

**WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Municipal Center Council Chambers**  
**January 7, 2025, 10:00 am**

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order: Chairman Farrell called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call:**

**Present at the Meeting:** Luke Farrell, *Chairman*  
Brad Belt, *Mayor*  
Madelene Kaye, *Committee Member*  
Lance Spencer *Committee Member*

**Also Present:** Stephanie Tillerson, *Town Administrator*  
Dorota Szubert, *Finance Director*  
Brian Gottshalk, *Public Works Manager*

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

**A. Minutes of the Ways and Means Committee Meeting of December 3, 2024**

Chairman Farrell asked if there were any edits or additions to the minutes of the Ways and Means Committee meeting on December 5, 2025. There were no edits or additions, so the minutes were approved as presented.

**V. Citizens' Comments (Agenda Items Only):**

None

**VI. Old Business:**

None

**VII. New Business:**

**A. Review and Recommendation of the Purchase of Traffic Monitoring Devices**

Mr. Gottshalk stated that the Public Works Department is looking at installing speed projection signs, portable digital signage, and speed tracking equipment along the Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive. The Town has recognized the need to make motorists aware of their speed as they travel on Town roadways.

Mr. Gottshalk stated that the Public Works Department recently installed some speed monitoring equipment borrowed from the Community Association to collect speed travel data along the Parkway. The data showed that the vast majority of motorists are traveling about 10mph over the posted speed limit, with some motorists traveling in excess of 20mph over the posted speed limit. Having solar-powered signs that show the real-time rate of speed for motorists along the Parkway corridor and Beachwalker Drive will help reduce the rate of speed at which cars are traveling, creating a safer environment for motorists and pedestrians enjoying the leisure trail adjacent to the roadway.

Traffic monitoring equipment and digital signage will be utilized only on Town property along the Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive.

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the quotes for three types of Stalker solar-powered equipment from Applied Concepts, Inc. This local company has been vetted and is utilized by the Charleston County Sheriff's Department, along with the sole source verification for each.

- Stalker Traffic Data Collector 2
- Stalker Street Dynamics pole mounted graphic PMG 15 Inch Display with Traffic Analyst
- Stalker MC360 Message Center Trailer (3'x6') w/Strobes

Mr. Gottshalk stated that staff is requesting that the Ways and Means Committee recommend to the Town Council authorizing the purchase of the Stalker Radar traffic monitoring equipment referenced in the three quotes from Applied Concepts, Inc. He noted that the SATAX Committee reviewed the Town's request for funding for the monitoring equipment project and recommended funding of \$25,163.00, which the Ways and Means Committee and the Town Council approved. If recommended for approval, the remaining \$12,259.43 will come from the General Fund.

Mayor Belt clarified that the proposed traffic data collector devices would eliminate the need for a third-party service to capture vehicle traffic data, thereby reducing costs.

Committee Member Spencer supported the initiative, asking about the placement of the equipment, the requirement for Stalker speed measuring devices, and the sole source provider status. Mr. Gottshalk explained that the decision to use Stalker equipment was based on their industry leadership, reliability, and the sole source provider status for Charleston County.

Committee Members discussed the speeding data collected, the effectiveness of these devices in slowing down speeding in other areas, potential locations for the equipment, and the flexibility of the solar-powered devices. Mr. Gottshalk confirmed the details of the proposed equipment and its proposed placement on Beachwalker Drive, on the Parkway exiting the main gate and inbound approaching Mingo Point and Little Rabbit Lane.

Further discussion included the effectiveness of the equipment and the potential for future additions, the suggestion to consider an additional location at Freshfields, the speed limit on the Parkway, and the equipment's user-friendliness.

***Mayor Belt made a motion to recommend to the Town Council the approval of the staff recommendation to acquire these speed monitoring devices. Committee Member Spencer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.***

**VIII. Chairman's Report:**

None

**IX. Treasurer's Report:**

**A. Monthly Budget Report**

Ms. Szubert presented the Town's Budget-to-Actual Report through the end of November. The Report is compiled on a modified accrual basis, and all the funds are consolidated.

Overall, for the first five months, the Town's consolidated revenues of \$6.9 million are 14%, or \$862,000 higher, when compared to YTD for the last fiscal year, FY2024, and represent 44% of the total budget. Revenues are in line with expectations, with the following exceptions showing positive variance:

1. Business License Revenue: Increased by \$247,00, or 93%. In the first five months the Town issued 534 business licenses, which is 182 more when compared to last year.

2. Environmental Service Fees: Increased by \$565, or 101%, due to an increase in garbage collection fees.

Ms. Szubert explained that the positive variance was offset by a negative variance in building permit revenue related to the issuance of a one-time permit for Lower/Upper Beachwalker in the previous year. The permit had to be refunded, but revenues were collected back in December at a slightly higher rate. She noted that even though fewer permits were issued because the new fee schedule was approved at the beginning of this fiscal year, revenues are higher.

At the end of October 2024, the expenditures of \$4.8M are 18% or 742K higher than for fiscal year FY204 and 34% of the current year budget. They are in line with the budget, and the majority of the operating expenses are comparable to last year's totals, with the exception of the following:

1. Public Safety/Off Duty Deputies: Increased by \$231K, or 313%, primarily due to an increase in hourly pay to \$55, approved in February 2024, and a 54% rise in coverage, with hours worked increasing to 3,788 compared to 2,453 hours during the same period last year.
2. Waste Management: Increased by \$431K, or 99%, driven by higher contract costs for garbage collection.

The Committee discussion included an analysis of the new permit fee schedule's impact on revenues, which was planned as part of the upcoming budget review, and environmental services fees for waste management. It also included an in-depth discussion of measuring the value and return on investment in the off-duty deputy increase, the public safety and law enforcement study, and the need to understand deputy activities, presence, impact, and response times.

Chairman Farrell stated that he would like to have a couple of items broken down into more detail during the budgeting process to allow a deeper examination of some specific issues.

**X. Citizens' Comments:**

None

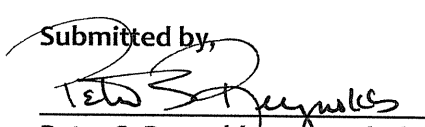
**XI. Committee Member's Comments:**

Committee Member Spencer noted a lack of citizen comments at the meetings.

**XII. Adjournment:**

*Chairman Farrell adjourned the meeting at 10:37 am.*

Submitted by,

  
Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

2/6/2025  
Date