



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:00pm, Tuesday, January 7, 2025
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, Streetman, Anderson, Ward, Hahn, Miars, Pierce, and Carroll, Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Director Kerr, various department heads

2. Mayor's Opening Remarks

“Happy New Year to everyone! As I’ve done the past 3 years, I wanted to kick off this new year with a few opening remarks to help set the tone and highlight some of what lies before us this year.

“Each year brings a certain amount of hope and promise and anticipation. We will start this year with the important task of filling the City Administrator role. Not a task on anyone’s wish list and certainly not one we were planning on. Desiree left some very big shoes to fill. We started the search in late November, have had 79 applicants, and will move quickly, but smartly to replace her. Also, we will have reports and recommendations from the Community Enrichment Task Force and the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc committee - both groups met for the majority of 2024 and will have numerous ideas for us to consider; we will also review our Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan and an updated Comprehensive Plan. Some heavy reports that will lead to many projects and recommendations for us to consider.

“And there are numerous projects in various stages that we will continue to make progress on this year:

- Marina Public dock renovation (95% complete)
- Stormwater infrastructure improvements at 30th, 36th and 41st Avenues (completed). Phase 4 - Palm Blvd between 38th and 41st Avenues – (design and permitting in process; anticipated construction Fall 2025)
- ADA beach access boardwalks at 34A, 46th and 52nd Avenues (all completed soon)
- Additional beach access boardwalks at 26A and 36A (completed by end of January)
- Beach renourishment – our Army Corps project around Breach Inlet should be starting soon. The shoal management project in Wild Dunes should be starting during the 1st quarter pending permit receipt.

- Finish placing utility lines underground on 14th Avenue and outline our next areas of focus
- Replace recreation center playground with new inclusive equipment for kids of all ages to enjoy
- Waterway Boulevard Multi-use path elevation project – (final design completed; permits requested 1st qtr. 2025). Infrastructure work on the renovated Harbor Course to begin in the Spring.
- 21st Avenue sidewalk repair/extension (construction anticipated to start 1st qtr. 2025)

We've had numerous projects completed over the past 3 years but just completing projects doesn't necessarily equate to success. How would you define success for our city? Low taxes, Timely garbage pickup, Quality of life, Public safety, Fiscal responsibility, Recreational opportunities, Thriving business community, Drainage/stormwater improvements, Environmental initiatives, Clean water, Transparency/communication with the community, Healthy beach.

I think our last few years have been very successful on most of these fronts. Did we or will we in the future get everything right? Of course not. However, if our focus stays on the broader community, we should be good.

“To City Council: thank you for your service to our community! Some of you are entering the last year of your current term, some are just 1 year in. Whichever camp you are in, let's renew our commitment to our residents and our role and:

1. Be fully engaged in city matters
2. Be present and prepared for all meetings
3. Be visible in the community by attending city events
4. Be supportive of our staff that work so hard to make our community what it is

“I've used the Prayer for Humility before, but it never goes out of style or relevance. Listen as I read it again: O Father, give us the humility which realizes its ignorance, Admits its mistakes, recognizes its need, welcomes advice, Accepts rebuke. Help us to praise rather than to criticize, To sympathize rather than to discourage, to build rather than to destroy, And to think of people at their best rather than at their worst. This we ask for thy name's sake. Let's put this prayer into practice in this new year. Here's to a successful and healthy 2025! Now let's take care of a little business.”

3. **Purpose**

A. **Announcement of appointments to standing committees for 2025:**

Mayor Pounds announced the following appointments:

-Council Member Bogosian, Council Member Jimmy Ward, and himself to the Administration Committee, noting that Council Member Carroll would replace him upon the hiring of the new City Administrator.

-Council Member Bogosian, Council Member Anderson, and Council Member Streetman to the Public Safety Committee.

-Council Member Miars, Council Member Pierce, and Council Member Hahn to the Public Services & Facilities Committee.

- B. **Announcement of appointment to CARTA Board of Directors – Jimmy Ward**
- C. **Announcement of appointment to Charleston Visitors Bureau Board of Directors – Rusty Streetman**
- D. **Announcement of appointment to the Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester Council of Governments – Jan Anderson**
- E. **Announcement of appointment to the Environmental Advisory Committee – Katie Miars**
- F. **Announcement of appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Mayor Pounds announced the following appointments to the City’s Boards and Commissions:

David Cohen, Tim Ahmuty, and Sandy Stone to the Planning Commission for terms expiring on 12/31/2026,

Mary Pringle, Cindy Marrs, Eric Cicora, and Sean Popson to the Environmental Advisory Committee for terms expiring on 12/31/2027, and

Suzy Wheeler and Glenn Thornburg to the Board of Zoning Appeals for terms expiring on 12/31/2027.

G. Consideration of award of contract to Truluck Construction, Inc. for the construction of an emergency access path through the Charleston County Park for \$328,436 [FY25 Budget, Beach Preservation Fund, \$250,000]

Director Kerr explained, “This is a path that you mentioned we have been talking about this and working with Charleston County along with our fire department and police department for installing a new access gate at the curve of 14th Avenue and Ocean Boulevard that would give EMS and our responders the ability to get through that gate at Ocean Boulevard and all the way out to the beach.” A remote will open both gates for immediate access.

The addition of this gate became crucial when the erosion started impacting the other access points at 5th and 9th avenues.

He said four bids were received and the lowest bid was still over budget at \$328,436. He said the City has had good experience with Truluck.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion.

Director Kerr said the County is paying for a small portion of the work for the replacement of clatter bridge (approximately \$58,000). He said the County was not open to any cost sharing on this project other than this piece. The park will close in February to complete the work before the season begins.

4. **Executive Session** – In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment matters- specifically the appointment/compensation of Interim City Administrator. Council may take action following Executive Session.

MOTION: Mayor Pounds made a motion to go into Executive Session in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss employment matters- specifically the appointment/compensation of Interim City Administrator. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Council went into Executive Session at 5:13pm.

City Council returned from Executive Session at 5:27pm.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to appoint Douglas Kerr as the Interim City Administrator “and authorize the Mayor to sign and discuss an agreement as discussed in Executive Session with Douglas Kerr.” Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Adjournment**

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk