



ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10:00am, Wednesday, July 9, 2025

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Rebecca Kovalich, Park Williams, Barb Bergwerf, Chrissy Lorenz, Margaret Miller, Mike Boykin (via Zoom)

Absent: Rod Turnage

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Director Hamilton

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – May 14, 2025

Ms. Bergwerf made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting, and Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Statements

Director Hamilton said the last quarter of State ATAX revenues will not be received until August. As of May 31, 2025, the fund balance is up over \$1 million from this time last year. Year-to-date revenues are \$2.6 million. \$229,000 of interest was earned over the last year.

The State ATAX budget will come in under budget as several projects have been delayed until FY26. More in-depth financial information will be available after the fourth quarter payment is received.

4. Old Business -- none

5. New Business

a. Discussion and consideration of future beautification projects

Mr. Williams asked Administrator Kerr to educate the committee on the best way to approach beautification projects. Administrator Kerr explained that ATAX funds can be used to beautify the “roads providing access to tourist destinations.” He believes the Committee should focus on their areas with the most impact. Ms. Bergwerf believes the beach access paths to be those with the most impact on tourists.

Administrator Kerr said funding for FY26 has been allocated. Any projects the Committee wishes to put forth will be in competition with other City needs. Mr. Boykin said he would like to be more involved in the discussions as to how ATAX funds are allocated.

Discussion ensued as to the best way to formulate a cohesive plan for future beautification projects and which areas to focus on. Administrator Kerr pointed out that each area will have its own challenges such as the need for SCDOT permitting and or engineering and designs costs. Possible areas for beautification projects discussed included concrete triangles at 41st Avenue and at the Connector, the ocean side of Palm Boulevard, and the Front Beach. Mr. Williams suggested that maybe the Committee could allocate funds to better maintain areas already under in the City's budget and build a list of aspirational ideas for future years. Administrator Kerr said that all City properties and ongoing projects have beautification monies in their budgets. A designer will need to be involved to help conceptualize future projects.

Committee members will visit the spots mentioned for possible beautification and discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

B. Discussion of second round of grant funding

Administrator Kerr explained that the IOP Chamber rescinded their grant award because the project they intended it for needed more funding than what was given.

Mr. Boykin suggested Committee members come up with charitable organizations that might be able to use the money and let them know about the second round of funding. Mr. Williams encouraged Committee members to give their ideas to staff. He reminded everyone that those organizations must be directing those funds to putting "heads in beds."

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the ATAX Committee will be Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 10am.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Bergwerf made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Lorenz seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk