



**Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, August 2, 2024, 9:00am**  
**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and**  
**broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Andrew Vega (via Zoom), Cindi Solomon, Dan Slotchiver, Council members Campsen, Miars, and Pierce, Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Hamilton

**Absent:** Cindi Solomon, Tim Ahmuty, Director Kerr

1. **Call to order**
2. **Discussion of economic impact of beach nourishment to the city and discussion of funding mechanisms to consider**

Mayor Pounds briefly reviewed the pie charts in the meeting packet detailing the (unaudited) allocations of revenues and expenses in FY24. Administrator Fragoso clarified the genesis and the source of funding for the Beach Preservation Fund.

The group briefly discussed and agreed that the funding gap that needs to be targeted each year for beach preservation is \$4 million.

Administrator Fragoso then reviewed the local revenue increase options listed in the meeting packet, estimating where possible the amount of revenue that could be generated. Council members supported the idea of a policy change regarding franchises on the beach. Administrator Fragoso briefly outlined the process by which City Council could approve a franchise.

Additional opportunities for increased parking revenues will be discussed with Municipal PCI at the end of the season. Implementation of parking fees in the beach parking district will need to be discussed with SCDOT.

Funds generated via a special tax district would be added to property tax bills. Mayor Pounds favors the implementation of a special tax district over a millage increase as those funds would be specially directed for beach preservation and not become part of the budget. These taxes can also be adjusted as needed.

Council Member Campsen said she would like Council to discuss a policy that directs more tourism funds to beach preservation. Council Member Pierce would like to work with the State on being able to redirect some of the 30% funds that go to the CVB to beach preservation. Mayor Pounds said that effort would need help from the City's lobbyist.

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the State and Federal funding efforts from the meeting packet. In addition to continuing lobbying at the State level, the City is proposing hiring a federal-level lobbyist. Council Member Pierce asked how the legislators that live or own property on the island can be engaged on the City's behalf.

Council Member Campsen asked how the Beach Advocacy Group could be leveraged on a federal level. Mayor Pounds pointed out that many of the beach represented in that group are already federally-managed beaches.

Leveraging the Beach Advocacy Group and borrowing funds for beach nourishment projects will also be added to the list of funding options to consider.

### **3. Next Steps**

The City's lobbyist will attend the August workshop to discuss their continued efforts on behalf of the City. Mayor Pounds would like to discuss a real estate transaction fee with the lobbyist.

Council Member Pierce would like to have estimated ranges of funding for each of the options discussed in the meeting.

Administrator Fragoso will have someone from Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd come to the next meeting to discuss the special tax district. Conversations between the City and the WDCA are ongoing.

Administrator Fragoso said staff is continuing to work with the financial analyst on the capital planning model. She briefly shared a dashboard based on assumptions discussed by the Committee. The financial analyst will come to the City Council workshop to share the tool.

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, August 16, 2024 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk