

## 2011 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Beach Maintenance

In 2011, the City accomplished a major milestone by completing the three years of post-project monitoring required by the permit issued for 2008's major beach renourishment project. Seeing continued need for monitoring, City Council included funds for monitoring in the City's budget and awarded a contract to have the work continue through the year 2014.

The City also made progress steps toward a shoal scraping project intended to address erosion "hot spots." Coastal Engineers prepared and submitted "Essential Fish Habitat" and "Biological Assessment documents." SDHEC-OCRM issued the City a five-year permit for the shoal scraping. The City is hopeful that the Corps of Engineers will issue a similar permit soon, allowing for construction in 2012.



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### Police Department Achieves 3rd Re-accreditation

Public Safety Chair Marty Bettelli, Mayor Dick Cronin, Captain Caldwell, Captain Usry, and Police Chief Buckhannon traveled to Washington D.C. in March 2011, to receive the Isle of Palms Police Department's third re-accreditation from CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The department has held CALEA accreditation for 12 consecutive years, demonstrating their commitment to and execution of best practices for law enforcement.



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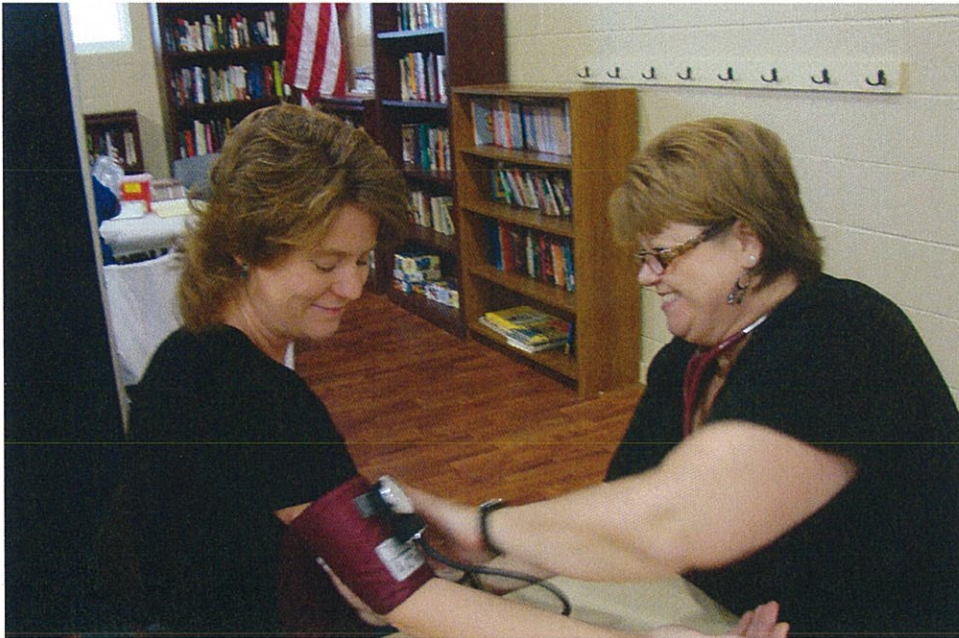
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### Health Insurance Transition

City Council was faced with an important decision when the provider of health insurance for the City's approximately ninety employees—representing general government, public works, recreation, building, planning and zoning, police and fire—decided to cease operations. This triggered an extensive evaluation of options available that would provide the best value to the City while providing benefits to employees. After this review, City Council elected to transition to the state health plan, and City staff executed the change without interruption of service.



City Employees participate in the Annual Community Wellness Fair

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### Front Beach Lighting Improvements

The City submitted a successful grant application to improve to the lighting on Front Beach to make it more energy efficient, and in 2011, the City completed construction of the project. First, the City removed the previous lighting, which consumed more energy and created trip hazards by protruding upward. Then, over 100 LED lights were installed flush to the ground near the iconic Palm Trees on Front Beach, creating a safer, cleaner and more energy-efficient environment.



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## Greenbelt Application

Late in 2011, City Council made the determination to suspend activities related to the acquisition of 3206 Palm Boulevard. Prior to that decision, the City completed significant work with Charleston County staff, elected officials and appointed volunteers. Through the County's "Greenbelt" program, the City is allocated \$478,000; however, to access the funding, the City must submit a grant application and proceed through a grant approval process. The City's Greenbelt Application was successful when Charleston County Council approved the application.



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### 53rd to 57th Avenue Drainage

Several years worth of planning and assembling funding came to fruition in 2011 as the City of Isle of Palms completed construction on drainage infrastructure from 53rd Avenue to 57th Avenue. When originally developed, these avenues were not provided drainage. In times of heavy rain, the streets would flood, impeding ingress and egress. The project required cooperation between many entities, including Wild Dunes, Charleston County and the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Public Works personnel pump flooded storm water



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# Communications Tower

Providing public safety services for approximately 4,100 full-time residents in addition to hundreds of thousands of visitors is a high priority for City Council and City staff. At times, radio communications experiences interference believed to be caused in part by the island's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. To improve radio communications, City elected officials and staff worked extensively with Charleston County, who operates the radio system. After much discussion and analysis, City Council amended City ordinances to allow a new Communications Tower to be built, at the County's expense, near the terminus of 41st Avenue. The result is improved communications for Isle of Palms public safety personnel.



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### City Hall Renovation and 1301 Palm Boulevard

Renovation on the City Hall Building at 1207 Palm Boulevard was completed in 2011. The Building Department moved into their new downstairs offices, which present a more welcoming façade for citizens and businesses. Renovations upstairs resulted in improved security for City Hall personnel, increased storage space and less off-site storage expense, and a comfortable conference room meeting space.

City Council gave careful consideration to the future of the building at 1301 Palm Boulevard vacated by the Building Department. After analysis determined that renting was not feasible, the City executed preparation work for demolition, including testing for hazardous materials and asbestos. Demolition and refurbishment of the lot are planned for next year.



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### Parking

One of the year's "hot topics" was Parking. The City held many forums to discuss parking, including Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings, joint meetings of Council and the Planning Commission, Public Hearings and "Open Houses." The budget process allowed for construction of parking nodes on Ocean boulevard, but Council delayed action to gather more citizen input. The City used its communications methods to "get the word out" with press releases, e-newsletters and the website. Resident involvement has been strong, with many folks making suggestions at meetings and using the website to submit comments.



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### Best Restored Beach Award

The City is a proud recipient of one the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's best restored beaches for 2011. The Isle of Palms was one of five beaches in the nation selected for this honor based on the renourishment project executed in 2008.



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## Marina Dredging

In 2011, the City awarded a contract for permitting, engineering and design of the marina dredging project to GEL engineering. The City worked with GEL to prepare permit applications and a bid package for dredging construction. This project has several new elements from the last dredging work by the City: a greater depth, a closer proximity to the new and stronger bulkhead, and inclusion of a portion of the Intracoastal waterway. By year's end, the City had received a permit for dredging from SCDHEC OCRM and had bid and awarded a contract for construction contingent upon receipt of a permit from the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The project is expected to be complete next year.

Boat ramp at the Isle of Palms Marina



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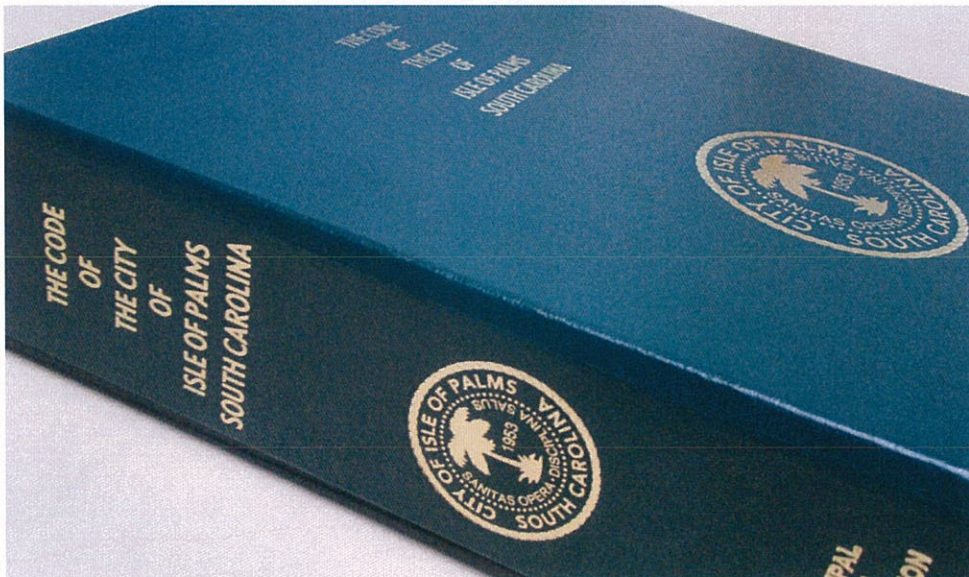
## 2011 SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Legislation

City Council analyzed, debated and ratified several important pieces of legislation in 2011, including: allowing commercial buildings to have one sandwich board sign in certain conditions, prohibiting the use of plastic bags for yard debris to improve composting of materials, improvements to the alarm ordinance, establishing a franchise agreement with AT&T and deleting references to the "MF" district to make the municipal code more accurate.

Citizens can access the City code in print or online



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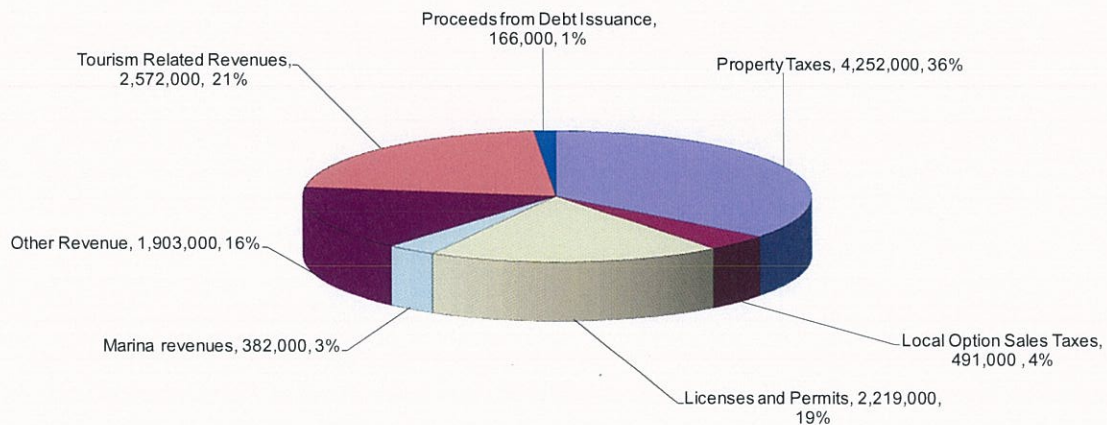
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# Finance and Revenues

When fiscal year 2011 ended, the City's finances were in excellent shape. Once again, the annual audit produced an "Unqualified" opinion, the highest opinion available. The City ended the fiscal year approximately \$580,000 under budget in the General Fund, and Council transferred this amount to the Capital Projects Fund. The City was also able to pay off the lease early on a garbage truck, thereby reducing debt.

Graph of Revenue Sources



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## Department Highlights

The Building Department issued approximately 517 building permits.

City Hall processed 2,727 checks and 2,019 court cases.

The Fire Department responded to over 410 alarms and over 252 emergency medical calls.

The Police Department received over 34,900 calls for service.

The Public Works Department collected over 3,620 tons of debris.

The Recreation Department welcomed over 11,000 visitors.



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### City Council Committees

Dick Cronin, Mayor  
Marty Bettelli  
Barbara Bergwerf  
Ryan Buckhannon  
Brian Duffy  
Mike Loftus, Mayor Pro Tem  
Ralph Piening  
Doug Thomas  
Sandy Stone

*Real Property and Chair of Ways and Means*  
*Personnel and Chair of Public Safety*  
*Public Safety and Chair of Recreation*  
*Recreation*  
*Recreation and Chair of Public Works*  
*Public Safety and Chair of Real Property*  
*Personnel*  
*Public Works and Chair of Personnel*  
*Public Works and Real Property*

All Members

*Ways and Means and City Council*



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## More . . . .

Featured as a "Family Friendly" Beach in *Kiwi Magazine*

Transitioned legally and logistically to paper bags for yard debris to increase composting in the County.

Represented by Dick Cronin on the newly formed South Carolina Association of Mayors.

Hosted a meeting of "Coastal Mayors" to keep coastal issues at the forefront.

Prepared for and assessed damage from Hurricane Irene.

Attended preparatory meetings with the County towards Consolidated Dispatch.

Initiated a program to honor the service of City Council member on engraved bricks.

Established a citizens committee regarding a island farmers market and followed the committee's recommendation.

A citizen's initiative laid the foundation to establish a "medical loan closet."

Transitioned to an armored car service for coin counting.

Adopted a resolution to create compliance with accounting standard "GASB 54."

Established an Ad Hoc Water Quality Committee.

Approved re-organization of command positions in the Police Department.

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