



City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Bogosian, Cohen, Carroll, Streetman, Miller, Ward, Miars, Pierce, Mayor Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, City Attorney McQuillin, various department heads

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Presentations – Beach Renourishment bid results, Stephen Traynum, CSE

Mr. Traynum briefly reviewed the beach renourishment bid results from 5 bidders, ranging in price from \$21 million to \$42.5 million. The low bidder is Marinex of Charleston with a bid of \$21,470,000.

Mr. Traynum said the City should have the State permits by the end of march and the Federal permits by the end of April. He noted that the Isle of Palms was the first project that utilized the new US Fish & Wildlife's Programmatic Biological Opinion, which reduced their review from 6-9 months down to several weeks.

Administrator Kerr asked Mr. Traynum, "There have been questions, comments about if the City and Wild Dunes Community Association wanted to take advantage of the ultra low per unit cost, what it would take to do that. If you don't mind, a quick synopsis of what would need to happen and how you expect that would happen."

Mr. Traynum responded, "We set up a base bid just to try to make sure that bids came back within the anticipated budget, and we always were looking to build close to the maximum permitted project. So, without a doubt, we would suggest to do that. The idea of additional sand at this price with this mobilization, we would recommend at least considering that and looking at where that sand may occur. I would say the northeast end of the island is the one where, just due to the rapid amount of erosion that we consistently have from year to year, that is where you are looking to buy some additional time by having additional sand. The south end you could also consider. There it is actually a little easier because your berm is not so wide right now that it creates potential public use issues. One thing we need to consider, it is kind of a balancing act because from the engineering perspective, as much sand as possible is a great thing. It buys you more time, more resilience during storms and for favorable prices, it makes sense to do. Right now, up at the northeast end of the island, there are areas where we already have berm widths that are approaching 700'. So you have a 700' wide dry sand berm that you have to navigate

across. We know that is going to erode back over the years following the project. If we extend that more, and more where we are looking at 900', 1000' feet of dry sand, that does provide the opportunity for some public use problems." Those problems could include some ponding in the area that could last a couple days and create a "soupy mess."

Council Member Pierce asked Mr. Traynum for pictures of the north and south ends of the island at low and high tides with the projected amount of sand post-project.

Mr. Traynum said if the City opted to add more sand the project would not need to be rebid, but permit modifications would be required. Expanding the project area would require additional notice to neighboring properties, delaying the current anticipated start time of June.

When asked what it will take to get the City the healthy beach profile as defined by the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee, Mr. Traynum replied, "The current project up to the permit volume gets us to that point, and in several areas, more than that point."

He further explained that the idea of this project is to put "enough sand on the beach so that eight years from now, then you still are above that minimum threshold which is still a condition that is livable with dunes and protection."

Administrator Kerr said the City will continue conversations with the WDCA about the size of the project. He said City Council will need to clarify to staff the amount of sand they wish to have placed so that they can award the bid at their April 28 meeting.

Council Member Miller asked about turtle and hurricane season in relation to the project. Mr. Traynum said there are many rules and guidelines governing projects that happen during turtle season. Should a hurricane approach Charleston during the project, the contractor will move the dredger to the Charleston Harbor and move the pipes until the storm passes.

4. Approval of previous meetings' minutes

MOTION: Council Member Streetman and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion.

- A. City Council Meeting – February 24, 2026
- B. Special City Council Meeting – March 10, 2026
- C. Special City Council Meeting-Budget Workshop – March 11, 2026

Council Member Pierce expressed concerns about the verbatim attached to the February 24 minutes. After some discussion, it was decided that the verbatim would be removed and the minutes will direct readers to the YouTube video of the meeting.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the amended minutes as follows:

Ayes: Cohen, Miars, Bogosian, Ward, Pierce, Carroll, Miller, Pounds
Nays: Streetman

The motion passed 8-1.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion of Town Hall format**

Administrator Kerr explained the format of Thursday's Town Hall meeting to the Council.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to suspend the rules of order and reorder the agenda to allow for discussion of items 5(F) and 8(A)(ii) at this time. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Update on and consideration of funding and implementation options for wage adjustments**

Council Member Pierce reported that he and Council Member Bogosian have been meeting with Evergreen and City staff to discuss the restructuring of the compensation plan. He said the Administration Committee will be prepared to make a recommendation to City Council after their April meeting. Increases based on CPI are being considered.

Administrator Kerr said Council will talk more about a millage adjustment at next week's budget workshop. The maximum "clawback" the City can collect from a millage increase would be approximately \$930,000.

Mayor Pounds encouraged the Administration Committee to address the positions in General Government as well as the first responders.

6. **Ordinance, Resolutions, and Petitions**

Ordinance 2026-03 – an ordinance to establish decibel limits in the noise ordinance

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve, and Council Member Miars seconded the motion.

Council Member Bogosian read some proposed amendments to the ordinance. He said the intent of this ordinance "is to say that we are not going to worry about daytime, at nighttime in the residential districts and areas. We want to have an ordinance that is enforceable. That has been a request of our Police Department for the last 3 years."

Council Member Cohen further clarified how the use of "plainly audible" and the property line "soften" the ordinance.

Council Member Streetman reiterated his preference for the current ordinance and believes 55 decibels is too low in the evenings.

Chief Cornett shared current data regarding noise complaints. He also started his concern that the ordinance applies to the entire island, including the front beach. However, he added that front beach businesses have been lowering noise levels in the evenings as a practice recently. He expressed his preference for an objective ordinance to enforce.

Council Member Carroll asked about noise duration. Chief Cornett said officers will be trained to understand a quick burst of noise is not a violation and that the noise must be ongoing or consistent to be considered a noise violation. The officer will need to hear the noise in order to issue a ticket.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to amend the Section 9-2-5, subsection (b) of the ordinance by:

1. Replacing “beyond the property of the noise source” with “at the property line of the complainant”;
2. Replacing “and Saturday” with “through Sunday”;
3. Replacing “on any adjacent street or right of way” with “on the property of a complainant’s place of public accommodation.”

Council Member Miars seconded the motion. A vote on the amendments was taken as follows:

Ayes: Cohen, Miars, Bogosian, Pierce, Miller

Nays: Streetman, Ward, Carroll, Pounds

The motion passed 5-4.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion as amended as follows:

Ayes: Cohen, Miars, Bogosian, Pierce, Miller

Nays: Streetman, Ward, Carroll, Pounds

The motion passed 5-4.

7. Old Business

B. Update on USACE beach project/beach cleanup

Administrator Kerr reported that USACE requested a bid from Ahtna to clean up the beach, and it was “in excess of six figures.” They received a more favorable bid from Cottrell, so they are now working on a contract for that work. He will have a work schedule update on Friday.

He reported on the work the City completed, noting they moved eight full dump trucks of materials off the beach across two low tides.

When asked about testing the material, Administrator Kerr said, “We did have conversations with the Army Corps about the material, the amount of testing that has already been done on that material. It was fairly extensive. It was done prior to the material going into the cell. They do not allow it to come into the cell without extensive testing.”

Administrator Kerr clarified that the Army Corps will be paying for the clean up. The City paid for the work they did during the two low tides.

C. Update on WDCA escrow agreement

Administrator Kerr said the WDCA returned the most recent iteration of the agreement with comments that are now being reviewed by the City Attorney. He will share the new version of the agreement with City Council and the WDCA when it is ready. It will also be on the April agenda of the Public Services & Facilities Committee.

D. Update on easement acquisition

Administrator Kerr said the easement information was mailed to property owners last week. They have received requests for modifications, which do not seem to be insurmountable. There

will be a public meeting on April 2 about the easements. He hopes to have them all signed by the April 28 meeting.

E. Discussion and consideration of marina dredging project

Administrator Kerr said it will be easier for the City to go ahead with their portion of the project without waiting for the neighboring residents. The neighboring residents still have repair work to complete at Goat Island. In addition, their original permit was denied, and they are in a “re-permit posture,” so their start time has been extended.

The City can use the remaining funds from the State for another project. Project start time is still 5-7 months away.

MOTION: Council Member Miars made a motion to move ahead with the City’s portion of the project. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. New Business

A. Discussion of extending CARTA Beach Reach shuttle project

Council Member Ward reported that CARTA would like to extend the Beach Reach Shuttle this year to include Friday service. The cost of the project without Friday service is \$38,307 and \$54,861 with Friday service. The cost is split between the City, the Town of Mt. Pleasant, and CARTA.

Council members asked for projections from CARTA what Friday ridership could look like. Council Member Ward will bring more information to next week’s budget workshop.

B. Consideration of purchase of 1100 Toter garbage cans, Amick, \$73,959.77

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Kerr thanked the Public Works Department for assembling and delivering the new cans as that resulted in savings to the City.

C. Discussion and consideration of surf instructors and locations

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve. Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Committees, Boards, and Commissions Reports

- A. Council Committees – minutes attached
- B. Board of Zoning Appeals – no meeting in March
- C. Planning Commission – minutes attached
- D. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee – minutes attached
- E. Environmental Advisory Committee – minutes attached
- F. Beach Preservation Committee – minutes attached

10. Ordinance, Resolutions, and Petitions

a. Second Reading

- i. Ordinance 2026-01** – an ordinance creating a standing Ways and Means Committee

MOTION: Council Member Miller made a motion to approve, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Miller asked if the election of Chair and Vice Chair could take place now. City Attorney McMillin said that would need to be on the agenda 24 hours in advance.

- b. First Reading** -- none

c. Proclamations and Resolutions

Proclamation 2026-01 – Arbor Day

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve and waive the reading. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Executive Session

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss the 2025 annual performance review of the City Administrator and an associated merit increase. Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

City Council entered into Executive Session at 7:37pm.

City Council returned from Executive Session at 7:56pm. Mayor Pounds said no decisions were made.

12. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk