

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

January 10, 2017

A meeting of the Committee on Ways and Means was held this date at 4:41 p.m.

PRESENT (12)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember White - <i>absent</i>	District 1	Councilmember Waring	District 7
Councilmember Williams	District 2	Councilmember Seekings	District 8
Councilmember Lewis	District 3	Councilmember Shahid	District 9
Councilmember Mitchell	District 4	Councilmember Riegel	District 10
Councilmember Wagner	District 5	Councilmember Moody	District 11
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Wilson	District 12

1. INVOCATION:

The meeting was opened with an invocation provided by Councilmember Mitchell.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 20, 2016 Committee on Ways and Means meeting were deferred.

3. POLICE DEPARTMENT: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT THE FY17 STATE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) APPLICATION FOR FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHIC TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES FOR \$32,557. A CASH MATCH OF \$3,257 IS REQUIRED. THIS WILL BE BUDGETED FOR IN 2018.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Lewis, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to approve to submit the FY17 State Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) application for forensic photographic training, equipment, and supplies for \$32,557.

4. PLANNING: APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$493,800 FOR THE WEST ASHLEY MASTER PLAN WITH DOVER, KOHL & PARTNERS,

1571 SUNSET DRIVE, CORAL GABLES, FL 33143; SOLICITATION #16-P026C.

Mayor Tecklenburg said he wanted to offer his apology if the timing of the two matters of getting the consultant and getting the commission going were off center. He said he wanted to have the consultant in place by the first of the year, so that everyone could get to work. He said the consultant was simply a facilitator to create the plan. The City went through a procurement process, as the City has done for years, and they followed the same procedures for this matter. He appointed a selection committee, and they did their job. He knew there was a lot of discussion about how much the City would be paying the consultant, but the point system by which the committee members graded the consultant did not include the pricing. It was all geared to finding the very best consultant to help get the very best plan. This consultant was Dover Kohl. There was no money in the point system, and the only goal was to get the very best product at the end of the day. He recognized Kitty Robinson of the Historic Charleston Foundation, which agreed to assist the City in paying for the consultant, and he asked Ms. Robinson to address the Committee.

Kitty Robinson thanked Mayor Tecklenburg, and said that Historic Charleston Foundation was honored to help in what was a worthwhile project. She said they believed in the quality of life for the whole City, and helping with the West Ashley planning and the quality of life was not only good for West Ashley, it was good for the whole City. They were very proud to be able to help. She wished the Committee and Commission the best.

Mayor Tecklenburg said thanked the Historic Charleston Foundation. He stated that the City went back to Dover Kohl as Council asked, and the consultant made a minor adjustment in their pricing, which brought it down to \$493,800. He said they could have cut the amount a lot, but they would have cut their services in the formation of the plan. In addition to this, they reviewed their budget to see where they would be funding this from, and given the \$50,000 donation from the Historic Charleston Foundation, the City bill would be \$443,000. He said they would be able to fund this completely with Planning Department funds. He said they needed to roll up their sleeves and get to work and have the best plan for the future of the West Ashley.

Chairman Moody said he thought Mayor Tecklenburg was going to request that they move the item for discussion at City Council.

Councilmember Waring said he would like to have the discussion at City Council.

Councilmember Mitchell said he was going to make a motion to approve the contract, and Councilmember Waring said he would second.

Chairman Moody asked for the motion to be repeated.

Councilmember Mitchell said his motion was to approve this item and let it go to City Council.

Chairman Moody asked if Councilmember Mitchell wanted to approve it without any discussion, or if he wanted to have discussion now on the motion.

Councilmember Mitchell said they could have discussion at the City Council.

Chairman Moody repeated the motion was to move the item to the City Council meeting, and vote on it at that time.

Councilmember Mitchell said he did not know if that would be appropriate since if he made a motion now, the item would be approved. It still would come back at City Council anyway. Chairman Moody said he just wanted to know if he wanted to discuss the item now or later.

Councilmember Mitchell said he just wanted to make a motion to approve it, and whatever the Committee decided to do after that, they could call for discussion or discuss the item later at Council.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Waring, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to approve to establish a contract in the amount of \$493,800 for the West Ashley Master Plan with Dover, Kohl & Partners, 1571 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33143; Solicitation #16-P026C.

5. THE LICENSE COMMITTEE: (MEETING WAS HELD JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 3:00 P.M. CITY HALL, 80 BROAD STREET)

- a. An ordinance to amend the Business License Ordinance for the City of Charleston to reinsert the longstanding business license exemption for owners of four or fewer residential dwelling units that was inadvertently left out when the City changed over from using the SIC code system to the NAICS code system.

Councilmember Gregorie, Chairman of the License Committee, stated the Committee had met earlier that day, and they voted unanimously to approve the proposed amendment to the Business License Ordinance, so that they captured the four or less units provision. He said there was some discussion with regard to changes in the future, however, the Committee felt that it was important that it approved this now, so that they did not get a barrage of issues and concerns with regards to individuals who owned four units or less. If the ordinance was not passed, then they would have to obtain a business license. Later on, any changes or additions to the ordinance would be considered by the Committee, but right now, they felt it was very important that the City approve this amendment. Chairman Moody asked if it was the Committee's report and Councilmember Gregorie's motion to approve the amendment to the City's ordinance, and Councilmember Gregorie confirmed. Councilmember Mitchell moved to second the motion.

Councilmember Seekings said this was something that had been on the minds of this Committee for a long time. He said he actually read out of the Committee a proposed change to this ordinance a few years ago which would change the number of units from four to two, and

he asked the Councilmember Gregorie to take this back up again. He said a dwelling unit meant a dwelling place where one could have up to four unrelated people. He said that if one did the math of the current rates in Charleston, and someone had four units that have four bedrooms apiece at the going rate in Charleston of about \$1,250 a bedroom, which was a conservative estimate, this was \$20,000 a month in business. In 12 months, that would be \$240,000 a year in business that people would have, and they would be exempt from business license fees in this ordinance. He said there were many businesses in Charleston that made less than \$240,000 a year that pay business license fees. He asked Councilmember Gregorie if his Committee would take up for consideration the equity of the ordinance.

Councilmember Gregorie said the License Committee would commit to having these discussions and others concerning any changes that may be necessary for the ordinance.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to adopt the report of the License Committee.

The Committee on Ways and Means recommended giving first reading to the following bill:

An ordinance to amend the Business License Ordinance for the City of Charleston to reinsert the longstanding business license exemption for owners of four or fewer residential dwelling units that was inadvertently left out when the City changed over from using the SIC code system to the NAICS code system.

6. THE COMMITTEE ON REAL ESTATE: (MEETING WAS HELD JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 3:45 P.M. CITY HALL, 80 BROAD STREET)

- a. Consider the following annexations:
 - i. 1648 Folly Road and 1614 Grimball Road Extension (TMS# 427-00-00-022; and 427-00-00-021) 1.86 acres, James Island (District 6)
 - ii. 1991 Holliday Street (TMS# 355-15-00-101) 0.20 acre, West Ashley (District 2)

Councilmember Waring, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Real Estate, reported that the Committee had two annexations which were approved unanimously.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to adopt the report of the Committee on Real Estate.

The Committee on Ways and Means recommended giving first reading to the following bills:

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1648 Folly Road and 1614 Grimball Road Extension (1.86 acre) (TMS# 427-00-00-022; and 427-00-00-021),

James Island, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 6.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1991 Holliday Street (0.20 acre) (TMS# 355-15-00-101), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 2. The property is owned by Sabrina A. Perkins.

Councilmember Waring said he wanted to put a motion on the floor that they televise and livestream the Ways and Means Committee meeting since this was where monetary decisions were made on behalf of the taxpayers. He said they did this at City Council, and he thought they should do this at Ways and Means. Councilmember Seekings moved to second the motion.

Councilmember Gregorie said when introduced the legislation, it was not his intent that it be restricted to City Council meetings, but that it would include the Committee on Ways and Means and any meeting where the body as a whole meets. He agreed, at a minimum, that they needed to include Ways and Means since that is where most of the lengthy discussion transpired in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said they were actually livestreaming the Committee on Ways and Means as they spoke.

Chairman Moody called for the vote to make it official.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to add to the agenda an item to approve the televising and livestreaming of Ways and Means proceedings.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Seekings, the Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to televise and livestream the proceedings of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Councilmember Waring asked if live streaming was the same as televising. Mayor Tecklenburg said it was not on Comcast. It was on the internet on the City's YouTube channel, but it would also be archived so one could access it later. Councilmember Waring said he thought they should have Comcast televise the meeting the same way City Council was televised.

The videographer from Comcast stated this had already been approved, and it would start airing on Comcast beginning tomorrow.

Chairman Moody asked where someone went to look at the livestream. The videographer said there was a link on the website, and someone could go to the YouTube channel, as well.

There being no further business presented, the Committee on Ways and Means adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Jennifer Cook
Assistant Clerk of Council