



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00pm, Tuesday, October 22, 2024**  
**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, Anderson, Ward (via Zoom), Hahn, Miars, Pierce, and Carroll, Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, City Attorney McQuillin, various department heads

**2. Citizen's Comments**

Mary Alice Monroe came before City Council stating that she was requesting \$35,000 in ATAX funds to support her literary events. She said the demand for her events is greater than ever before. The beneficiary of remaining funds is Reading Partners.

Josh Hooser expressed his support for the Waterway Boulevard Multi-Use Path Elevation project. He likes the increased protections provided at the proposed 7' elevation. He believes the extra protections warrant the extra expense.

Susan Smith, 20 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, said she also supports the Waterway Boulevard Multi-Use Path Elevation project. She thanked Administrator Fragoso for her service to the City of Isle of Palms for the last 10 years.

**3. Approval of previous meetings' minutes**

**A. Regular City Council meeting – September 24, 2024**

**B. Special City Council meeting – October 8, 2024**

**MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve the minutes, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Special Presentations**

**A. Presentation from Dominion Energy of palmetto removal project**

Elizabeth Jablonski of Dominion Energy said that 292 palmetto trees around the island have been marked for immediate removal due to their proximity to power lines. Additional trees have also been marked for future removal. Removal begins on November 11 and will take several months

to complete. There is no plan from Dominion to replace those trees. Notices providing links to more information will be mailed to affected residents later this week.

**B. Update of Community Enrichment Plan**

Mr. David McNair of the McNair Group shared an update on the work of the Community Enrichment Task Force. The Task Force has held numerous meetings and some public listening sessions since their implementation at the start of the year. He thanked Task Force members and staff for their participation in the process. He expects the final deliverable to be available to Council some time in early 2025.

**C. Waterway Boulevard Multi-Use Path Elevation Project: Discussion regarding benefits of increasing the level of protection from 6'-7'**

Mr. Rick Karkowski of Thomas & Hutton explained to Council how and why the 7' elevation provides much more protection for the properties in the affected area. He also said the project has grown to include drainage issues and several areas that have chronic flooding issues following rainstorms. Mr. Karkowski said the extra protection cannot be added at a later time due to the work being done at the Wild Dunes Golf Course.

Council Member Anderson stressed that no public funds are being used on the golf course improvements.

Mr. Karkowski added that the work in some areas will take longer because of the easements that are needed. Those areas will not be included in the costs of this project.

Director Kerr shared that those homeowners in the areas where the easements are needed have been contacted and are generally supportive of the project. He explained that there will be a case-by-case solution for each property. Phase 1 of the project will begin in March, and Phase 2, where these particular properties are situated, should begin in a year.

**5. Old Business**

**6. New Business**

**A. Approval of change order to Thomas & Hutton design and engineering contract in the amount of \$67,000 for additional design services to increase level of protection of Waterway Boulevard Multi Use Path Elevation Project from 6' to 7'**

Administrator Fragoso said this change order for the design of the project is needed to get the permits, which will be a 12-18 month process.

**MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**B. Approval of recommendation from the ATAX Committee to award grant of \$35,000 of State ATAX funds to the Wild Dunes Author Event with Mary Alice Monroe (part of Wild Dunes Literary Series)**

Council Member Anderson spoke in support of the event.

**MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to approve, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. Approval of award of a contract in the amount of \$261,337.50 to Beach Construction Co. for construction of two boardwalks at 26A and 36A beach access paths [FY25 Charleston County Greenbelt Program Grant Request]**

Administrator Fragoso said that with this award from the Greenbelt Program, she will execute the contract for construction and these two boardwalks should be in place before next season. As there is still money left over from the State's allocation for boardwalks, she will present other options for beach access boardwalks to the Public Services & Facilities Committee.

**MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**D. Approval of a contract to Alder Energy Systems in the amount of \$66,565 for the Public Works Solar Rooftop Project [Funded by a \$67,261 grant from SC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant]**

Council Member Bogosian said it appears this installation breaks even over 30 years, which he said is not a "great spend." He would like to keep track of the savings these panels provide should there be a future request to place such panels on other public buildings when there is no grant paying for it.

**MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to approve, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**E. Approval of sole source contract to Asphalt Concepts in the amount of \$43,126 to refurbish seven (7) crosswalks on Palm Boulevard between 21<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> avenues [FY 25 Budget, General Government, Muni ATAX, \$42,000]**

**MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to approve, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion.**

Council Member Hahn asked if it was possible to like up the crosswalks with the beach access paths. Administrator Fragoso said they have asked that of SCDOT. Five of these seven crosswalks do line up with beach access paths. She said lining all of them up would not meet SCDOT standards for the distance between crosswalks. She said this work will be done ahead of next season.

**VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:**

Ayes: Anderson, Pierce, Ward, Bogosian, Miars, Carroll, Pounds

Nays: Hahn

**The motion passed 7-1.**

**F. Approval of FY26 State Budget requests**

Mayor Pounds said, “You will recall last council meeting or maybe even the one before, we passed a resolution giving our lobbyist direction for policy initiatives. Seems kind of obvious that our funding request would go along with that, and just to refresh your memory those categories were beach renourishment, State ATAX flexibility, so not really a funding request. That’s more of a policy change at the State level. Stormwater infrastructure and expansion of sewer infrastructure.”

Administrator Fragoso added that beach access improvements were not included in the resolution, and that request is always well received by the State. She recommends the City continue to ask for those funds.

**MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to look at funding requests from the State for beach renourishment, stormwater infrastructure, and expansion of sewer infrastructure, noting that staff will work with the City’s lobbyist to identify funding amounts for those requests. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Boards and Commissions Reports**

- A. **Board of Zoning Appeals** – meeting on October 22, 2024
- B. **Planning Commission** – no meeting in October
- C. **Accommodations Tax Advisory Board** – minutes attached
- D. **Environmental Advisory Committee** – minutes attached

**8. Ordinances, Resolutions, and Petitions**

- A. **Second Reading -- none**
- B. **First Reading -- none**
- C. **Resolutions and Petitions**

**i. Resolution 2024-11 -- a resolution to adopt Clyde, North Carolina to support following the destruction caused by Hurricane Helene**

Mayor Pounds said he spoke with the Mayor of Clyde, NC who is very appreciative of the City’s support. He said their immediate needs are being met, but he will continue to have conversations with him about future needs.

**MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**9. Executive Session**

**10. Adjournment**

Prior to adjournment, Mayor Pounds offered the following words about Administrator Fragoso, “Every now and then you get to work with someone you would like to spend the rest of your

career working with. I've worked with a lot of people in my career – some superstars and some not so much.

“In our form of government, the role of City Administrator sits at the top of the organizational chart and leads the staff. The elected officials set policies and then the staff is responsible for implementing them.

“I've not served in another city but do get the opportunity to spend time with other mayors and city council members from around our state and I feel very confident stating we have one of the best City Administrators, and staffs, around which is why I'm sad to announce the resignation of Desiree. Desiree has been with IOP for 10 years and in her current role for 6 years. Desiree's advice and guidance for me as a city council member and now mayor has been invaluable – helping me understand the workings of the city and the nuances of all the stakeholders involved on a multitude of issues. I had a steep learning curve being a newly elected official and Desiree was always available to guide and discuss the issues. Rarely did a situation come up that Desiree didn't have a quick word of advice for me or discuss solutions to get to the optimal spot or most often explain something to me for the umpteenth time!

“Desiree will be joining the Municipal Association of SC as a Field Services Representative providing support to staff and councils all over the state. She will be with us through the end of the year. We will start the process asap of finding a replacement, but Desiree please know you are leaving a big hole for me personally, our elected officials, staff and residents of IOP and you will be hard to replace. Your contributions to this community have been exemplary and we couldn't have asked for a better leader so thank you and good luck in your new role!”

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk