation Fee Fund was discussed, and the Committee decided to have a discussion of all Councilmembers at this meeting.

All tenant rents were current.

The Real Property Committee scheduled its next meeting for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 6th in the Conference Room.

6. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

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

Councilmember Loftus stated that he would like to have the Planning Commission look into driveways on the island, and, with the flooding issues on the island, he thought it might be time to revise the regulations guiding driveways.

Mayor Cronin noted that in order to construct a driveway, the property owner must get an encroachment permit from SCDOT; the encroachment application must include the width and, in certain areas, people have been restricted to allow for only one (1) road-cut.

Based on the manner that SCDOT worked with the City on circular driveways, Councilmember Loftus thought they would be willing to work with the City if it decided to make additional changes.

Councilmember Ferencz noted that the City's zoning districts limit the amount of space on a lot that can be covered with impervious materials.

The Mayor reiterated that SCDOT sets the guidelines for the width of curb-cuts.

- 7. Reports from Special or Joint Committees** – None
- 8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of** – None
- 9. Bills Already in Possession of Council** – None
- 10. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**

A. First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2015-04 – 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, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Ordinance 2015-04 for First Reading, by title only; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Mayor Cronin reminded Council that there will be a Public Hearing on the budget prior to Second Reading in May. The Mayor stated that no tax increase is anticipated in the FY16 budget; he added that the City “was able to execute the needs of the City and the residents as [it] has so diligently in the past.”

Councilmember Ward stated that, for the first time in many years, the City was “not dipping into the tourism-related funds” but for the small sum of seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000).

The Mayor commented that he thought the parking was going to dwarf the seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) since the tourism-funds will be the source of funding for the managed beach parking plan.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. First reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2015-05 – An Ordinance Amending the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina Pursuant to the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to amend the City’s Comprehensive Plan; seconded by Councilmember Bettelli and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council will hold a workshop with the Planning Commission on Thursday, April 30th, and a Public Hearing would be also required before Second Reading. Clerk Copeland commented that the Public Hearing would be before the May Council at 5:30 p.m.; the hearing was property noticed in last week’s newspaper.

11. Miscellaneous Business

Employee Recognition – Ptl Dylan Reynolds

Mayor Cronin recalled that Officer Reynolds was covered in the report from the Personnel Committee

Proclamation for Women’s Lung Health Week, May 10-16

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the proclamation and suspend the reading; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Proclamation in Support of National Safe Boating Week, May 16-22

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the proclamation and suspend the reading; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Next Meeting Date: 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

Consideration of accepting maintenance responsibility for a 20 foot excess right-of-way on Wildwood Road

Administrator Tucker explained that there was a section of Wildwood Avenue that has right-of-way in excess of what is needed for the road; the Wild Dunes Community Association has applied to SCDOT for an encroachment permit to construct a split-rail fence along there. SCDOT has informally opined that they do not need the excess right-of-way. Before making a final decision, Council would need legal advice from Attorney Halversen in Executive Session concerning the potential claims relative to acceptance.

12. Executive Session to receive legal advice related to potential claims concerning acceptance of excess right-of-way on Wildwood Road.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to go into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to receive legal advice related to potential claims concerning the acceptance of excess right-of-way on Wildwood Road; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Council returned to regular session at 8:31 p.m.; the mayor announced that Council had not taken a vote or taken any action in Executive Session.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to accept the excess right-of-way on Wildwood Road; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

13. Conclusion/Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk