

**CITY COUNCIL
Special Meeting**

2:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2016

A Special Meeting of City Council was held at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 5, 2016 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Carroll, Harrington, Kinghorn, Rice and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Attorney Halversen, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Ferencz was absent.

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.
2. **Consideration of granting City-sponsored event status to HGTV's *Island Life* filming on the island from October 12 through October 31, 2016**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to grant City-sponsored event status to the filming of HGTV's *Island Life* on the island; Councilmember Bettelli seconded.

Administrator Tucker reported that David Grant, a producer for HGTV's *Island Life* participated in a Public Safety Committee meeting on October 4th via telephone; Mr. Grant explained the premise of the show Was following a family as they get acquainted with the island and search for a beach house to purchase. A crew of eight (8) will be transported in two (2) mini-vans and will not require any special attention from public safety personnel; permissions have been obtained from the restaurants, businesses and homeowner associations where scenes might be filmed. They want to feature the best parts of the island and its beauty. Mr. Grant assured the Committee that their filming would have little impact on the City's public safety personnel. Administrator Tucker reported that the City has received the certificate of insurance, naming the City as an additional insured.

With Hurricane Matthew off shore, the filming may be delayed, but the Mayor stated that the City-sponsored event status will allow HGTV to film for a three (3) week period between now and the end of the year.

The Administrator requested that Mr. Grant provide more lead time for any future filming because of the City's procedure for granting City-sponsored event status. She told Mr. Grant about "Ghostly Tide Tales," scheduled for Friday, October 21st, thinking that it would be an excellent way for the visiting family to get to know the family-focused atmosphere on the island.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Discussion of preparedness activities related to Hurricane Matthew**

With the prospect of Hurricane Matthew coming ashore in close proximity to the Isle of Palms, Mayor Cronin stated that City staff was making the necessary preparations to protect City assets. Currently Charleston County is at Operating Condition 2 (OPCON 2), meaning that a disaster or emergency situation is in effect, maximum preparedness level, and full activation of the Charleston County Emergency Operations Center. The City has been notified that at 3:00 p.m. today, the County will go to OPCON 1, the highest state of emergency operations.

Administrator Tucker reported that the forecast had improved and that current predictions were that the storm will come ashore in North Carolina, but everyone must stay alert. City Personnel will continue with storm preparations as the island will see a storm surge, severe tides and high winds. At 3:00 p.m. today, SCDOT will reverse the lanes for I-25 and I-526 to facilitate evacuations; at about the same time, public safety personnel will begin riding down the streets with bull horns announcing the evacuation. Wild Dunes closed the resort at noon today. The Administrator stated that arrangements have been made at the Homewood Suites across the Connector for staff members and public safety and public works personnel to stay during the storm. If City facilities were to be damaged, staff would operate from the Charleston County Municipal Building on the Mount Pleasant side of the Connector. The Marina has gasoline for anyone needing to fill their automobile, and the Kangaroo across the street will close at noon tomorrow.

Mayor Cronin added that there are six (6) shelters and one (1) owner/pet shelter open, and the Administrator noted that the County has established pickup points where people can gather for transportation to shelters.

The Administrator reported that there is misinformation being communicated throughout the island that a time has been set to close the Connector; she stated that the Connector will close only when the winds make it dangerous to cross.

For a more orderly evacuation of the coast, Folly Beach has been asked to evacuate today with Kiawah, Horry County and Georgetown following tomorrow.

Councilmember Ward commented that, with the SCE&G line under the marsh, the island might have only limited power outages.

The Administrator foreshadowed purchases that may be necessary under an emergency situation, such as a post-storm beach survey and the deployment of equipment on the beach to move sand. The Mayor remarked that the storm will approach the Isle of Palms at low tide, which is most favorable to the island.

If the City sustains serious damage from the hurricane, access to the island will be limited with public safety personnel in the lead. Hurricane re-entry stickers will not be issued after 5:00 p.m. today; the Wild Dunes resident's sticker will also serve for residents to gain access after the storm.

Once the Mayor declares a State of Emergency, City Council needs to arrange to stay safe, but the Mayor needs the authority to do what is necessary, possibly declare a curfew. Attorney Halversen said that copies of the Declaration of the State of Emergency need to be posted on the doors at City Hall and to the City's website. Mayor Cronin asked that Councilmembers who plan to evacuate leave their contact information with him. At this time, the Mayor plans on issuing the Declaration of State of Emergency around noon tomorrow.

When Councilmember Rice asked about the City's mutual aid agreements with neighboring local governments, she was told of a state law stating that, in disaster conditions, written agreements

are not required. Attorney Halversen added that the Governor may be asked to waive any type of mutual aid agreements.

According to Attorney Halversen, the language for the State of Emergency proclamation is included in the City Code and that, once it is posted to the door, the Mayor has the authority to declare a curfew. If the City needs an emergency ordinance that would last for only sixty (60) days, a quorum of Council would be needed.

In conclusion, Mayor Cronin stated that landscapers are being kept off the island to avoid putting debris on the streets that the City is unable to pick up.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED MUNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk