

Administration Committee Meeting Thursday, March 7, 2024, 4:30pm 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and broadcasted live on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Bogosian, Campsen, and Carroll

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Director Hamilton

2. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes

Council Member Campsen noted an extra word at the bottom of page 1 of the minutes and said that she had spoken to citizens who were in favor of limiting political signage in Item B on page 2.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to the minutes as amended. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. **Citizen's Comments** none
- 5. Old Business

A. Interviews of applicants for Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee vacancy

Committee members interviewed Margaret Miller for the vacancy on the ATAX Committee. Ms. Miller previously served on the Committee from 2005-2020. She would like to see the ATAX funds used in a productive way for residents and tourists. When asked about the 30% funds for tourism promotion, Ms. Miller said it is worth looking at another vendor to make sure the City is getting the most out of their tax dollars.

The Committee then interviewed Mr. Rod Turnage for the ATAX vacancy. Mr. Turnage is interested in how the State dictates the use of ATAX monies. He owns a property management company and would like to serve the community. He believes his past work experience of gathering consensus and keeping people "rowing in the same direction" would be helpful to the Committee. He would like to see tourism advertising focused on families. Mr. Turnage is currently the Chamber of Commerce President, a role he will serve in for 9 more months.

Committee members discussed the candidates, believing Mr. Turnage would better serve the ATAX Committee in a lodging seat when he is done serving as Chamber of Commerce President. Administrator Fragoso said that both lodging seats expire in 2026.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend Margaret Miller to the City Council for appointment to the ATAX Committee in the at-large position. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of City Code section 1-3-13 which regulates public participation during council meetings

Administrator Fragoso pointed to the changes in this part of the City Code requested by the Committee in the meeting packet. The proposed changes include eliminating subsection E requiring speakers to address agenda items only, adding a provision that prohibits speakers from passing their time to another speaker, and adding a provision that requires speakers to provide their name and address to the City Clerk so that speaking order can be established.

These proposed changes will be added to the City Council workshop agenda.

C. Discussion of City Code section 5-4-138 (d) which regulates placement of political signs in the public right of way

Administrator Fragoso said no changes have been made to this part of the City Code yet. Committee members debated whether or not a change is needed; the main concern being limiting political engagement. As they could come to no solid conclusion, the issue will be added to the City Council workshop agenda to determine Council's feel for whether or not a change is needed.

6. New Business

A. Review of FY25 operational budget for Mayor and Council, General Government, Building and Court

Administrator Fragoso shared that an 11.8% increase in health insurance as well as increases in property and liability insurances has impacted all of the budget. She said they are working with the insurance companies to see if increasing deductibles will help save money. She then reviewed the additions to the FY25 budget and any increases in costs from FY24. She stressed the need for the financial analyst position as there is much more that could be done that Director Hamilton does not have time to do. A large increase in attorney fees was added to the Court budget.

She noted that the City Hall renovations project could be paid for over two years out of Capital Projects fund, Municipal ATAX, and State ATAX. The City could also consider a bond to pay for it. The project is still in the assessment phase.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The Administration Committee will have its next meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 4:30pm.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Bogosian made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane City Clerk