City Council Meeting
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present:	Council members Bogosian, Cohen, Carroll, Miller, Ward, Miars, Pierce, Mayor Pounds
Absent:	Council Member Streetman
Staff Present:	Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, City Attorney McQuillin, various department heads

2. Citizen's Comments

Andrew Vega, Sparrow Drive, asked why a change to a minimum healthy beach is being considered after the work done by the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee. He said the proposed definition is not science based and could affect the cost of future projects.

3. Presentations -- none

4. Approval of previous meetings' minutes

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026 City Council Meeting and the May 12, 2026 Special City Council Meeting, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Procurement

A. **Consideration of CivicEye Records Management System for Police Department and Court, $55,548**

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

B. **Consideration of proposal from Find Great People to conduct search for new Human Resources Officer**

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

Administrator Kerr said the staff extended three offers for this position, and for various reasons, the position remains unfilled. Find Great People will conduct a search and the fee, 20% of the first year's salary, will be paid in FY27, and therefore needs to be in the budget. HR Officer Ladd's last day is June 23.

DRAFT

Council Member Pierce asked for the HR Officer job description to be on the Administration Committee meeting agenda in June.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor.

6. **Old Business**

Update and review of Charleston County TST Projects

Administrator Kerr said there is a lag time between the City making requests for TST funds and projects being shovel ready. Lengthy discussion ensued about the details of the proposed sidewalk projects near The Dinghy and along Palm Boulevard.

Council members expressed concern about how the projects came to be on the list and if they have say over whether or not they still want the projects to be completed. Administrator Kerr noted that Charleston County likes to award small projects that are typically $200-$300,000. He added that the walkability study being done for the City by BCDCOG will give the City a prioritized list of projects they could likely request to TST.

Administrator Kerr will research when the current projects were submitted to TST for consideration. He will also find out what other IOP projects are in TST's queue and the timeline for future requests. This matter will on the June 24 meeting agenda.

7. **New Business**

A. **Consideration of intergovernmental agency with Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch**

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

Council Member Ward suggested that City Council schedule a time to visit the Consolidated Dispatch Center. Council Member Pierce would like to know how the cost per municipality is allocated by Charleston County.

B. **Consideration of entering into a mutual aid agreement with the Town of Jamestown**

No action was taken on this matter as requested by Chief Cornett.

C. **Consideration of entering into a mutual aid agreement with the College of Charleston Department of Public Safety**

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

D. **Consideration of partnering with Charleston County EMS to house an ambulance and staff at Fire Station 1**

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion.

Chief Oliverius explained there is currently no contract related to this partnering, but one could be drawn up if that is the will of Council. He said Charleston County is changing its deployment model related to their ambulances. Their goal is to have an ambulance and staff at Fire Station 1

year round. Right now, they are on the island Thursdays-Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He noted that staff is making some infrastructure changes to Fire Station 1 to accommodate the ambulance and the staff.

Council Member Bogosian would like this item to remain on the Public Safety Committee agenda for updates.

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor.

E. **Consideration of updates to Fire Department Incentive Plans**

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

F. **Consideration of recommendations of ATAX Sponsorships**

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve a $12,000 ATAX Sponsorship Grant to the Lutheran Retreat Center. Mayor Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Miller made a motion to approve a $3,000 ATAX Sponsorship Grant to the Greater Charleston YWCA MLK Event, and Council Member Cohen seconded the motion.

Mayor Pounds would like Council to consider awarding the full amount requested by the YWCA - $10,000. Council Member Miller said she did not believe their request met the grant requirements. She suggested a $3000 grant to cover the marketing and communications costs in their budget.

VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion passed 8-2.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve a $40,000 ATAX Sponsorship to the Island School Literacy Events. Council Member Miars seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Cohen reported that the IOP Chamber of Commerce made a request to the ATAX Committee for a sponsorship grant related to marketing expenses, and the ATAX Committee felt it did not meet their guidelines. He would like City Council to consider funding their request through the 30% tourism funds since it is marketing related. He said he would rather the money go to the IOP Chamber than the CVB.

Mayor Pounds and Council Member Miller expressed a preference for following the recommendation of the ATAX Committee on this sponsorship.

Administrator Kerr stated that the CVB and the IOP Chamber are in conversation about this request. The CVB will help them with some portion of their plans, but they recognize that both entities are competing for the same “clicks,” which, in turn, affects the cost per click.

G. **Consideration of Beach Preservation Committee's recommendation for minimum health beach conditions**

Council Member Cohen pointed out that City Council did not address the Beach Preservation Committee's recommendation for a new definition of a minimum healthy beach. He said that Foth/Olsen needs clarity about what definition to use. He said that City Council needs to address its goals related to beach renourishment and management.

Administrator Kerr noted that the recommendation from the Beach Preservation Committee asks for more readily visible triggers using feet versus volume when deciding the need for a renourishment. They are also suggesting a change to the measurement line -- 200' from either the structure or the baseline, whatever is farther seaward. He also said that Foth/Olsen has requested clarity on Council's definition of a minimum healthy beach.

Council Member Bogosian expressed concern that their alternatives analysis is overdue. He likes the idea of a more visible trigger, but he believes the 200' to be arbitrary and would like more information.

Council members Miller, Miars, and Pierce expressed the need for more information before making any changes. Mayor Pounds supports the idea of a more visible trigger, but also expressed his support for the minimum healthy beach definition crafted by the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee. Council Member Cohen asked if the City Council actually adopted the definition presented by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Administrator Kerr said he does not see this matter as time critical since there is a renourishment project underway. He will speak with Foth/Olsen to determine if they must have clarity to complete their report, noting that changes could create further delays in the deliverable.

Council would like to speak to Foth/Olsen. Therefore, further action on considering minimum healthy beach conditions will be deferred.

8. **Committees, Boards, and Commissions Reports**

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

9. Ordinance, Resolutions, and Petitions

A. **Second Reading -- none**

B. **First Reading**

Ordinance 2026-04 – 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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve, and Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

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

The motion passed 6-2.

C. **Proclamations and Resolutions – none**

10. Departmental Reports and Operating Dashboard

11. Capital Projects Update

Council Member Miars asked about paving along Waterway Boulevard, and Director Asero said he believed they will be starting this week. Director Asero will ask the landscapers to trim trees and vines along the path.

Administrator Kerr stated that the City has executed the agreement with Marinex and received permits from BCM. They are expecting the Federal permits shortly.

12. Legislative Update

Council Member Pierce asked for a one-page monthly report from each of the City's lobbyists.

Administrator Kerr said Council will need to discuss a budget allocation of $750,000 representing the City's match for the USACE feasibility study at the June Ways & Means Committee meeting.

13. Executive Session

14. Adjournment

Mayor Pounds noted there will most likely be runoff elections on June 23, thereby needing to move the June City Council meeting to Wednesday, June 24.

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk