

**Special Meeting of City Council**  
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2010

The City Council held a Special Meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2010 in Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Duffy, Loftus, Piening, Stone and Thomas, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, City Attorney Halversen Building Director Kerr and City Clerk Copeland; the absence of Councilmember Buckhannon was excused. Steven Traynum of Coastal Science and Engineering attended the meeting as an invited guest. A quorum was present to conduct business.

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

2. **Consideration of Appointment to Standing Committees for 2011**

Mayor Cronin stated that he would be maintaining the appointments to Standing Committees of City Council for 2011 that were made in 2010; he expressed his opinion that continuity was important to the City.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to maintain the existing appointments to the Standing Committees of City Council; Councilmember Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Cronin related that Councilmember Loftus had asked to be replaced as the City's representative to the Council of Governments due to the demands it had put upon his time; Mayor Cronin stated that he would be the City's representative to the body for 2011.

3. **Report from Standing Committee – Personnel Committee  
Consideration of Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Mayor Cronin asked that Personnel Committee Chair Piening announce the Committee's recommended appointments.

**MOTION: Chair Piening moved for the approval of the following appointments to Boards and Commission beginning January 1, 2011:**

**Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee:**

Reappoint	Malcolm Burgis, Hospitality – Other
	Jimmy Carroll, Hospitality – Lodging
	David Nelson, Hospitality – Other
	Jimmy Ward, Cultural

**Board of Zoning Appeals:**

Reappoint	Frances Anderson
Appoint	Scott Davidson

**Code Board of Appeals:**

Reappoint	Robert Abel
	Bill Burson

**Planning Commission:**

Reappoint	Bev Ballow David Cohen
Appoint	Pete Doherty Don Smith

**Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

Chair Piening commented that he had interviewed new candidates for boards and commissions for the past three (3) years and had been impressed each year with the quality of persons who were seeking an opportunity to serve their community. He added that he held the belief that the talent pool on the island was extensive and that residents interested in serving should be given the opportunity to do so; therefore, he believed that terms of service on boards and commissions should be limited to two (2). The majority decision of the Personnel Committee to replace members of boards or commissions was not a reflection of the quality of work that an individual had done, but was simply a choice to bring new ideas and new "blood" to that body. He indicated that one (1) person had been in the candidate pool for seven (7) years and had continued to express a desire to serve the City year after year; Chair Piening stated that this person should be given that opportunity.

Councilmember Bettelli countered that the Planning Commission had put a great deal of time, work and thought into a parking management plan that was, at this time, not complete; he voiced the opinion that continuity was important for this Commission.

**Amendment: Councilmember Bettelli moved to amend the motion to re-appoint Pat Campbell and Dick Watson to the Planning Commission; Councilmember Stone seconded.**

Councilmember Loftus stated that, philosophically, he disagreed with Councilmember Bettelli; he, too, favored term limits. He added that he had served on the Planning Commission with these gentlemen and had the highest regard for them, but he supported the concept of introducing new ideas and thought-processes to City boards and commissions as the best way to move the City forward.

**Vote on Amendment: The motion FAILED on a vote of 2 to 6; Councilmembers Bettelli and Stone supported the amendment.**

**Vote on Primary Motion: The motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 1; Councilmember Stone cast the dissenting vote.**

**4. Consideration of Appointment of City Judges, City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to appoint Jeannette M. Harper and Michael A. Molony as City Judges, Stirling Halversen as City Attorney and Clay McCullough as Assistant City Attorney; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Consideration of Appointment to CARTA Board of Directors**

Mayor Cronin announced that Councilmember Bettelli had agreed to serve another two (2) year term on the Board, and the Mayor thanked Councilmember Bettelli for his service.

At this time, Mayor Cronin referred to the listing, included in the meeting packet, of the persons who had expressed interest in serving on the *ad hoc* committee for investigating the feasibility of holding a farmers market on the island. The Mayor indicated that Personnel Committee Chair Piening had offered to attend the initial meeting of this group to deliver the charge from Council. The Farmer Market AdHoc Committee members will be Buzzy Bramble, Pete Doherty, Jay Leigh, Penny Lewis, Diane Oltorik, Jim Raih, Lisa Safford and Jon Regan Walters.

With no objections from Councilmembers, Mayor Cronin confirmed the Farmers Market Ad Hoc Committee appointments.

**6. Consideration of Amendment #3 to the Contract to Coastal Science and Engineering for a Biological Assessment Report in the Amount of \$22,146.00.**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Amendment #3 to the Coastal Science and Engineering Contract in the amount of \$22,146 for a Biological Assessment Report; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.**

Mayor Cronin introduced Steven Traynum, representing Coastal Science and Engineering, who was present to answer any questions from Council regarding this amendment to the contract.

Mr. Traynum explained that the amendment was generated from a request from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify all species endangered, threatened or of concern in the action area; the study is a requirement by the Endangered Species Act. This report will concentrate on the piping plover, a small sand-colored, sparrow-sized shorebird, and the loggerhead turtle; the piping plovers are present in the winter months while the loggerheads breed during the summer.

Councilmember Thomas questioned the statement "All fee quotations are estimates, and actual fees are based on actual time and expenses . . ." in the amendment; he asked whether Council could have an exact cost. Mr. Traynum explained that the price quoted would not be exceeded and that the final cost could possibly be less than the quote.

**Vote: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Cronin confirmed that the project has been noticed for the thirty-day (30 day) public comment period. Mr. Traynum added that the advertisement required by the permit was submitted to the newspaper earlier in the day for publication in the next few days; it will appear in the Filing Notices area of the classified ads.

**7. Consideration of Change Order 001 from Liollo Architecture in the amount of \$14,183 and an additional thirty (30) days for roof insulation.**

At the Mayor's request, Director Kerr initiated his comments by stating that the change order had changed in scope and price since it was distributed in the meeting packets; the cost of the change order would be six hundred two dollars (\$602).

As the air filtration in the attic of City Hall was analyzed, the engineers determined that a contributing factor in the problems in the attic of City Hall was the fact that workers tend to push the insulation aside to perform their particular job, but did not replace the insulation when the work was completed. The Change Order as detailed in the meeting packet proposes that the insulation be attached to the underside of the roof trusses on both sides of the building that will be held in place by a wire mesh similar to chicken wire; the majority of the cost in the change order is the labor to install the wire mesh.

In discussions with Liollo, the determination was made that to install the insulation under the roof would trap hot air between the shingles and the insulation causing the roof to degrade faster. Therefore, the decision was made to place the insulation in the ceiling with a layer of plywood over it to prevent workers from moving the insulation and not replacing it, and the resulting net increase to the contract price is six hundred two dollars (\$602).

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Change Order 001 for Liollo Architecture in an amount not to exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650); Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **Executive Session** – not needed

9. **Miscellaneous Business**

**ADA Proclamation**

Mayor Cronin asked the Administrator Tucker read the proclamation into the minutes. (A copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting.)

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adopt the proclamation as read; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Cronin noted that each Councilmember had received a communication from the City Administrator reporting that the health insurance provider for City employees, South Carolina Local Government Assurance Group (SCLGAG) was proposing to be dissolved by June 30, 2011, because it did not believe that it could continue to maintain solvency in light of ever-increasing medical expenses. The Mayor announced that Administrator Tucker had been asked to serve on the board to oversee the dissolution and had accepted; he stated that he thought that dissolution was the right move. As a result, the City must find a new provider that will offer like coverage for the City's employees and meet budgetary requirements as well.

Councilmember Stone asked if the City Administrator would be issuing an RFP to solicit competitive pricing from insurance providers.

The Administrator responded that her prior experiences had shown that insurance providers all come in with especially competitive prices for the first year to get the business, but come back with renewals the second year of one hundred twenty percent (120%) or more, which results in the re-issuance of the RFP year after year. This process was the reasoning behind the formation of SCLGAG.

Administrator Tucker informed Council that municipalities that had left SCLGAG had moved into the State health plan as the source for the most comparable coverage and pricing. The Mayor stated that he agreed with the City Administrator that the City should investigate the likelihood of coverage under the State health plan that is administered by BlueCross/BlueShield.

The Army National Guard has approached the City about holding a hurricane preparedness drill on the island the weekend of January 7-9, 2011; Mayor Cronin indicated that approximately sixty (60) personnel would be on the island. Their activities would be focused at the Recreation Center, Front Beach and the County Park, and they will be using a Blackhawk helicopter as well.

Since no members of Council voiced concern about the drill, Mayor Cronin stated that he would proceed with the process and get notice of the drill to residents of the island.

Mayor Cronin recalled that Toby VanBuren had attended the November Council meeting asking for a committee to be formed to study the environmental factors affecting the water behind the island. The Mayor asked that members of Council submit names of persons whom they thought would serve to him prior to the next meeting.

Councilmember Loftus asked if progress had been made on a date for a special meeting with Charleston County regarding the digital radio tower; Administrator Tucker responded that she had not been given a date by Charleston County.

## **10. Adjourn**

Mayor Cronin concluded the meeting wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday.

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.; Councilmember Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk