

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS
Meeting of City Council
January 22, 2008

The regular meeting of the Isle of Palms City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Mayor Sottile, Council Members Bettelli, Buckhannon, Cronin, Duffy, Piening, Rice and Taylor, as well as Attorney Hopkins, Assistant to the City Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Councilman Loftus was excused, and Attorney Hopkins was replacing Attorney Sottile who was unable to attend. There was a quorum of Council present to conduct business.

1. Call to Order. Mayor Sottile called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Mayor offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by the roll call by Clerk Copeland.

2. Consideration of Mayor ProTem

Councilman Bettelli nominated Councilwoman Rice to be Mayor ProTem; Councilman Taylor seconded and the vote **UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED COUNCILWOMAN RICE**. Councilwoman Rice thanked the Council for their vote and stated that she was very honored to be selected.

3. Appointments and Administration of Oath to New Employees

MOTION: Councilwoman Rice moved to appoint Ben Hull to the Recreation Department as Recreation Supervisor; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Sottile administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Hull and officially welcomed him.

4. Reading of the Journal of Previous Meetings

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 27, 2007 and the Special Meetings of December 3, 2007, January 3, 2008 and January 10, 2008; Councilwoman Rice seconded.

Councilman Duffy offered a correction to the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 10, 2008; condition 1 of Councilman Taylor's motion should read, "The City will spend \$2 million as a total amount including interest."

The vote was UNANIMOUS TO ADOPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED.

5. Citizens' Comments – none.

Mayor Sottile invited Trish Perrine of the Recreation Department to join him to present the prizes to the winners of the **2007 Light It Up** contest. They are as follows:

Commercial Properties:

First Place Acme Cantina
Second Place Windjammer

Residential:

Breach Inlet to IOP Connector:

First Place Mary Johnson & Family, 816 Palm Boulevard
Second Place Robertson Family, 516 Carolina Boulevard

IOP Connector to 41st Avenue:

First Place Catherine Leopold, 4 Twenty-fourth Avenue
Second Place Ann & Jeff Evans, 3301 Hartnett

41st Avenue to Wild Dunes:

First Place Pat McArthur & Debbie White, 12 Forty-eighth Avenue
Second Place Roger Basha & Family, 26 Sand Dollar Drive

6. Reports from Standing Committees:

A. Ways and Means Committee

Councilman Taylor announced that he had been elected Chair for the coming year and Councilman Cronin was to be Vice Chair. He reported that the Committee had examined the mid-year financial statements to find that the local economic indicators were all looking good and that the City's finances are where they should be at this point in the fiscal year.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved for the approval of the following recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee:

1. \$2,000 for Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 22, 2008
2. \$2,500 for Piccolo Spoleto Sand Sculpting Competition on May 31, 2008
3. \$7,000 for Piccolo Spoleto Goes to the Beach on June 7, 2008
4. \$5,500 for Isle of Palms Beach Run on July 26, 2008;

Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion: Councilman Taylor moved for the approval of the recommendation from the Real Property Advisory Committee for continued monitoring of the bulkhead by Zande-Jon Guerry Taylor on an every other month basis and costs not to exceed \$10,000; Councilwoman Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved for the approval of the recommendation from the Real Property Advisory Committee for 50% participation with Marina Market for the upgrade and enlargement of the public restrooms in the marina store with costs not to exceed \$40,000; Councilman Cronin seconded.

Councilman Taylor reminded Council that \$75,000 was allocated in the current budget for this purpose; the joint venture with Marina Market reduces the anticipated expense and the workload on the City's staff.

Call for the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilman Bettelli announced that he had been elected Chair of the Committee for the coming year. Via *Citizens' Comments*, Councilman Loftus had presented the Committee with a suggestion for alleviating some of the traffic congestion at 41st and Palm Boulevard that the Committee will study. On the subject of the Consolidated Dispatch System, the Committee decided that the City's Telecommunications Department should be moved into the new Public Safety Complex for security reasons as well as the possibility that the target start date of 2012 is not met. The Committee is recommending to City Council the approval of the Consolidated Dispatch Resolution that appears later on this meeting's agenda. There was continuing discussion on the barrier at the end of 25th Avenue. Mayor Sottile congratulated Chief Buckhannon for getting the DOT to lower the speed limit on Cameron Boulevard to twenty-five (25) miles per hour. The next speed study will be on 32nd Avenue. The Committee also discussed citizens' concerns about the parking in the vicinity of Sea Oats on 42nd Avenue and the possibility of participating in the triathlon, for which the City has not yet been asked to permit. The members of the Committee were encouraged to attend CALEA in Atlanta in March 2008.

C. Public Works Committee

Councilman Bettelli reported that he had been re-elected to serve as Chair of the Committee for the coming year. Bev Ballow spoke during *Citizens' Comments* about holes on the beach and asked for a copy of the proposed ordinance changes on the subject. In the monthly report, Director Pitts reported that time had been spent on repairs and maintenance of the restrooms on Front Beach in December. Assistant Dziuban was congratulated for her efforts to get a cardboard recycling bin at Fire Station #1. Since the Livability Officer has been on board for nearly a year, he has been invited to the next meeting to give his observations on livability issues and to voice any concerns or suggestions he may have. Assistant Dziuban reported that the 21st Avenue beach access ramp is going to be reconfigured to make it more accessible for the

handicapped using twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) in grant funds from CDBG; she also provided the general work schedule. The Beach Management Plan continues to be refined by Coastal Engineer Chris Jones. There was also information provided to the Committee that additional drainage may be needed for the Public Safety Complex.

D. Recreation Committee

Councilwoman Rice reported that she has been re-elected to serve as Committee Chair for 2008. She announced that the first Beach Education Seminar had attracted more than one hundred interested persons; these seminars will continue on the first Monday of the month through May 2008. The Employee Wellness Program has begun and has been well received by City employees. A new program for ages 9-12 – Friday Night Hoops – will begin in February with two (2) sessions each in February and March. The new gym ceiling is expected to be installed in the spring; this project will conclude the upgrades. Councilwoman Rice noted that Laura Togami has resigned as Recreation Supervisor and will be missed; Ben Hull who was sworn in earlier in the meeting has replaced her. The ATAX requests were discussed and sent to Ways and Means for approval.

E. Personnel Committee

Councilman Piening announced that he had been elected Chair for the 2008 year. Assistant Dziuban reported that the City is still waiting for a final report from the Archer Company on the compensation study; the Committee is anxious to get the results with budget preparation time bearing down on the City. Assistant Dziuban stated that she would try to have the results of the study for the February meeting. The employees have stated that their preference for the 2008 Floating Holiday is December 26, the day after Christmas, and the Committee approved it. Marilyn Bowers, Executive Director of the Board of Elections and Voter Registration for Charleston County, made a presentation on how the City could transfer authority to Charleston County for managing future elections; the Committee will discuss this topic more in the future.

Councilman Piening announced the December Safety Sweepstakes winners as follows:
Carol Nilsen – Fire Department Charles Williams – Public Works
Gerardo Chavez – Police Department Shelia Redmon – Recreation Department

MOTION: Councilman Piening moved for the approval of December 26 as the Floating Holiday for employees of the City of Isle of Palms for 2008; Councilman Taylor seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

- A. Board of Zoning Appeals - Minutes attached.**
- B. Planning Commission – Minutes attached.**
- C. Real Property Advisory Committee**

Councilwoman Rice reported that she had been elected Chair of the Committee for 2008. She related that the minutes contain a great deal of information that she could not possibly convey in this report; therefore, she encouraged each Council member to read them carefully. She stated that the majority of the meeting had been spent on discussions on the bulkhead replacement and associated topics. The Committee is charged with the responsibility to study the project and determine the best way to go forward with it to make recommendations to City Council. To meet that end, the Committee has asked that Chris Moore of Zande-Jon Guerry Taylor return to the February meeting with a comprehensive report that would include all of the possible variations on the project that would include cost estimates for each and the recommended phasing of the project with the time frames involved. Chairwoman Rice reported that Dewees Island has asked “to piggyback” on any dredging that the City might do at the marina and to share costs accordingly; the Administrator was asked to respond that the City would agree to partner with them, but that no time frame has been established. The dredging permits with both DHEC and the Corps of Engineers have been renewed. The Committee decided that it would be in the City’s best interest to continue monitoring the bulkhead, which was voted on earlier, until such time as work can begin with a maximum expense of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). The decision was also made to partner with Marina Market to enlarge and upgrade the restrooms at the marina store; the Committee agreed that the City would pay no more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) on this renovation project. Both Carla Pope of Morgan Creek Grill and Brian Berrigan of Marina Market requested entrance lighting. The Committee also discussed the store transition and lease with the new tenant. A Special Meeting was requested by Jay Clarke and Carla Pope of Morgan Creek Grill; that meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, 2008.

9. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed Of – None.

10. Bills Already in Possession of Council

- A. Second Reading – Ordinance 2007-20, An Ordinance Amending Title 7, Chapter 1, Business Licenses, Section 7-1-15 and 7-1-16, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances, regarding Suspension, Revocation and Appeals.**

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to adopt, to ratify and to suspend with the reading of Ordinance 2007-20; Councilman Taylor seconded.

Mayor Sottile asked that Director Kerr inform the Council about the reasoning behind this amendment. Director Kerr stated that this was a “housekeeping” change that had been recommended by the City’s attorney that replaces the word “or” with the word “and” in the title of Chapter 1 and indicates that the Business License Inspector can begin the process for rescinding the license. The City’s attorney wanted the ordinance to state clearly that the Business License Inspector cannot revoke the license; only City Council can revoke a Business License. The second change seeks to clarify the fact that, once a license is revoked, it cannot be appealed to the City, but only to the Circuit Court.

Call for the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- A. Second Reading – Ordinance 2007-22, An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Chapter 4, Article 8, Flood Damage Prevention, Section 5-4-155 and 5-4-169 to add the Definitions “Recreational Vehicle” and “Violation,” and to add standards for Recreational Vehicles.**

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to adopt, ratify and suspend with the reading of Ordinance 2007-22; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations

- A. Resolution authorizing City to enter into inter-governmental agreement regarding Consolidated Dispatch.**

Mayor Sottile asked that Assistant Dziuban read the resolution into the minutes.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved for the City Council to adopt the Resolution authorizing the City to enter into the inter-governmental agreement regarding Consolidated Dispatch; Councilman Buckhannon seconded.

Councilman Cronin remarked that the City had originally not been included in the Dispatch Board and asked if that continued to be the case. Councilman Bettelli stated that an “islands seat” had been established that will rotate between the City of Isle of Palms, Sullivan’s Island and Folly Beach every three (3) years. The City has requested that the County consider amending the agreement to allow the island seat to rotate every two (2) years after cut over. The City of Isle of Palms hopes to hold the seat initially; the initial seat holder will serve until startup in 2012 for the sake of continuity.

Call for the question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Miscellaneous Business – None.

13. Executive Session

MOTION: Councilman Taylor moved to go into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to receive legal advice regarding the ownership of 11th Avenue dead end and regarding the status of Marina Bond issuance; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At 8:08 p.m., Council returned to regular session; Mayor Sottile reported that no decisions had been made and that no votes had been taken during the Executive Session.

14. MOTION: With no further business to come before the meeting, Councilwoman Rice moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland, City Clerk