

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, 2011

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Duffy, Loftus, Piening, Stone and Thomas, Mayor Cronin, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, City Attorney Halversen and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Pledge of Allegiance followed a brief invocation; the City Clerk then called the roll.

2. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and regular City Council meeting of July 26, 2011 as submitted; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

On the subject of Hurricane Irene that is churning in the Atlantic, Mayor Cronin reported that Charleston County has moved to Emergency Operating Condition 3 at 3 p.m.; this means that the County has opened its Emergency Operations Center on a limited basis – not operating twenty-four (24) hours a day and the local governments have not been called in to participate. The 5 p.m. update from the National Hurricane Center was that Charleston is on the western edge of what is referred to as the “cone of uncertainty,” and the hurricane is moving to the east away from the South Carolina coast. Assuming the hurricane stays on its present course, on Saturday morning, Irene is expected to be two hundred (200) miles off the coast of Charleston, but, on Friday, the area will get strong winds and heavy rains. Both Friday and Saturday, the coast will experience higher than normal tides that will be exacerbated by the storm surge that will likely result in beach erosion and rip tides.

Should the storm change course, thereby generating an evacuation order, Mayor Cronin urged everyone to heed it and take the appropriate action. In the meantime, the Mayor expressed confidence that all residents have reviewed their hurricane plans to ensure the safety of the family and pets.

The Mayor stated that the various departments of the City are executing the written hurricane plan in the event the City has to activate its emergency protocols.

Mayor Cronin expressed his thanks to all who supported the City's Greenbelt initiative to purchase 3206 Palm Boulevard; he announced that the Charleston County Council had approved the Greenbelt funds for the project. The Mayor commented on the significant support from the City's residents.

Between now and the end of September, five (5) miles of Isle of Palms' streets will be re-surfaced; the following streets are included:

14 th Avenue	37 th Avenue	38 th Avenue	40 th Avenue
41 st Avenue	42 nd Avenue	Chapman Avenue	Ensign Court

Driftwood Lane	Forest Trail	Forest Trail Court	Live Oak Drive
Frank Sottile Lane	Sand Dollar Drive	Shady Lane	Skinner Boulevard
Timber Lane	Wildwood Road	Waterway Boulevard	

Crews are on the island now working the pedestrian paths where they intersect with these roads.

Mayor Cronin reminded Councilmembers that, in addition to notices in the newspaper, information about openings on City boards and commission is on the website along with the application. He urged residents to become involved with the City; the applications are due by September 9, 2011.

4. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

Mayor Cronin stated that the Committee had met Wednesday, August 16, 2011. The financial statement presented was for the first month of the fiscal year when, typically, there is little activity. Expenses in the General Fund for the first month were at seven percent (7%) of budget, below the target of eight percent (8%); cash in the bank was at thirty-two percent (32%) of annual General Fund expenses. All tourism funds ended the fiscal year higher than previous fiscal year; State ATAX was up nine and a half percent (9.5%), Municipal ATAX increased seventeen percent (17%), Hospitality Taxes were up eight percent (8%), and the Charleston County Accommodations Tax was up twenty-one percent (21%) over FY09. Little financial activity took place in the projects funds, but the Mayor commented that the 53rd to 57th Avenue Drainage Project is virtually complete. The Committee also reviewed the Fund Balance Rollforward Schedule that reflects an anticipated FY11 surplus of four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000); once the audit is complete, Council will decide the best use of these funds.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract in the amount of \$23,374 to Benson Ford Mercury for one (1) 2012 Ford F250 Pickup Truck; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Councilmember Stone asked which Department would be using the truck, and the Mayor responded that this was a replacement truck for the Animal Control Officer.

The next meeting will be at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Bettelli reported that, at the meeting held August 2, 2011, the Committee had discussed revisions to the City's Fire Alarm Ordinance and agreed to let staff develop an administrative solution to the issue. The Committee discussed the 2012 Disaster Preparedness Expo that the City will host; due to low participation, the event will take place every other year, rather than every year. The Committee agreed to hold the Expo in the spring before school

dismisses and to coordinate with Sullivan's Island Elementary School to offer an event that will be an educational experience for all ages. The Committee unanimously approved recommending the Ford truck purchase for the Animal Control Officer to the Ways and Means Committee.

From the July Fire Department Report, the Committee learned that the Department responded to one hundred (100) incidents in July, the majority of which were water calls. The most significant incident was the plane crash off Dewees on July 22 that garnered a multi-jurisdictional response from Charleston County, Awendaw, Sullivan's Island, the U.S. Coast Guard and others.

The Police Department was successful in getting guests off the island after the July 4th fireworks display by 11:15 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli thanked all who worked to make the July 4th activities safe and successful. Telecommunicators answered five thousand fifty-eight (5,058) calls; nine hundred forty-nine (949) calls were for the Police Department. Officers made two hundred sixty-six (266) traffic stops and issued one hundred five (105) citations; in addition, one thousand ninety-five (1,095) parking tickets were written in July. Of the thirty-eight (38) arrests made in July, half were for liquor law violations. Councilmember Bettelli urged residents to keep their vehicles locked because the island has seen an increase in the number of thefts from vehicles.

The Committee was informed that the state contract for radio maintenance contract had exceeded the budgeted estimate for FY12 by twenty-four hundred thirty-four dollars (\$2,434).

Councilmember Bettelli noted that this was the time of year when Council re-adopted the City's Safety Policy, and he asked Assistant Dziuban to read the resolution into the minutes.

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to re-adopt the City's Safety Policy as previously read; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The next meeting of Public Safety will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday September 13, 2011.

C. Public Works Committee – no meeting

D. Recreation Committee – no meeting

E. Personnel Committee

Councilmember Thomas reported that the Committee had met on Tuesday, August 9 in Council Chambers. The Committee was informed that an advertisement had been placed in a local newspaper to notify island residents of the 2012 vacancies for City boards and commissions and that a link on the City's website provided information about the various boards and commissions and contained the necessary application. Chief Graham was present to explain the reasoning behind a request to change titles in the Fire Department; the change would be from Lieutenant to Captain and from Captain to Battalion Chief.

MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved for Council to approve the title changes in the Fire Department; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At the request of Toby VanBuren of the Ad Hoc Water Quality Committee, a request was made to add a member to the Committee.

MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved to appoint April Turner to the Ad Hoc Water Quality Committee; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Thomas announced that Assistant Dziuban has been elected Vice Chairman of the Charleston County Development Advisory Board and congratulated her for the accomplishment.

In conclusion, Councilmember Thomas announced the July Safety Sweepstakes winners as:
General Government – Amy Wilkerson Fire Department – Leroy Todd
Police Department – Caroline Voigt Public Works – Willie Powell

The next meeting of the Personnel Committee will be at 5:45 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2011.

F. Real Property Committee – no meeting

5. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

A. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee – no meeting

B. Board of Zoning Appeals – no meeting

C. Planning Commission – no meeting

6. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – None

7. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – None

8. Bills Already in Possession of Council – None

9. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations – None

10. Miscellaneous Business – None

Next Meeting Date: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2011

11. Executive Session – not needed

12. Conclusion/Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk