

## CITY COUNCIL

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2016

The regular meeting of City Council was held at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2016 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Carroll, Ferencz, Harrington, Rice and Ward, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. The absence of Councilmember Kinghorn 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. Following a brief invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Clerk Copeland called the roll.

### 2. Reading of the Journals of Previous Meetings

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bettelli moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2016 and the Special Meeting of April 28, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Ferencz noted that the dollar amounts associated with changes to the budget should be reported in the minutes of budget workshops in the future.

### 3. Citizens' Comments

Joe Petro of *Coconut Joe's* urged Council to reconsider the parking fees that are currently being charged in the municipal lots. He explained that his restaurant does not get the usual beach-goer, but gets people who want to have dinner, walk on the beach and then go home or to *The Windjammer* or *The Banana Cabana*. They come in at 5:30 p.m. and must pay ten dollars (\$10) for two and a half (2½) hours of parking before they get out of their cars. In his opinion, the preferred parking would be on the street at a dollar and a half (\$1.50) per hour, where parking is typically not available, so the person must go into secondary parking in the municipal lot and pay ten dollars (\$10). He suggested that either the City revert to the way it was, i.e. parking in the municipal lots free after 6:00 p.m.; he reported that he gets most of his customers after 5:00 p.m. His second suggestion was to make all of the kiosks the same; he opined that the City would get more money if it were to go to an hourly rate. He stated that he thought it was "egregious to charge ten dollars (\$10) at 6:00 p.m. for two (2) hours of parking." He concluded with asking Council to consider making a change and the sooner the better.

Gerald Johnson, 3102 Cameron Boulevard, recalled that he had spoken to Council at the Ways and Means Committee meeting of May 17<sup>th</sup> regarding the loss of his boat slip at the marina; at that time, he requested a copy of the City's lease with the marina manager; it was sent to him, and he appreciated the gesture. His situation was resolved when he sat down with Manager Berrigan and the facts were laid out; the result was a win-win situation. He stated that Mr. Berrigan was doing a great job at the marina and appreciated one (1) comment he made that he would rather rent to a resident than an off-islander.

Mr. Johnson addressed the parking situation around his house; he acknowledged that the island has parking issues and that Council is trying to do something about it. He commented that he has been parking in front of his home for forty-five (45) years, and he has had more troubles since

the houses around him became short term rentals and people want to park in front of his house. He stated that he has called the police numerous times to see what could be done about it, and been informed that the officer could not write a ticket because it was private property. Now he has to get a sticker, and, if friend or his family comes to visit, they cannot park in front of his house any more without getting a parking pass. He said that he thought the burden was going to be put on the day-trippers, but the burden has been placed on the residents to get residential parking stickers. He noted that he has one (1) sticker on his car allowing him to return to this home after a hurricane, and he did not understand why that would not suffice. He added that he must buy a booklet of passes for his family to visit him. He understood that rental property should have off-street parking for number of cars that can be there. He said that Council should always ask one (1) question in relation to everything they act upon and that question is "What benefit will the residents receive from what Council does?" He concluded by reminding Councilmembers that November was coming soon.

#### **4. Reports from Standing Committees**

##### **A. Ways and Means Committee**

From the meeting of May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor reported that Mr. Johnson had addressed the Committee regarding issues he was having at the marina. Frank Carson from the Charleston County Public Works Department explained the two (2) FEMA Public Assistance projects the County was proposing for the Isle of Palms if the City will commit to paying the twenty-five percent (25%) local share. One (1) drainage project would be on Ocean Boulevard from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Breach Inlet and the second would involve cleaning and assessing the island's piped drainage system. The cost of the first project is two hundred fifty-three thousand seventy-seven dollars (\$253,077). The second project has a cost of six hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$630,000); the City's twenty-five percent (25%) share totals two hundred twenty thousand eight hundred forty dollars (\$220,840).

In the Treasurer's financial reports, the Committee was told that, with a target of eighty-three percent (83%), General Fund revenues were at seventy-nine percent (79%) of budget, which was actually ahead of where the City was last year. Property Taxes are the same as last year being one hundred percent (100%) of where the City was last year. The cash balance in the General Fund remains at thirty percent (30%) of annual General Fund expenditures, and, as stated in prior meetings, total cash is two million dollars (\$2,000,000) ahead of FY15 due to the Beach Preservation Fee Fund and the tourism funds. Overall expenditures are at eighty-one percent (81%) of budget through April 2016. The Mayor noted that, in General Government, additional expense was incurred in the month by paying the accrued interest on the retiring loan when the City closed on the re-financing of the bond for Fire Station 2. Although Municipal Accommodations fee collections were slightly less than the same month in FY15, collections year-to-date exceed FY15 by five percent (5%). The third quarter's State Accommodations Tax was greater than any year since 2010 and is three point two percent (3.2%) greater than FY15 year-to-date. Hospitality Tax collections were strong for April; collections are running six percent (6%) greater than FY15 year-to-date. Approximately five hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$590,000) has been collected year-to-date in Beach Preservation Fee funds.

Revenue from the municipal parking lots was approximately thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000) through May 16<sup>th</sup>; total revenue to-date from the parking lot kiosks is fifty-one thousand

one hundred seventy-one dollars (\$51,171); by the end of May, the City will have paid for its initial investment.

In anticipation of Second Reading on the FY17 budget later in this meeting, some of the changes approved by the Ways and Means Committee were as follows:

- Adding back the two (2) police officers and the payroll/human resource person;
- Per a notice from PEBA, increasing the retirement by 0.5%;
- Increasing parking revenue by \$129,000 based on kiosks going to \$1.50 on Front Beach;
- Adding in the 25% local share of the 2 FEMA projects proposed by the County;
- Adding \$10,000 to Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance;
- Adding 2 surveillance cameras for the municipal parking lots; and
- Adding in the salary for taking the Treasurer from three quarters time to full time.

The Committee had an extended discussion of potential, additional parking for marina employees at the property owned by the IOP Water and Sewer Commission on Waterway Boulevard; at this time, discussions are continuing.

After an Executive Session where members heard from the Chairman of County Council, the Committee unanimously approved a motion “to continue the dialogue with PRC (Parks and Recreation Commission of Charleston County) along the lines of their establishing a lease with the City for the property for the purposes of building a new restroom facility and, if possible, any other extension thereto of the use of the facility that PRC may wish to entertain.” The Mayor reminded the Committee that one hundred eight or one hundred nine thousand dollars (\$108,000-109,000) has been included in the FY17 budget for the design and engineering of new public restrooms. The total cost of new restrooms would be two thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) funded by the PRC and one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) by the City.

**1. Approval of up to \$15,000 to the contract with ATM for additional meetings and marina concepts**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve up to \$15,000 to ATM for additional meetings and marina concepts; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

The Mayor stated that this action would give the City more flexibility to work with the tenants, looking at access for golf carts, walking paths as well as vehicular/boat traffic moving on and off the site.

Councilmember Carroll commented that this would be the fourth study.

Councilmember Bergwerf explained that this money would not be used for any additional study; ATM had completed their contract, therefore, without more money, the City could not ask any more questions of them. She said that ATM may have to do another rendering, but there would be no additional study.

Councilmember Ward asked how much money the City had spent to get Concepts A and B.

Administrator Tucker recalled that the original ATM proposal was about one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$165,000), but the scope of work was reduced cutting the cost to approximately ninety-three thousand dollars (\$93,000); Concepts A and B were included as part of that contract. The Planning Commission iteration was funded with an additional five thousand dollars (\$5,000). The marina tenants commented on that version at the last Real Property Committee meeting and pointed out some serious safety concerns related to it; the recommendation was made to continue a relationship with ATM to get marina tenants' input on the Planning Commission's version.

Councilmember Rice stated that the Real Property Committee was trying to get it right – all of the puzzle pieces must fit together perfectly. She stated that nothing malicious was happening; the Real Property Committee wants to get the plan right so that it works for everyone.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 6 to 2 with Councilmembers Ferencz and Carroll casting dissenting votes.**

**2. Approval to increase fees at the marina to \$20 per day to launch and \$10 per day to park for off-island guests on Friday through Sunday between May 15 and September 15**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to increase launch and parking fees at the marina as detailed above; Councilmember Carroll seconded.**

Councilmember Ferencz asked where the additional revenue would go; the Mayor answered that it would go to the marina manager, and, by contract, a portion would come to the City.

According to Councilmember Bergwerf, the goal of the increased fees was to reduce the number of off-island cars, trailers and boats at the marina. She did not think that the Marina Manager would see a windfall profit from the increase, but keep the revenue stream as it has been.

Since the launch fee includes the parking fee, Councilmember Ferencz asked why there were vehicles with trailers parked on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and on Waterway Boulevard and not at the marina.

Councilmember Bergwerf stated the picture Councilmember Ferencz painted was the crux of the problem, i.e. trying to establish a plan that keeps all of the businesses at the marina within the marina parking lot.

Councilmember Carroll asked why, when the pre-determined launch/parking toggle was reached, selling of launch tickets continues.

The Mayor reiterated that people with season passes must be allowed to launch no matter what time of day they arrive or how many have gone before; the Mayor indicated that he wants to discuss the issue of annual passes with the marina manager. In the Mayor's opinion, the elimination of the annual passes would allow for better controls.

Councilmember Bettelli commented that people were coming and going from the marina all during the day, and the Mayor recognized the island residents who launch their boat and take their vehicle and trailer home to return to the marina by bike or golf cart.

Councilmember Ferencz countered that, if signage for "Resident Only Parking" were placed on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Waterway Boulevard, boaters would have to park at the marina; currently the City has no means of forcing them to park at the marina.

Mayor Cronin commented that these boaters would find a place to park somewhere.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 3. Award of a contract to Ledford's Termite and Pest Control in the amount of \$12,900 to protect all City buildings, except Public Works, from Formosan termites**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to award a contract to Ledford's Termite and Pest Control in the amount of \$12,900 to protect City building from Formosan termites; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 4. Approval of a Change Order to Thomas and Hutton agreement in an amount up to \$10,500 to allow for bid and construction oversight**

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve a Thomas and Hutton Change Order in an amount up to \$10,500 for bid assistance and construction oversight; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.**

Councilmember Ward asked how much was budgeted for the NPDES improvements at the Public Works site, and Treasurer Suggs responded that it was three hundred fourteen thousand five hundred thirty dollars (\$314,530).

The Administrator added that this project had not yet been bid; therefore, the budget numbers were based on estimates, but the Administrator has been told that bids currently are coming in high.

Councilmember Ward asked whether the replacement of the underground fuel tanks was included, and he was told they were not and have a cost of two hundred forty-six thousand six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$246,675). Another cost for the Public Works site was the replacement of the fuel pump canopy at twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). The Councilmember remarked that a couple of years ago he suggested relocating Public Works off-island; he was told it would cost in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) and the subject was dropped. This year the costs of the improvements to the site are budgeted at approximately six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000); he stated that he will be interested in seeing the final costs.

Councilmember Bettelli recalled that the million dollars (\$1,000,000) quoted at the time was primarily for land acquisition.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The last piece of business was a brief discussion of the 2016 fireworks, and the Committee unanimously approved additional funds for food and incidentals associated with the event. The Mayor added that it will be a stressful event since high tide is at about 8:30 p.m. that night; and the fireworks are scheduled to go off at 9:00 p.m. or 9:15 p.m.

## **B. Public Safety Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Councilmember Bettelli stated that Ida Havelka spoke to the Committee on the dangers some encroachments in the rights-of-way create and voiced her support for having all encroachments removed from the rights-of-way. When Chief Buckhannon tried to get a listing of the encroachments approved by SCDOT, he was told that the City would have to pay between twenty and twenty-two dollars (\$20-22) per hour for someone to research the SCDOT records and that it could take days to weeks to complete the work. Chair Bettelli asked if it would be simpler to give SCDOT a list of the most egregious encroachments for them to identify if they were permitted. Administrator Tucker said that she found it hard to believe that SCDOT would permit any encroachment that would prevent someone from safely pulling off the road to allow an emergency vehicle to pass; the permitted encroachments would be for low level vegetation or driveways. The discussion on encroachments will continue in future meetings, but the Committee was anxious to get input from the full Council.

Mayor Cronin noted that this subject has been discussed many times in recent years and has resulted in no progress toward resolving the problem. The City has been more successful in preventing new encroachments from going in or in assisting the residents with the encroachment application form from SCDOT. At one time, Council looked at tackling the issue by zones or areas, but that would have had residents asking “why us and not them?”

Councilmember Bergwerf noted that she was on record for saying many times that she did not want to tell her neighbors that they must remove their encroachments in the right-of-way to provide additional parking for day-trippers. Watching the firemen responding to the Citadel Beach House fire and seeing how much area was needed to deploy all of their resources, she realized that these encroachments are not a parking issue, but a public safety issue. But she still did not have a way to solve the problem.

Attorney Halversen confirmed the Mayor’s comments that this was an all or nothing problem.

Since the problem has been around for years, Councilmember Ward asked why it was coming up now? The City’s plate is full adapting to the new parking plan.

Councilmember Bettelli said that the discussion has come up again for discussion to re-enforce the issue as a public safety problem.

Responding to Council Ferencz, Administrator Tucker noted that Stantec had done an inventory of encroachments in the rights-of-way in a low, medium and high priority based on the degree of difficulty in removing them.

The Administrator opined that part of the problem was a public information problem; she believes that some citizens do not realize that the right-of-way is not part of their yard, and it is not their

yard to the point that they can landscape it to the point that one could not drive over it. Any kind of amenity to be placed in the SCDOT right-of-way, areas beyond the property line, requires an encroachment permit from SCDOT, and they are very specific about what they allow and will not allow. The Administrator thought a good idea would be to get the word out because some residents might comply voluntarily.

With the parking plan limiting parking anywhere except Palm Boulevard and Front Beach, Councilmember Carroll suggested that, if the Council were so inclined, the removal of encroachments should start on those streets.

Mayor Cronin said that the residents along Palm Boulevard might disagree and claim – in court – that they are being singled out.

Councilmember Ferencz added that the parking areas are part of a program.

The Mayor called the encroachments issue a Gordian knot, and Councilmember Ferencz stated that the City cannot continue to ignore the problem.

Councilmember Rice reported seeing a new encroachment on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue which blocks the emergency beach access; she said that she had reported it to the Police Department. She said that it looks like someone has put logs along the road to obstruct access to their new grass. She thought that those property owners needed to be educated that this is a critical emergency beach access for the safety of beach-goers.

Councilmember Bettelli commented that the Public Safety Committee reviewed the FY17 budget and increased the vehicle maintenance for the Fire Department and added back to two (2) additional police officers. Chief Buckhannon reported that the City has set out a new coyote trap in a spot identified by the IOP Water and Sewer Commission close to another hot zone in the Forest Trail area; an animal was in the trap, but managed to escape. Reports of sightings are diminishing, but some calls are still coming in. He reported that there has been illegal dumping of yard debris on the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beach access; it appears to have stopped temporarily, or maybe permanently.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, officers reported to a vehicle on fire in the municipal parking lot on Pavilion Drive; upon arrival, the crew found a fire in the storage compartment of the commercial shredder employed for the Hazardous Materials/Shred Day. Wild Dunes reported the sighting of a six-foot (6 ft.) alligator washed up in the surf; the crew notified DNR, but the alligator later swam back into the ocean. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, personnel launched the jet-ski to investigate something in the water behind 2800 Palm Boulevard; the object turned out to be a dead leatherback turtle that had been hit by a boat. During the month, personnel responded to sixty-six (66) calls, and, of that number, twenty-nine (29) were EMS calls. The Chief noted that having the QRV on the island was reducing response times. Ten (10) pre-incident surveys were done in April. Chief Graham reported that she is very close to hiring a new Fire Inspector. Medical in-service training consisted of a quarterly skills review on the treatment of shock and cardiovascular emergencies. The Disaster Expo was held on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and attendance was less than expected.

Chief Buckhannon reported that seven (7) BSOs have been hired and one (1) officer has been hired who will be going to the academy as soon as a space is available. The parking lots are up, the signs are in place and the kiosks are operational; he added that people do not understand why the kiosks on Front Beach are hourly while the kiosks in the parking lots are daily. The Chief replied that two or three (2-3) personnel are in the lots during the busiest part of the day, 10:00 a.m. til 3:00 p.m. on weekends and are being paid at their overtime rates. Administrator Tucker added that staff believes that personnel will only be needed in this inaugural year of the kiosks in the parking lots and the parking management program. Chief Buckhannon said that the City may need to add one or two (1-2) additional kiosks to make them more visible to visitors. On the Livability front, there were seven (7) noise complaints for which two (2) received citations; one (1) warning was given to the owner of a barking dog, and one (1) coyote sighting was reported. Island residents with residential parking stickers can park in the lot at no cost from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Public Safety Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room.

Before moving on, Mayor Cronin thanked the Fire Department for their response to the Citadel Beach House fire; thankfully, the tenants that were there managed to get out safely on their own. What the Mayor saw firsthand was that firefighters knew their role; the training they get kicked into gear when confronted with a fire.

Councilmember Bettelli noted that the City had bought some additional equipment last year and it was put to use in this fire.

The Mayor also thanked the Police Department for their efforts at the first turtle release of the year; it has been said that between fifteen hundred and two thousand (1,500-2,000) people were on the beach for the release.

Referring to the QRV that is now on the island, Councilmember Carroll commented that Charleston County was doing a lot to help the residents of the Isle of Palms with the addition of traffic cameras on the Mount Pleasant side of the Connector, assistance with the Front Beach restrooms and the presence of the QRV all the time beginning later in the summer. He expressed his thanks to Charleston County for it all.

Mayor Cronin stated that, when the City asks, they tend to eventually respond; it may take some time or some back room maneuvering, but he was pleased with their responsiveness. The Mayor said that it had only been about eighteen (18) months ago that the City had asked for a QRV presence on the island, and they just did it.

Councilmember Ward asked if there would be discussion at this meeting about the problem Mr. Petro brought to Council.

The Mayor answered that his suggestions would go before the Public Safety Committee at their June meeting.

### **C. Public Works Committee**



At the meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup>, Director Pitts reported that landscaping/road maintenance picked up, and Charleston County stormwater crews were on the island cleaning several ditch systems primarily in the 21<sup>st</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue area and the storm inlet at 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossover. The Hazardous Waste and Shred Day was held Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in cooperation with Charleston County; one hundred seventy-six (176) cars delivered hazardous materials.

Yard debris was down considerably for the same month last year, but the delivery on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> was not included in the Director's number. Garbage was down in April from the same month last year.

Vehicle maintenance was quite high because several trucks needed preventative maintenance; the Director still intends to end the year under or at budget.

As at other meetings, Administrator Tucker reviewed the changes that would be included in the next version of the budget.

Considerable discussion with Frank Carson and Chris Wannamaker from Charleston County Public Works was held relative to the two (2) FEMA projects Charleston County is proposing for the City under the Public Assistance program; they were present to describe the projects and to get a preliminary commitment from the City to pay the twenty-five percent (25%) local share. Good news was shared with the Committee about the golf cart path between 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Island Center, i.e. the City has received the SCDOT encroachment permit; the project has gone out for bid and bids will be opened on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The Committee briefly discussed the status of Phase II Drainage and unanimously approved the change order for Thomas and Hutton that was approved earlier.

The next Public Works Committee meeting will be at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2, 2016 in the Conference Room.

#### **D. Recreation Committee**

Reporting on the meeting of May 4, Councilmember Carroll stated that children's classes will be wrapping up for the summer, but the fitness classes will continue through the summer. The Keenagers had forty-five (45) seniors at their last meeting; this will be their last meeting before the summer break today. The Middle School Dance on April 8<sup>th</sup> drew eighty-five (85) young people. Camp Summershine is completely full and begins the first week of June; there will also be athletic camps over the summer. The Director said that the annual Yard Sale was another big success with fifty (50) booths; she reported that the assistance they received from the Police Department was "awesome." The Committee also briefly discussed adding booths to the yard sale and possibly having another one in the fall. Music in the Park was a huge success with approximately four hundred (400) people attending. Prior to the Music in the Park event, the City unveiled the marker for the Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park, and the Bunch family was very appreciative. Because of her past experience, Director Page is the substitute race chair for the 2016 Connector Run. The Director said that the major complaint in the parking lots has been that people cannot see the kiosks, so flags are going to be put up, like the ones on a golf course, on the top of the kiosks to help visitors locate them. The Committee also discussed increasing the fees for Camp Summershine, keeping in mind families with multiple children attending camp.

When the Committee reviewed the FY17 budget, the Recreation Department's budget only increased by three percent (3%), and that increase came from items beyond the Committee's control. The respondents to the survey about Recreation facilities and programs have come primarily from residents who are over sixty (60) years of age.

The next meeting will be August 2, 2016 in the Conference Room.

Councilmember Carroll reminded Council that the annual Sand Sculpting Contest will begin at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, June 4, 2016 at Front Beach.

Mayor Cronin noted that Music in the Park was so well attended yet the Disaster Expo drew only a few in comparison; he questioned what the City could do to draw people to the Disaster Expo at a time when so many residents on the island have never experienced a hurricane or an evacuation.

#### **E. Personnel Committee**

From the meeting of May 5<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Harrington reported that, like other committees, the Personnel Committee reviewed the FY17 budget and discussed the need for someone in the payroll/human resources position. Administrator Tucker explained how eligible employees accrue and use compensatory time. The Committee also discussed changing the way candidates file for elected office from petitions to a filing fee; comments made to support the change were that candidates are not allowed to go door-to-door in Wild Dunes and that the time to gather signatures is the hottest part of the summer. Clerk Copeland stated that she had attended a meeting at the Charleston County Election Commission with clerks from other municipalities holding elections on the same day in 2015 and learned that all of the local governments represented use a candidate filing fee and not petitions. The Committee unanimously moved to recommend to Council to replace the petitions for elected office with filing fees.

Mayor Cronin recalled that Council has discussed going to a filing fee in the past, and past Councilmember Buckhannon has re-introduced the idea since the City is not in an election year.

Councilmember Bettelli stated that he knew of one (1) person who was planning to run for office in the last election, but became ill and was unable to collect signatures; another person who ran for the IOP Water and Sewer Commission was fortunate to get his petitions signed when another candidate carried his with hers. He said that he thought the change to filing fees would encourage more people to run for elected office.

Mayor Cronin then asked what the fee was to be; he noted that one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) was discussed by the Personnel Committee and questioned whether it was enough or too much.

Councilmember Ward suggested that staff should find out what the fining fees are for other local governments in the area.

Attorney Halversen indicated that she had researched other municipalities and found that the filing fees covered a broad range and that she had chosen a middle-ground for the ordinance. She added that the fee could be whatever Council decided was fair.

The Mayor said that he liked the idea of the filing fee, but he thought it should be substantial enough that it was not a frivolous action, but, at the same time, not a burden to a potential candidate.

Expressing his opinion, Councilmember Ward said that he would support a higher fee for Council and higher yet for mayor.

Mayor Cronin suggested that Council take no action on the issue at this meeting but consider what the fees should be for discussion next month.

Councilmember Carroll thought the past two (2) elections were sad in that the number of candidates equaled the number of offices to be filled so that no election was needed. He added that he enjoyed going door-to-door talking to the residents and hearing what kind of issues they were unhappy about, but he acknowledged that a filing fee would not prevent a candidate from interacting with the residents in whatever way he/she saw fit.

Councilmember Rice stated that it was bad that the gathering of signatures for petitions fell in August when the temperatures hover around one hundred degrees (100<sup>o</sup>) and many residents are out of town.

The Mayor indicated that the consensus of Council was to proceed with this change as long as the fee was properly structured.

The decision was to proceed with First Reading at this meeting without specifying the filing fees and to direct the Personnel Committee to come back to Council with fee recommendations.

Safety Sweepstakes winners for April were Battalion Chief Hathaway from the Fire Department, Detective Diane Tarr from the Police Department, Aaron Sweet from the Recreation Department and Willie Powell from the Public Works Department.

The only vacancy in the City is for one (1) additional BSO; all other Departments are fully staffed.

Pursuant to Councilmember Kinghorn's recommendation to reduce the number of meetings, the Personnel Committee will hold its next meeting at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room. Councilmember Harrington suggested that other Committees consider taking similar action.

He announced that he had been notified by the Surf Rider Foundation that they plan to do a beach sweep from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at the pier. Councilmember Bergwerf indicated that the Turtle Team had also been notified of the sweep.

Mayor Cronin asked Assistant Fragoso to add this information to the City's website.

#### **F. Real Property Committee**

Reporting from the meeting of May 5<sup>th</sup>, Councilmember Bergwerf related that the marina tenants were asked to comment on the marina concept unveiled at the marina workshop; the Committee

learned that the marina tenants had no input into this concept and all had comments to make. The Committee plans to meet with Kirby Marshall of ATM, Scott Parker of DesignWorks and the marina tenants at the next meeting to review the plan in detail and make suggestions for changes to be made for another version of the redevelopment plan. The City is discussing with the IOP Water and Sewer Commission a temporary solution to the overflow parking issues at the marina; potentially, property owned by the Water and Sewer Commission on Waterway Boulevard could be used for parking for marina employees, which could open thirty to fifty (30-50) parking spaces at the marina.

As part of *Old Business*, the Committee discussed the problem with the bulkhead at the marina; until an engineering assessment is done, the City will not know the nature of the problem, how severe it is or have recommendation(s) for corrective action. The Administrator said that her primary concern was the weight of the structures that are on the area between the new bulkhead and the old one; she commented that, when the new bulkhead was installed, it was built water-ward of the old wooden bulkhead leaving a space between. The City's goal is to advertise an RFP for the engineering assessment in the next two (2) weeks and to allow three (3) weeks for responses.

Parking and solutions were discussed again and will be an ongoing challenge during the discussions on the marina redevelopment. To move forward, the Committee unanimously voted to seek additional funds to allow the City to continue to work with ATM to tweak the most recent version of the marina redevelopment through both meetings and additional visual concepts.

Marina Manager Berrigan suggesting increasing the launch fees to twenty dollars (\$20) and parking fees to \$10 for off-island guest at the marina from May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; resident fees would remain the same.

The Committee reviewed the changes appearing in the next version of the FY17 budget.

The Real Property Committee will hold its next meeting at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, June 2, 2016 in the Conference Room.

Councilmember Carroll asked if the City could run a shuttle for marina employees between the municipal parking lot and the marina, rather than augmenting security at the Water and Sewer Commission's property.

Councilmember Bergwerf indicated that the employees or their employers would pay a fee for parking at the Water and Sewer Commission's property to defer the City's investment in the security of the site.

With Memorial Day the next weekend, Councilmember Ward said that he had been approached by a couple of the Front Beach businesses who were concerned about the volume of public parking in the small lot where they have purchased seasonal parking passes for their employees.

Administrator Tucker responded that the small municipal lot would be reserved for Front Beach employees on busy weekends like Memorial Day.

**6. Reports from City Officers, Boards and Commissions**

- A. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee** – minutes attached
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals** – minutes attached
- C. Planning Commission** – minutes attached

**7. Reports from Special of Joint Committees – none**

**8. Petitions Received, Referred or Disposed of – none**

**9. Bills Already in Possession of Council**

**Second Reading of Ordinance 2016-05 – An Ordinance to Raise Revenue and Adopt a Budget for the City of Isle of Palms, South Carolina, for the fiscal year Beginning July 1, 2016 and Ending June 30, 2017.**

**AMENDMENT:** Mayor Cronin moved to amend Ordinance 2016-05 as presented at First Reading to reflect the changes in the newest version of the FY17 budget dated May 19, 2016; Councilmember Bettelli seconded and the amendment PASSED on a vote of 5 to 3 with Councilmember Carroll, Ferencz and Ward dissenting.

**AMENDED MOTION:** Mayor Cronin moved to adopt Ordinance 2016-05 as amended for Second Reading and to suspend the reading; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 6 to 2 with Councilmembers Ferencz and Ward dissenting.

Mayor Cronin stated that the amount of money in the FY17 budget assigned to stormwater improvements is close to half a million dollars (\$500,000) to improve the flow of stormwater in addition to the one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) that goes annually to Eadie's to maintain the island's ditches. In addition, the underground fuel storage tanks must be changed out this year under EPA requirements. The Mayor reported that, for the critical funds of the City, the composite year-end total is projected to be in excess of thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000), up from ten million (\$10,000,000) in FY12.

**10. Introduction of New Bills, Resolutions and Proclamations**

- A. First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2016-06 – An Ordinance Amending Title 3, Public Works, Chapter 3, Stormwater Regulations, Article B, Stormwater Management Utility Fee, Providing for the Classification of Real Property Subject to Such Fees, Establishing the Amount of Stormwater Management Utility Fees, and Providing for the Use of Such Fees by the Stormwater Management Utility of the City of Isle of Palms.**

**MOTION:** Mayor Cronin moved to approve Ordinance 2016-06, by title only, for First Reading; Councilmember Bettelli seconded

Mayor Cronin commented that, by the passage of this ordinance, the City will go to a stormwater fee of forty-eight dollars (\$48) annually, giving the City time to determine if it will stay with Charleston County as Utility Manager or go with Mount Pleasant or do on its own.

Councilmember Bettelli thanked those who had lobbied County Council on the City's behalf to prevent the fee from doubling to seventy-two dollars (\$72) annually.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. First Reading, by title only, of Ordinance 2016-07 – An Ordinance Amending Title 1, Government and Administration, Chapter 8, Elections, Section 1-8-3, Nonpartisan Elections; Procedure, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Change the Procedure for Nominations from Filing of Nomination Petitions to Filing of Statement of Candidacy and Filing Fee.**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve Ordinance 2016-07, by title only, for First Reading; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. A Resolution Authorizing an Application to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Funds to Elevate the Public Restrooms at Front Beach**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the resolution and to suspend the reading; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **11. Miscellaneous Business**

##### **Affirmation of CTC 2017 Requests**

The City's prioritized 2017 CTC projects are due in a short timeframe that does not allow for the usual process of establishing the list through the Public Safety Committee and the Public Works Committee. Projects submitted in recent years have been (1) additional funding for Phase II Drainage and (2) bike paths for the full length of Palm Boulevard on both sides; staff is requesting a vote affirming that City Council desires to proceed with these projects as prioritized.

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to repeat the most recent CTC projects requests of additional funding for Phase II Drainage and bike paths on both sides of the road for the entire length of Palm Boulevard; Mayor Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **12. Executive Session – not needed**

#### **13. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**