

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 24, 2013

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Loftus, Thomas and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Stone's absence was excused.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. City Clerk Copeland called the roll after a brief invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2013 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Mayor Cronin announced that effective October 1, 2013 the City will move its 9-1-1 services to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center, but residents should notice no change in the service. He anticipates a smooth transition for both the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island.

Update on Election Laws

Administrator Tucker explained that the City had received notification from the Charleston County Board of Elections that the names of candidates who were running unopposed would not appear on the November 5 ballot and, since no one had declared as a write-in, there would be no ability to write in a candidate. When that information was conveyed to the candidates, it generated many questions in the community since that is not the way things have been handled in the past. Based on research by the City Attorney and her conversations with the attorney for the Board of Elections, it would not be contrary to state law; however, Charleston County has reversed the decision as it relates to the City of Isle of Palms. All candidates' names will appear on the ballot, and citizens will have the ability to write in a candidate if they choose to do so.

Attorney Halversen stated that other local governments in the state are following the statute and not holding an election for unopposed candidates. Charleston County's attorney has chosen to interpret the law differently and will allow unchallenged candidate names to appear on the ballot.

Dean Murray, 1100 Pavilion Drive, stated that he and his wife own a unit at the Ocean Inn; he stated that, if the City wants to store boats or equipment there, he would prefer that it be located at the rear of the building out of view.

4. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Ways and Means Committee

From the meeting of September 17, Mayor Cronin stated that the Committee's first order of business had been the unanimous approval of the FY14 CARTA budget. Treasurer Suggs reported that, with an expenditure target of seventeen percent (17%), City departments are operating at twelve percent (12%) of annual General Fund expenditures through two (2) months of the year. The cash balance in the General Fund is ahead of FY13 with over three million dollars (\$3,000,000) in the banks. Councilmember Buckhannon noted that parking revenues are up significantly after only two (2) months perhaps as a result of the extended hours for both the kiosks and parking lots. Administrator Tucker explained that the increase is primarily the result of two (2) months of timing issues; although a portion of the increase is attributable to the extended hours, it is not to the level of forty percent (40%); the actual increase was much smaller. Looking at the tourism accounts, the July Municipal Accommodations Taxes were the highest the City has ever received at one hundred eighty-three thousand dollars (\$183,000), making the collections eleven percent (11%) ahead of FY13. To-date the City has received no State Accommodations Taxes or the Charleston County Accommodations Tax Pass-through. Hospitality Taxes are running three percent (3%) ahead of FY13. The Mayor reported that the City received a grant of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Charleston Transportation Committee toward the second phase of the drainage initiative from 45th to 52nd Avenues; this process was the means by which the City accumulated funding for the Phase 1 project.

- 1. Award of a sole source contract to Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$6,516 for Police radio service and \$6,960 for Fire Department radio service for a total of \$13,476 at state contract pricing and included in the FY14 budget.**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a sole source contract to Motorola Solutions as detailed above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Councilmember Ward asked for confirmation that this contract exceeds the amount budgeted by six hundred dollars (\$600), and Administrator Tucker confirmed that to be true.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 1 with Councilmember Ward dissenting.

- 2. Award of a contract to Jones Ford in the amount of \$27,437 for one Ford F-150 pickup truck for the Fire Department, at state contract pricing and included in the FY14 budget, replacing a 2003 vehicle.**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award the contract to Jones Ford as stated; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 3. Award of a sole source 3-year contract to Zambelli's for up to \$27,000 per year for July 4th fireworks show.**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a sole source 3-year contract to Zambelli's as detailed above; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Award of a contract to Jeff Jackson in the amount of \$1,800 for horticultural services related to Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park.

The Mayor noted that the park is next to the commercial area, and the vegetation needs to be cleared while protecting certain species designated in the Greenbelt grant award.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Jeff Jackson for horticultural services as specified; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 0 with Councilmember Ward abstaining.

For the record, Administrator Tucker explained that, in accordance with appropriate procedure, Councilmember Ward has provided a written reason for his abstention.

5. Award of a contract to Civil Site Environmental for \$8,500 for drainage engineering and design between 56th and 57th Avenues.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Civil Site Environmental for services stated above; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Award of a sole source contract to Hughes Motors in the amount of \$182,805 for the budgeted purchase of 1 Mack GU713 garbage truck.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a sole source contract to Hughes Motors for the budgeted purchase of a garbage truck detailed above; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Councilmember Carroll noted that this is the City's first capital equipment purchase that does not involve a capital lease purchase financing.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Award of a contract to Central Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$15,525.95 for fuel dispensers and consideration of upgrade to stainless steel and blender improvement in the amount of \$1,094.87 for a total of \$16,620.82.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to award a contract to Central Industries, Inc. as described above; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

Councilmember Ward asked whether this item was included in the budget and was told that it is.

Vote: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Approval of a change order in the amount of \$5,450 to Ocean and Coastal Consultants' contract for design and permitting for the Tidal Wave Watersports dock (current contract \$26,000, new amount \$32,050, budget \$32,600).

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve a change order to Ocean and Coastal Consultants' contract as stated above; Councilmember Buckhannon seconded.

The Mayor asked the Real Property Committee to explain the reason for the change order. As Committee Chair, Councilmember Buckhannon stated that there is considerable discussion between the tenants, the adjacent property owners, managers and the City; as a result, more work is being required from the consultant to define the project. Councilmember Buckhannon stated that there would be a resolution to the issues in October.

Councilmember Carroll asked if there was the possibility of additional expenses.

Administrator Tucker explained that a design was approved by the tenant, the Committee and City Council and the permit application was submitted. In the public comment period, one of the adjacent properties owners objected to the design; in an effort to be accommodating to the adjacent neighbor, the Committee went back to see if modifications could be made to the design, as cost effectively as possible, to still accomplish the goal of the needed replacement of the dock. The Administrator reiterated Councilmember Buckhannon's comments that the Committee is not willing to let this situation go on indefinitely and a decision will be made on the design at the October Real Property Committee. The Administrator noted that the cost of replacing the dock is included in the FY14 budget, and the dock has been somewhat neglected with the prospect of replacement in the coming months. In addition, Administrator Tucker explained that the current Tidal Wave dock is a residential dock being used in a commercial application with visitors on it every day, and it is in the best interest of the City for it to be sound.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Award of a contract to Stantec for Task 1 for \$68,750, Task 2 for \$17,560 and Task 3 for \$12,970 for Parking Management Plan.

Councilmember Loftus asked that each task be voted on individually.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved award a contract to Stantec for Task 1 for \$68,750; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

The Mayor noted that Task 1 is defined as Parking Permit Program Implementation Plan.

Councilmember Bettelli noted that the Stantec presentation at the August Council meeting did not include parking on Ocean Boulevard; in the Councilmember's opinion, Council is doing the residents a disservice if Stantec does not give that another review. If the parking management plan is for the entire island, it cannot eliminate or exclude one (1) street.

Councilmember Loftus agreed that the plan should be comprehensive and include the entire island.

Mayor Cronin commented that Stantec had not been instructed to exclude any part of the island.

Councilmember Bettelli quoted the City Council minutes of August 27, 2013 as follows:

“Councilmember Stone asked whether this program contemplated opening Ocean Boulevard to parking and Mr. Day responded negatively.”

Councilmember Bettelli stated that he understood the response to be that, based on the individual meetings with members of Council, Mr. Day had received negative input on that subject.

Councilmember Bergwerf suggested that staff communicate with Mr. Day that Ocean Boulevard was to be included in all aspects of the parking permit implementation plan.

Councilmember Carroll recounted from the individual meetings that Mr. Day had indicated that Stantec “wanted to take the politics out of parking and do the study on the whole island.”

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Task 2 of the Stantec proposal for \$17,560 for an On-street Parking Review; Councilmember Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Task 3 of the Stantec proposal for \$12,970 for On-street Parking Field Verification; Councilmember Carroll seconded.

Councilmember Loftus renewed his objections to this task; he is of the opinion that, without knowing what SCDOT will and will not allow as far as the rights-of-way. He believes that the City will not see any real benefit from spending this amount of money.

Mayor Cronin said that the City needs the data to influence SCDOT in any direction the City chooses to head.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 4 to 3 with Councilmembers Bergwerf, Loftus and Ward dissenting.

From the minutes of the Ways and Means Committee, the Mayor reported that the Committee had decided to delay any final decision on whether to renovate or replace the Front Beach restrooms until more information can be gathered by staff.

A long discussion took place on a recommendation from the Recreation Committee to award a sole source contract to Holiday Designs in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for holiday light displays. Some changes have occurred since the Ways and Means meeting.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to re-new the motion to award a sole source contract to Holiday Designs in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for holiday light displays; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Mayor Cronin reported that discussions ended at Ways and Means with staff being asked to solicit sponsors to support and help to defray the costs; the Mayor announced that he had gotten four (4) sponsors to-date, but, at the moment, there is no program to be sponsored. Certain of the sponsors he has obtained are willing to contribute capital while others would prefer to have an annual contribution; the Mayor reported having spoken with those involved with the Festival of Lights at the James Island County Park and learning that they have either one or two year (1-2 yr.) annual sponsorship commitments that range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. The Mayor concluded that, since he has begun getting sponsors, the City should expend the capital to get the lights. He suggested working with Director Page on an annual basis or an initial capital program or some other way to keep the sponsors happy.

Councilmember Bergwerf recalled that the idea came from the ATAX Committee who embraced it and supported it unanimously as a way to enhance the winter carnival, bring people to the island and help out local businesses. The motion also went through the Recreation Committee, getting unanimous support as well; the expenditure was also included in the FY14 budget.

Councilmember Loftus stated that he did not support the motion at the Ways and Means meeting and would not support it in this meeting; he believes the money could be spent in a better way. He noted that no one has estimated what the added electrical costs would be and no one has indicated where the displays would be stored. He recalled that the Administrator had stated that she hoped to expand the program next year, and to grow the initiative would involve a considerable capital investment. The Councilmember thought the City could get better pricing if put out on a RFP or RFB in February when this type of vendor would be actively seeking business.

The Mayor stated that this type of work was an art and that art cannot be bid; it is a matter of construction, how you want it designed.

Councilmember Bergwerf related that staff had stated that they had researched multiple vendors and had found it difficult to make comparisons – there were variations from vendor to vendor. She also recalled that this company has provided displays for James Island County Park; the product is made in the United States and not imported; the vendor is close enough to provide assistance if needed; and the designs can be customized to reflect the Isle of Palms.

The Mayor noted that Council does not get many recommendations from the ATAX Committee with ways to market the island in the off-season that Council can embrace and is economical enough to be affordable. Whether the program is built on in the future is for others to decide according to the Mayor.

Councilmember Ward asked whether the lights would be turned on every night for a given period of time; he stated that he has heard complaints from merchants on the Front Beach that, during the holiday season, it is dark often during the week. Secondly he asked for clarification the displays are planned to be at the Recreation Department to augment these lights

and at the marina; Administrator Tucker responded that staff had selected displays that might be consistent with the message of island-life. The Administrator said that some would be placed at Front Beach, but electricity there is limited by the number of outlets there and the lights for the palmetto trees; she added that these lights are turned on and off at specific times during the holiday season. There were thoughts to placing some light displays at the Front Beach and also try to include others at thematic locations to try to be a draw; staff had considered putting an announcement on the website that would encourage people to drive through the island to see all of the displays. The Administrator voiced uncertainty that all of the displays could be accommodated at the Front Beach.

Administrator Tucker clarified that staff had chosen one (1) design and priced it with five (5) vendors using consistent sizing and an easily-accessible manufacturing/distribution location. The Holiday Designs company in Gainesville, Georgia could meet all of the City's time targets, was most familiar with the James Island County Park personnel and those at Charleston County Parks and Recreation, which were seen as an advantage for this vendor; in addition, their product has the longest warranty. This was the reasoning behind selecting this vendor for the City first venture.

Councilmember Ward also stated that he did not see the correlation between a light at the Recreation Department as a proper use of ATAX funds; it does not put "heads in beds." He thought that the goal had been to push everything to the Front Beach to get the holiday festival off to a grand start with all of these lights. He stated that amperage can be added to the existing electrical supply. The Councilmember then recalled that, at the Ways and Means Committee meeting, Councilmembers had been told that the City was facing a one hundred ninety-four thousand dollar (\$194,000) deficit in property tax revenues over the corresponding expenses; he noted that this is not a good time to be spending money in a deficit situation for something that is not absolutely necessary.

Mayor Cronin stated that, if he and the staff had thought that the property tax revenues would not meet budget, an increase to the millage to cover that gap would have been recommended.

Councilmember Bergwerf pointed out that the funds spent on the light displays were ATAX funds not property tax funds. The Mayor agreed and noted that the ATAX fund had a surplus in FY13 and was already running well ahead of prior year; he stated that not enough is done with the ATAX funds to market the island in the off-season.

Mayor Cronin indicated that he did not fully support putting a display at the Recreation Center, but the plan had not been put together since the funds have not been authorized for the program to go forward. He noted that he wanted to move forward tonight to have time to get the displays for the Holiday Street Festival.

Councilmember Loftus remarked that it does not make sense to put a light display at the marina because the marina shortens its hours in the winter months due to a reduced volume of business.

Councilmember Buckhannon agreed that the thought was to drive business to the Front Beach area and Council needs to keep that focus; he also stated that all of the displays did not have to be so large. He recommended that the amperage be increased at Front Beach to accommodate the displays and possibly create a gateway to the commercial area by concentrating lights between 10th and 14th Avenues.

Mayor Cronin said that, ultimately, he would like to convince the County Park to put lights in the City's park with a drive-through and a marshmallow stand – a place where people feel comfortable and might walk on the beach.

Councilmember Ward stated that he would be more amenable to supporting the motion if he knew the lights were going to the Front Beach only.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin added to his motion that all light displays will be between 10th and 14th; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 1 with Councilmember Loftus casting the dissenting vote.

10. Approval of FY13 Millage at 22.9 mills

Mayor Cronin stated that the City is asked each year at this time to confirm to the Charleston County Assessor's office the millage rate as approved by City Council in the budgeting process.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the FY13 millage at 22.9 mills; Councilmember Ward seconded.

The Mayor noted that this is the same millage rate that the City has had for several years.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.'

11. Approval of distribution of FY13 year-end positive net result to transfer \$100,000 to the Disaster Recovery Fund, to transfer \$600,000 to the Capital Projects Fund and to retain \$113,312 in the General Fund.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the distribution of the FY13 year-end positive net result as detailed above; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

The Mayor noted that it was good news that there were net results to decide about; typically the City has followed a similar pattern, noting that this is the only funding source for the Capital Projects fund.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 1 with Councilmember Ward casting the dissenting vote.

The Mayor stated that the City has successfully re-financed the City's taxable bond on the marina that has a remaining balance of one million four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,450,000). The interest rate on the existing bond is five and fifteen one hundredths of a percent (5.15%); the bond was re-financed through First Tennessee Bank at an interest rate of

one and seventy-four one hundredths of a percent (1.74%) with a savings on interest for the remaining term of the debt of one hundred twenty-seven thousand dollars (\$127,000) net of all expenses.

The next meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, October 15.

B. Public Safety Committee

Councilmember Bergwerf noted that a great deal of the business of the Public Safety Committee meeting of Monday, September 9th has been already been discussed, so she proceeded to the Fire Department report for the month of August. On August 7th, personnel responded to a call for a swimmer in distress in the area of Dewees Island; after ninety (90) minutes, the swimmer was found on the Isle of Palms and in no distress. On August 27th, personnel responded to a report of a large dumpster on fire near a home in Ocean Point; upon arrival, crews found the dumpster with an active fire inside, but not threatening to any adjacent buildings. On August 30th, personnel responded to the 900 block of Ocean Boulevard for an individual who had been pulled from the water and was having trouble breathing; he was placed on oxygen and a full assessment was done before he was transported by EMS. In August personnel responded to one hundred thirty-nine (139) calls; ninety-four (94) were EMS calls. The Chief noted that the call report from Charleston County did not indicate the seriousness assigned to the calls; she indicated that she would look into why the report has been changed. The new Fire Inspector performed twelve (12) inspections in the month and found fifty-two (52) violations. Chief Graham presented the Committee with a situation that needs to be dealt with related to the high rate of turnover in the Department; the rate of pay at the Isle of Palms is much lower compared to neighboring departments. Chief Graham is gathering information to make a formal presentation with specific requests to the Committee. In addition, the Chief reported that Station 2, which has many serious calls dealing with the island's visitors, is operating short one (1) firefighter per shift, or three (3) employees. The possibility of funding that position through tourism funds is being investigated.

In the Police Department, Chief Buckhannon reported that on August 2nd, a complainant reported that two (2) men had stolen a golf cart from The Boardwalk at Grand Pavilion; on August 16th, the Mount Pleasant Police Department notified the Isle of Palms' Department that they had located the stolen golf cart in a wooded area in their jurisdiction. After being processed for evidence, the cart was returned to the owner, and a latent print was lifted from the cart. In weekly follow-ups with the island's eight (8) rental companies involved with the property identification program, the companies advised that the project had been placed on-hold due to a lack of staff and the level of activity this time of year. In August, dispatchers responded to four thousand nine hundred seventy-five (4,975) calls; three thousand eight hundred seven (3,807) were for the IOP Police Department. Four hundred eleven (411) traffic stops generated one hundred seventeen (117) tickets. The thirty-nine (39) arrests were for either liquor law violations or traffic offenses. Officers responded to seventeen (17) noise complaints and wrote ten (10) citations.

The Administrator noted that the Fire Prevention Parade is scheduled for 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 9th and the Barrier Island Ecothon will take place on Sunday, October 27th.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 5th in the Conference Room.

Councilmember Carroll related that there had been a front-page article in *The Post and Courier* reporting on the turnover rate in the Fire Department for the City of Charleston and that the IOP Department is not the only one in the area with a turnover issue. Mayor Cronin noted that the circumstances in the two (2) departments were different.

Councilmember Bettelli referenced another article from the newspaper which talked about the new fire chief downtown and the fact that firefighters want to get in and put out fire; he recognized Chief Graham for abiding by the safety standards that all fire departments should adhere to and not rushing into the fire. The Councilmember stated that the Isle of Palms Department will get the job done, do it safely and make sure our firefighters are safe.

C. Public Works Committee

Reporting on the Public Works Committee of September 10th, Councilmember Buckhannon stated that the focus of work for August had been beach sweeps and that eight (8) had been done in the month. Due to the volume of debris on the island, Director Pitts authorized one (1) Saturday debris pickup operation, involving four (4) staffers for a period of eight (8) hours. Due to heavy rains, the City deployed its pumps on 46th and 51st Avenues on August 15th and 16th. All public works vehicles have been brought up to safety specifications. The trend of increased debris and reduced garbage continues; with that in mind, Director Pitts indicated that once-a-week garbage collection could begin the week before Labor Day; to do so would involve a change in City policy. Director Pitts stated that he intended to rent the necessary equipment to begin clearing the beach access paths beginning next week and the work will continue into October until all are cleared. The Committee unanimously approved the landscaping design bid for Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park, the drainage engineering and design contract for 56th and 57th Avenues by Civil Site Environmental and the purchase of a new garbage truck from Hughes Motors. The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the Front Beach restrooms and agreed to delay any decision until staff obtains a new appraisal of the facility and an estimate of the costs to rehabilitate the restrooms. Director Kerr explained that, if the City decides to construct a new building, it must be elevated like the structure at the County Park and would require two hundred ten feet (210 ft.) of zig-zagging ramp or an elevator. Opportunities to power-wash an elevated building are non-existent and a new building would be of lighter construction.

Mayor Cronin indicated that he does not think the burden for constructing a new Front Beach restroom should fall to the City's taxpayers and stated that he intends to approach Charleston County for financial assistance once a plan is decided upon.

Administrator Tucker notified the Committee of a one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) grant from the Charleston County Transportation Committee toward Phase 2 drainage on the northern end of the island. Beach monitoring for July was within normal ranges.

Referring to the fact that yard debris is decreasing as household garbage is decreasing, Administrator Tucker made two (2) points:

- The City may need to look at a change in the weekly collection schedule and
- Not all local governments pick up debris left by landscapers, and the City may need to look to a change in the code, making the landscapers responsible for removing the debris they generate.

In addition, the Administrator informed the Committee that staff will be sending a letter to the owners of garbage corrals on the island, informing these property owners about the new ordinance that states roll-out carts and recycling containers should not be visible from the roadway and implications for the corrals. The letter informs these property owners that the corrals must be moved back onto private property and out of the rights-of-way.

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 in the City Hall Conference Room.

Councilmember Bergwerf complimented Director Pitts and his staff for turning the 31st Avenue beach access from a jungle to a boulevard; she added that the Turtle Team appreciates their efforts.

D. Recreation Committee

From the meeting of September 9th, Councilmember Bergwerf repeated the monthly mantra that the Recreation Center is a very busy place. Fourteen (14) children are registered for gymnastics, and the 4-year-old Pre-K program is full with ten (10) children in each class. Fifteen (15) children participated in Kid's Night Out in August and the next activity is October 11th. A new class designed to introduce children to sports in a fun manner has thirteen (13) registered. The first middle school dance was held Friday, September 13th, and more than three hundred (300) 6th, 7th, and 8th graders attended. Twenty-one (21) vendors have confirmed their participation in the annual Community Wellness Fair scheduled for Thursday, September 26th from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; as in the past, East Cooper Medical Center will be offering blood work for employees and A Doctor on Call will be giving flu shots. Ghostly Tide Tales returns to the beach on Friday, October 25 at the end of the 28th Avenue beach access. The annual Halloween Carnival will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31st; costume contests will begin at 5:30 p.m. In the month of August the Recreation Center was open three hundred fifty-one (351) hours yet personnel generated only one and three-quarter (1¾) hours of overtime. Staff members met with representatives of the East Cooper Crafters Guild, and efforts are being made to incorporate them into the City's annual events, such as the Holiday Street Festival or Easter Egg Hunt.

Administrator Tucker reminded everyone that the IOP Connector Run will be held on Saturday, October 5th and that the Connector will be closed beginning at 7:00 a.m. that morning.

The Recreation Committee will hold its next meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 7th in the Conference Room.

E. Personnel Committee

Councilmember Thomas reported that, at the meeting of September 5th, Chief Graham and Battalion Chief Jason Smith spoke to the Committee about the turnover rate in the Fire Department and the need for an additional firefighter per shift at Station 2. The Chief informed the Committee that she has requested information from seven (7) local departments and has received the data from four (4) of them; once she has compiled all of the information, she will make a formal request of the Committee. The Committee did unanimously vote to approve an additional firefighter per shift for Station 2. The Committee also discussed the applicants to fill vacancies for boards and commissions for 2014 and voted unanimously to re-appoint all expiring members with a desire to continue serving. The Committee agreed to begin interviewing new applicants on Monday, September 9th. The final action was a unanimous vote to allow City employees to participate in the sale of surplus City property.

The Safety Sweepstakes winners for August were Will McElheny of the Recreation Department, Gary Erickson of the Police Department, George Myers of the Public Works Department and Lynn Golden from the Fire Department.

The Personnel Committee will hold its next meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 3rd in the Conference Room.

F. Real Property Committee

From the meeting of September 4th, Councilmember Buckhannon reported that the Committee had been updated on the status of the Tidal Wave Watersports dock replacement. A meeting of the stakeholders was held at the request of the Committee to resolve differences between the adjacent property owner and Tidal Wave; no consensus was reached. From a visual examination of the dock, John Shaffer of Ocean and Coastal Consultants made the following assessment:

- The handrails are very dangerous and need to be replaced;
- The repairs made after the dredging project are holding;
- The walkway, the stationary part of the dock, is not to commercial standards as it is a residential dock; therefore, it was not built to withstand the load capacity it handles;
- Although not viewed at dead-low tide, there were no major signs of rot in the visible portion of the pilings; and
- In his opinion, the dock is not in a state of imminent failure, but there are areas of concern.

The options for the Committee were (1) to move forward with the permit as originally designed; (2) move forward with an alternate sketch or (3) shore-up identified areas of concern, postponing the replacement until such time as there are plans for the complete marina enhancement project.

Councilmember Buckhannon stated that, if the parties involved cannot reach a decision, the Committee is prepared to make a decision based on what is best for the City.

The Committee unanimously recommended the award of a contract to Central Industries for the replacement of the land-based fuel dispensers at the marina; Councilmember Buckhannon stated that, with the blender option mix, customers have the option to purchase non-ethanol fuel.

The Committee discussed applying for a stand-by permit for the erosional problems at Breach Inlet and asked that the subject be placed on the Ways and Means Committee agenda for discussion by all of Council. The Ways and Means Committee also did not reach a decision and sent the issue back to the Real Property Committee for further review.

The Real Property Committee will hold its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3rd in the Conference Room.

The Real Property Committee also held a Special Meeting on September 19th, anticipating that the parties in dispute would have reached a consensus, but that did not prove to be true. Mr. Shaffer had drawn a couple of design alternatives based on a meeting between the Fiem brothers and property owner Phillip Smith. The Committee knows that there is no decision that will please all of the parties involved, but they are willing to move forward with a decision at the October meeting. The additional work Mr. Shaffer has been charged with relative to these discussions has caused the City to expand the scope of work from Ocean and Coastal Consultants' contract.

On the subject of a stand-by permit for the Breach Inlet erosion, Mayor Cronin recalled that the first pass on the cost for that permit was cost-prohibitive, but the costs of a feasibility study were more moderate. The Mayor noted that he has asked the Director of OCRM whether money in their budget can be used for a feasibility study, which is typically a fifty-fifty (50-50) match. Although the Mayor has not heard back, he asked that the Committee continue its works and, if they think a stand-by permit is worthwhile, he will find out whether OCRM has modified or refined their regulations to allow a feasibility study to be funded.

5. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions

- A. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – no meeting in September
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
- C. Planning Commission** – minutes attached

6. Reports from Special or Joint Committees – None

7. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – None

8. Bills Already in Possession of Council – None

9. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations

A. First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2013-11 – An Ordinance amending Title I, Government and Administration, Chapter 10, Purchasing Procedures, Section 1-10-10, Financial Interest of City Officials and Employees Prohibited, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to permit the award of contracts to City employees at public auction for the same of City personal property or surplus supplies under certain conditions.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Ordinance 2013-11 for First Reading by title only; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Resolution for the Adoption of the Revised Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Administrator Tucker read the resolution into the minutes of the meeting; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved for adoption of the Revised Charleston Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Miscellaneous Business

Discussion of terminating extended hours for parking kiosks.

Administrator Tucker noted that there will be no charge for parking in the parking lots for the Connector Run on Saturday, October 5 or from that point on until March 2014.

At the Ways and Means meeting, Councilmember Buckhannon commented to how much additional revenue the City had received as a result of the extended hours; the adjusted number for the parking lot revenues was six thousand four hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$6,429), or an increase of fifty-three percent (53%), and the adjusted number for the parking kiosks was fifteen thousand one hundred fourteen dollars (\$15,114), or nineteen percent (19%) or a combined increase of twenty-four percent (24%). The Administrator noted that it was difficult to know for sure how much of the increase is attributable to increased traffic versus the extended hours. Councilmember Loftus added that the rate also increased to six dollars (\$6) for the 2013 season.

Councilmember Ward stated that he had heard many complaints from locals about the change for parking kiosks to 8:00 p.m.; he stated that he hoped the City would give the matter serious consideration before taking the same action in 2014.

Mayor Cronin noted that, at the Public Safety Committee meeting, Chief Buckhannon was asked for his opinion about what occurred after the time was changed and the Chief had responded that “it had been a tremendous help especially on Sunday” when the large crowds came to the beach. The Mayor noted that Chief Buckhannon is not known to use the word “tremendous” often.

The next City Council meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22nd.

Councilmember Bergwerf reminded everyone of the Jammin' for Jammer event to be held at The Windjammer from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; there will be a fifteen dollar (\$15) charge at the door and all proceeds go to the expansion of the sea turtle hospital. Nearly every restaurant on the island will be participating; there will be two (2) bands and a wonderful silent auction.

11. Executive Session

Motion: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. to receive legal advice related to a potential claim; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to regular session at 8:38 p.m.; Mayor Cronin stated that Council had not taken action or a vote while in Executive Session.

12. Conclusion/Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk