

SPECIAL MEETING

of

CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2015

A Special Meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2015 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Dziuban and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Loftus' absence was excused.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Appointment of Members to City Boards, Commissions and Committees

The Mayor noted that the recommended appointments to Boards and Commissions and the standing committees of Council were included in meeting packets.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to confirm appointments to Boards and Committees and standing committees of Council as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded. The motion PASSED on a vote of 7 to 0; Councilmember Ferencz recused herself from the vote.

3. Appointment of City Judges, City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to appoint Stirling Halversen for City Attorney and Clay McCullough as Assistant City Attorney; Councilmember Harrington seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Appointment of Councilmember Bettelli to the CARTA Board

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to appoint Councilmember Bettelli to the CARTA board; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Second Reading of Ordinance 2014-12

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to waive the reading and to approve Second Reading of Ordinance 2014-12: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BOND, SERIES 2015, OR SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SERIES DESIGNATION, OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,500,000; FIXING THE FORM AND DETAILS OF THE BOND; AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR OR LAWFULLY AUTHORIZED DESIGNEE TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

Councilmember Bettelli reminded Council that, with this re-financed bond, the City will save approximately seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000) in interest over the six-year (6 yr.) life of the bond.

Councilmember Ward asked whether staff had computed the present value of the savings, i.e. how much it is in real money. The Administrator responded that the computation of the present value had not been done.

Mayor Cronin added that the real dollars also relate to what the City is obligated to pay that is currently at four percent (4%); in his mind these are real savings.

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

6. Discussion of Shoal Management Project

Steven Traynum of Coastal Science and Engineering (CSE) was present to provide Council with an update on the project. Mr. Traynum reported that, since the December Special Meeting, the contractor has moved onto the shoal, and work has proceeded since December 14th. Sand is exclusively being harvested from the shoal and no sand is being harvested from the beach between 53rd and 56th Avenues; Mr. Traynum stated that he does not anticipate any way that the contractor would go back to that area.

Administrator Tucker added that additional sand will not be harvested between 53rd and 56th Avenues for this renourishment project, but future projects are undetermined.

Mr. Traynum reported that as of Sunday evening, the contractor has moved approximately one hundred fifty-six thousand (156,000) cubic yards of sand of the two hundred fifty thousand cubic yards (250,000 cu. yds.) permitted for this initiative.

On the subject of payment, Mr. Traynum noted that the City had the option of a unit rate of four dollars and a quarter (\$4.25) per cubic yard plus a surcharge of fifty cents (\$.50) per cubic yard for the first twenty-five thousand (125,000) cubic yards or a daily rate. The daily rate is based on paying Baker per day worked, and the contractor would work as long as possible around low tide. At this point in the project, paying a daily rate is working to the City's advantage; since moving onto the shoal, the cost per cubic yard is approximately four dollars ten cents (\$4.10) per cubic yard. When checking the schedule and the tides, there are only two (2) days in January that they will not be able to work. Mr. Traynum stated that he believes that the project can be completed without paying any standby days; therefore, he was confident that the project will be completed within budget. At this time, there are thirty-four (34) more working days in the budget that will take the project into February.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether an extra high or extra low tide was advantageous to the project. Mr. Traynum responded that, with an extra low tide, the trucks can get further onto the shoal, but the extra high tide levels out the work. As long as the weather is good, the tide range does not matter as much to the performance of the fill.

Mr. Traynum said that the average beach elevation is six feet (6 ft.), but the plan is to leave the beach higher than normal until the end of the project to keep as much sand on the high beach as possible.

Councilmember Carroll asked how far toward the inlet will sand be placed. Mr. Traynum answered that he does not plan to go any further than they are presently; the closer the sand is placed to the inlet, the faster it is going to be lost to the inlet.

Commenting that the bulk of sand permitted to be moved has already been done, Councilmember Buckhannon asked whether the City was going to meet its objective or need a bit more sand to do that.

Mr. Traynum stated that he would like to move as much sand as possible off the shoal onto the beach, giving the City control over where the sand goes initially. Based on accessible sand, he believes that the contractor will move very close to the permitted volume of sand; if the City decides that more sand is needed, the permit will have to be modified. He indicated that he does not know how the shoal will react to the project:

- Will it form new shoals as it moves on shore, or
- Will most of the sand move onshore under water?

He remarked that he hopes that sufficient sand will be moved to the beach to solve enough of the erosion problem to last for a year or two (2).

Mr. Traynum suggested that the City start the planning process for another permit for an off-shore project; if the time comes when there is not enough accessible sand on the beach, an off-shore project is the only alternative for beach renourishment. The permitting process will take one to two (1-2) years; permits are good for five (5) years and can be renewed for another five (5) years by proving that the beach is being regularly monitored.

Mayor Cronin stated that the appearance is that twice as much sand has been moved in front of Ocean Club as was placed there in 2012 with nearly a hundred thousand (100,000) cubic yards remaining in the permit. He observed that, with high tides, the waves had not created an escarpment in front of Beachwood East. Mr. Traynum expressed confidence that the beach at Beachwood East will be much more stable, but the plan is to add more sand.

Councilmember Ferencz asked whether there was any kind of repetitive cycle that would allow the City to predict when major projects will be needed. Mr. Traynum replied that CSE does not have the data or studies to predict when major projects will be needed, but he does know that a shoal attaches about every six (6) years on average. CSE is of the opinion that the island may go into a period of stability on the north end of the island if the spit at Dewees Inlet attaches.

6. Accomplishments of 2014

The Mayor encouraged everyone to review the 2014 Accomplishments and to compare it to the report of accomplishments from prior years to see how the City has evolved.

The Mayor specifically noted that the administrative staff dedication and work to ensure the completion of these and other accomplishments, large and small.

7. **Executive Session** to receive legal advice for a potential claim related to the Shoal Management Project.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. for the reason stated above; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council returned to regular session at 6:47 p.m.; the Mayor announced that Council had not taken any action or taken a vote while in Executive Session.

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION: Councilmember Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted;

Marie Copeland
City Clerk