

Accomplishments

January 1, 2001 through December 31st, 2001

Ways and Means

Bob Abele and Members of City Council

Budget: Passed budget containing new revenue source as well as a modest tax increase. Held public meetings and budgetary briefings to inform those most affected by the changes. Due to the uncertainties of the County implementation of the 15% property tax cap, the State budget and collections of new business license ordinance, deferred group of expenditures for evaluation at midyear.

Accommodations Tax: On February 21, 2001, hosted neighboring municipalities and SC Department of Revenue for a State Accommodations Tax Information meeting.

Accommodations Tax Law: Brought to the attention of the Municipal Association and elected officials changes which had been made to the accommodations tax law that re-defined "tourist." Passed Resolution and spearheaded efforts to correct this definition.

Tort Claims: Requested states elected representation oppose legislation which would extend the filing period for tort claims against political subdivisions.

Vacation Rentals Act: Requested states elected representation oppose changes to this legislation that would limit a local government's zoning or taxing authority.

Blue Star Memorial Highway: Worked with Garden Club and SC DOT to secure permission to install a Blue Star Marker at the corner of Palm Boulevard (SC 703) and the Isle of Palms Connector (SC 517).

Property Lease: Considered and denied a request to lease a portion of the City's parking lot property for cellular communication equipment.

Audit: Initiated agreement with Schleeter, Monsen and Debacker to complete audit in the format of the new GASB 34 requirements.

Lease Agreements: Monitored agreements to ensure that appropriate CPI increases were implemented and paid.

Marina Site Tank Abandonment: When an undisclosed underground diesel tank was discovered, the City staff worked with the previous site owner to secure reimbursement for the City's expense to properly abandon that tank.

Marina Site lease transfer: Negotiated new lease agreement with The Greenery to replace the Jefford's Company at the marina site.

Ways and Means continued

Solid Waste Disposal fees: Collected fees from Marina Site tenants to reimburse City for payment of Solid Waste Disposal fees to Charleston County.

Bay Cafe: Corresponded with tenant concerning reconciliation of the expenses on the renovations to the Bay Cafe. Further, due to contribution to the erosion of the bulkhead, corresponded with the tenant concerning removal of the sand for the Tiki bar and replacing it with sod.

Residential Rental Business License: Revised the Business License Ordinance to require the owners of rental property to purchase a business license. Further revised the Ordinance to impose penalties on management agencies for handling unlicensed property and to require management agencies to provide a list to the City of those properties managed by them.

Freedom of Information Request - Victims Assistance Network: Responded to FOI request concerning the City's utilization of Victims Assistance funds.

Hazard Mitigation Grant: Completed bid package, accepted bids, awarded and supervised contract for installation of hurricane shutters on all City buildings. Requested balance of funds available in the grant to be utilized for electrical improvements necessary to add improved generator power to City facilities.

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG): Wrote and submitted a grant application for funding to expand the facilities at the marina to better accommodate vessels 26' and greater.

Marina Management Agreement: Successfully negotiated new marina management agreement which was amended later to allow for deduction of live bait, charts, t-shirts/hats.

Banking Request for Proposals: Due to the fact that the Carolina First closed their bank on the Isle of Palms, the staff accepted proposals from area banks, conducted interviews, analyzed the RFP's and made the recommendation to move the City's banking relationship to BB&T. The transition has been completed.

Insurance: With the exception of the Fire Department, the City Departments have completed insurance notebooks detailing the assets of the departments. In coordination with this activity, the staff has reviewed the items that are insured and at what levels to ensure that the City's assets are appropriately covered.

Revenue Collections: City hall staff mailed letters to those having outstanding parking tickets and fines and collected \$10,427 in revenues by the end of December.

Marina Store Renovation: Completed construction renovation project at the Marina Store.

Ways and Means Continued

Mount Pleasant Scholarship fund: Evaluated recipient activity associated with this fund.
Municipal Accommodations Fee: Reviewed Ordinance to be consistent with practice.

Breach Inlet Boat Ramp: Revised key policy and agreement.

Dredging Project: Negotiated agreement among Morgan Creek and Yacht Harbor concerning dredging the creek and the City's marina site.

Non Point Sources Grant: Received notification of grant award and implemented this project by entering into agreement with General Engineering and securing DHEC's approval of the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

State Accommodations Tax Application Form: Revised City's application form and meeting frequency.

Independence Day: Successfully executed largest fireworks show in the state and purchased and installed American Flags in celebration of Independence Day.

Traffic Counts: Approved cost share arrangement with the BCD COG for the installation of permanently embedded traffic counters.

Charleston Naval Base Memorial: Due to strong connections to the history of this community, made decision to support this endeavor.

Public Safety

Mike Sottile
Bob Abele
Carmen Bunch

Traffic Counts: Worked with the BCD COG to obtain traffic counts and make the results of the data part of the monthly police report to council

Noise Ordinance: Utilizing a collaborative effort among the City, residents and businesses and upon advice from the City Attorney, the noise ordinance was amended to improve the ability of the officers to enforce.

Hazardous Materials: Enforced the removal of hazardous materials stored at the Marina site.

Breach Inlet Bridge Replacement and Parking Lot Configuration: Corresponded with SC DOT to request that the finished parking lot following the construction of the new bridge contain only one means of ingress and egress. The staff further requested that the area be evaluated regarding speed limits and other speed reducing measures due to the congestion in the area and the popularity of the restaurant business.

Fire Department Connections: Coordinated information among the Building Department and Fire Department to ensure awareness of fire department connections for residential sprinklers on new residences.

Emergency Dispatch Agreement: Put into written form the agreement in practice to provide emergency dispatch services for the Town of Sullivan's Island.

41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard: Approved a final design for reconfiguration of the roadway in this area to allow for the installation of a right turn lane to facilitate the improved flow of traffic turning left from Palm Boulevard onto 41st Avenue. Coordinated communication among Charleston County, SC DOT, Sea Oats Property Owners and the Sea Oats Regime.

Curb Cuts Ocean Boulevard: Worked with SC DOT to get clarification concerning DOT requirements imposed regarding curb cuts in the area of Ocean Boulevard. Revised Zoning Ordinance to make consistent with SC DOT requirements.

FEMA Fire Grants: Wrote and submitted two (2) grant applications to FEMA for fire apparatus and fire equipment.

Fire Hydrants: Launched comprehensive effort among the City, the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission and property owners to remove obstructions to fire hydrants and improve public education concerning the need not to obstruct. Correspondence, along with photographs, went to property owners informing them of the code regarding obstructions. The Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission hired a contractor to rehabilitate and paint all hydrants.

Public Safety continued

Parking/Palm Boulevard in Vicinity of the Lutheran Retreat Center: Worked with SC DOT to install signage in this area which prohibits parking on the curve.

Emergency Dispatch Agreement/National Park Service: Initiated dialogue and completed draft agreement to provide emergency dispatch services for the National Park Service.

Miscellaneous Road requests to SC DOT: In July, the City requested that SC DOT consider re-configuring the intersection of Palm Boulevard and Carolina Boulevard to have the two roads meet at a right angle. Further, the City requested some short term, 15 minute parking along 14th Avenue between the corner business and the tennis courts. SC DOT is still evaluating these requests.

Donation: Received the donation of a wave runner to the fire department. Made donation of some out of service equipment to various other fire agencies.

Thermal Imaging: As budgeted, added this technology to the arsenal of equipment to be used in fire fighting.

Breach Inlet Bridge Construction: Established primary contact person and dialogue with construction personnel in the event of hazardous situation during construction.

Animal Control: Amended Ordinance to allow dogs to be unleashed on the beach during specified period provided owner has control. Responded to concerns about the City's procedures regarding enforcement.

Humanitarian Activity: Responded to the events of 9/11/01 by sending supplies to the emergency personnel of New York City.

Safety Audit: Submitted documentation and participated in an onsite audit of the City's safety procedures. Improved scores from the prior year to 93% and 95% thus obtaining a credit on the City's insurance premiums.

Jurisdiction on City Owned Property: Amended Ordinance and posted signage giving the City jurisdiction in City owned parking lots.

Accreditation: The Police Department completed activities and improvement of policies and procedures in pursuit of accreditation and awaits the final determination in 2002.

Enforcement: Investigators closed several cases and thefts were down significantly from the prior year's experience.

Code Enforcement: Took action regarding construction activity at high-rise condominiums.

Public Safety Continued

Gateway Enhancement: Awarded both engineering and construction contract on this project to place wires underground at the intersection of the Connector and Palm Boulevard.

Police Services to Private Regimes: Evaluated providing police services to private regimes.

Aircraft Ordinance: Revised Ordinance related to operation of aircraft on the Island.

Holding Cell: Decommissioned Holding Cell and created records space.

Traffic Flow: Worked with Mount Pleasant and City of Charleston to improve timing of traffic signal located at Rifle Range and the Connector.

Records Management: Obtained new computer software for the management of law enforcement operations/records.

SCBA: Completed draft agreement for the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus test bench.

Animal Control Education: In conjunction with Pet Helpers, conducted first ever Raccoon Education Seminar.

Golf Carts: Revised ordinances to allow for specified accesses for golf cart parking.

Public Works

Bob Miller
Tom Gear
John Marino

Drainage 54th - 57th Avenue: Working with Civil Site Environmental, completed initial evaluation of drainage problem in the 54th to 57th Avenue area and entered into a cooperative arrangement with Destination Wild Dunes for the City to pay for increasing the line size for the infrastructure planned for the new conference facility to accommodate the flow directed from 54th to 57th Avenue.

Drainage--Hartnett Boulevard/Forest Trail: Worked with Charleston County to pipe open drainage ditch behind homes on both Hartnett Boulevard and Forest Trail. Worked with property owners to remove obstructions on the drainage easement to facilitate construction.

Erosion: Worked with SC DHEC OCRM and the Wild Dunes Community Association regarding OCRM permit for sand scraping in area within the Planned Residential Development experiencing erosion.

Public Works continued

County Transportation Committee Request: Submitted request to County Transportation Committee to install handicap parking at 21st Avenue and at 9th Avenue as well as to install permanent traffic counters at the Connector and at Breach Inlet. CTC funded the handicap parking spaces. BCD COG is proposing joint funding of permanent traffic counters.

Underground Wiring in Front Beach: Worked with SCE&G to communicate with beach front businesses regarding moving forward with putting their individual business electrical service underground.

Parking for Front Beach Area: Drafted request to SC DOT concerning the possibility of adding parking spaces along J.C. Long Boulevard in the area across the street from the Sea Biscuit to attempt to relieve the loss of parking due to curb cuts.

Unsightly Growth/parking Problems: Sent several pieces of correspondence to property owners concerning attention that was needed to their property either due to overgrowth or due to private property being utilized as parking lots for beach access.

Dumpster Service Front Beach Businesses: Corresponded with and visited businesses in this area on several occasions to encourage their employees' cooperation in the appropriate utilization of the dumpsters

Crosswalks: Corresponded with SC DOT and made arrangements to have all crosswalks better identified with cross-hatch painting and signage. Further, correspondence requested some form of lighting or other mechanism to encourage motorist to yield to pedestrians crossing Palm Boulevard enroute to the beach.

Rights-of-Way: Worked with Charleston County and SC DOT to install sand shell and parking delineation in the area along the "S" curve at 21st Avenue and Palm Boulevard to control the parallel parking and decrease instances of vehicles getting stuck in the sand.

Disposal Services: Drafted request for proposals, bid notice and awarded contract to Waste Watchers for waste disposal services. Implemented new complaint form for tracking contract complaints and violations.

Rollout Services-Dewees Island: Considered and rejected a proposal to provide rollout cart service at the Dewees Island's Isle of Palms property on 41st Avenue.

Beach Clean-up Contract: Expanded the term of the beach clean up contract and expanded services to include some right-of-way clean up in the front beach area.

Landscaping in Front Beach Area: Considered and rejected a proposal for Zoning Ordinance Amendments which would have required property owners obtaining curb cuts

Public Works continued

to install landscaping. In lieu of this idea, a Front Beach Revitalization Committee was formed to consider mechanisms for implementing improvements in that area.

Sand Fencing: Initiated work with US Soil Conservation service to apply for funding for a sand-fencing project in the area of the beach in front of Port-o-Call.

OCRM Keep Off the Dune Signs: Replaced old, faded signs with new ones from OCRM.

Parking Lots at Front Beach Area: Approved funding for and completed refurbishing of front beach parking lots.

Blue Wave Designation: Submitted an application for consideration to receive this designation from the Clean Beaches Council.

Rollout Cart Ordinance: Revised rollout cart ordinance to improve enforceability.

Underground Lighting 43rd to 47th: Selected light fixture to replace cobra style lights in this area of the island.

Dumpster Service to Commercial Properties: Completed a "Cost-to-Serve" evaluation concerning the City's providing container services to commercial businesses.

Beach Advisory: Implemented first ever beach advisory due to results of monthly beach monitoring.

Palm Trees: Expanded the palm tree lined streets to include 14th Avenue.

Fuel Dispensing/accounting System: Installed a new system for accounting for use of fuel at the Public Works fueling station.

Compactor: Researched options and expense associated with replacing the containers in the front beach area with a compactor.

Parking Lot Attendant Hut: Made repairs to the structure.

Mosquito Abatement: Obtained Materials Safety Data Sheets concerning pesticides used to control the mosquito population.

Recreation

**Dee Taylor
Marty Bettelli
Ryan Buckhannon**

Community Development Grant: Applied for and received a Community Development Grant via Charleston County to improve the ventilation at the Rec Building so that the building would be comfortable enough for year round utilization by senior population. Completed grant application, sent letters to County Council and upon award, executed terms of grant agreement.

City Web Site: Completely re-designed City web site to update image, make the site more user friendly and easier to maintain by the staff. Re-designed complimentary t-shirt given to those who find IOP on the web.

Isle of Palms Park Foundation: Accepted donation of \$7,934.29 from the Foundation to the Recreation Department Building fund.

Piccolo Spoleto and Spoleto Festival USA: Held successful Piccolo events and initiated actions by reviewing venues to bring a Spoleto event to the Island next year.

PARD Grant: Applied for, received and utilized Park and Recreation Development funding for improvements to the Playground.

Claire Rand: Completed and dedicated this playground for the older children in memory of Clair Rand.

Tents & Canopies: Utilized funding from State Accommodations Tax to purchase this equipment for use at Recreation Department and City events.

Donations: the City received an \$8,000 donation to the Department which as placed in the building fund.

Lighting: Lighting was added to the City signs and flags.

Isle of Palms Invitation: Held first ever Isle of Palms Tennis Invitation Tournament at Wild Dunes. Tournament was supported by funds from the Accommodations Tax Committee.

Sponsored Events: The Recreation Department successfully managed the Arts and Crafts Sale, the Community Yard Sale, the Blues Festival, the Beach Run, Crab Pot Players and Holiday Events.

Beach Access Paths: Initiated progress on completing the re-numbering all accesses to be consistent with nearest roadway.

Recreation continued

Equipment Improvements: Improved picnic tables at existing shelter, added water fountains at tennis courts and picnic shelter, added soda machines at picnic shelter, added benches and snuffers at public restrooms. Purchased portable stage sections.

Garden Club: Established improved delineation regarding responsibilities between the City and the Garden Club.

Beach Chairs and Umbrellas: Discussed options for whether to revise ordinances or allow franchising for the renting of beach chairs and umbrellas on the beach.

Recreation Building Plan: Conducted interview with the Post/Courier concerning the Design workshops to get community input concerning the future plans for the recreation site. Met with Building Department to review proposed plans and secure input affecting the final design.

Personnel

**Marty Bettelli
Ryan Buckhannon
Dee Taylor**

Employee Assistance Program: Initiated new arrangement for an Employee Assistance Program utilizing resources available through the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation at no charge to the City.

Expansion of Fire Fighting Infrastructure: Following establishment of job descriptions/requirements and a rigorous interview process, hired nine (9) new fire department personnel and incorporated them into City shifts.

Establishment of Lieutenants Positions: Established three lieutenant positions within the Fire Department to allow for a supervisory position at Station 2. Created new organization structure for Fire Department.

Tuition Reimbursement Policy: Refined the policy to require employees to declare their requests to participate in the program by February so that expenses could be incorporated into the budget process.

Tobacco Products: Refined the City's policy concerning the use of tobacco products in City vehicles.

Travel Allowance: Made the City's policy for allowances consistent with State and Federal travel and subsistence allowances so that the policy would automatically change when allowances change at the State and Federal level.

Part-time Benefits: Reviewed benefits for part-time employees.

Personnel continued

Employee Suggestions: Implemented several employee suggestions to include adding a pay phone at City Hall, subscribing to the *Post/Courier* and getting television access in dispatch to allow for viewing during emergency situations.

Employee Options Health Insurance: In an effort to reduce costs, revised options available to employees for dependent coverage.

Probationary Period: Revised policy concerning the trigger for calculation of the 6-month probationary period.

Revised Job Descriptions: Revised job descriptions in the Building Department.

Administrative Specialist--New Position in General Government: Revised job description in General Government to incorporate duties in practice in the position.

Swearing In of New Employees: Implemented a practice to be put into place in 2002 of swearing in all new employees at a City Council meeting.