PRESENT: Mayor Barbara Blain-Belamy, Mayor Pro Tem Randle L. Alford, Council members Thomas J. Anderson II, William M. Goldfinch IV, Ashley Smith, and Larry A. White; ABSENT: Council member Jean M. Timbes

STAFF: Adam Emrick, Interim City Administrator; Vicky Lefler, Deputy City Administrator; Foster Hughes, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Director; Lynn Smith, Human Resource Director; and Allison Williams, Finance Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Lazarus, Josh Kay, Devin Parks, Danny Clonts, Robert Smith, Lex Gardner, Patrick Howle, Jan Dieter and others

The requirements for posting notice of this meeting under South Carolina’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) were met.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Belamy called the meeting to order.

A. Discussion on request from Horry County to reduce business license fees on manufacturing uses throughout the City.

B. Discussion on suspending the annexation of property in the Atlantic Center.

Given their close interrelation, there was a combined discussion on Items A and B. The County is in the process of establishing a multi-county business park on property it owns in the Atlantic Business Center as part of its economic development recruitment efforts. The County and the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (MBREDC) have been working with a new manufacturing business to locate in the business center and were unaware of the requirement for annexation to obtain City water and/or sewer service. The County has requested the City to forego this requirement and to reduce its business license fee for manufacturing uses to more closely align with that of the County. These requests were first discussed in the workshop portion of the August 7th Council meeting.

Emrick informed Council that, by City ordinance, a petition for annexation is required (not optional) as a condition of water and/or sewer service. He reviewed a timeline of events associated with the City’s leasing of County property for Fire Station #3 and noted that he found no evidence of an agreement at that time between the City and County that property in the Atlantic Business Center would not be annexed as mentioned in the August 7th workshop discussion. It was also noted that former Horry County Administrator John Weaver signed a petition for annexation of the Fire Station #3 property in 2010.
Mark Lazarus, County Council Chairman, commented that this was the last parcel of property the County owns in the business center. In regard to concerns from Council regarding the delayed involvement of the City in this matter, Lazarus explained that this economic development opportunity came about quickly and the company had asked that the possibility of it locating here not be disclosed. Lazarus briefly discussed the creation of the multi-county business park and explained that there will be no property taxes on the park. All fees paid in lieu of property taxes on the multi-county business park will go to support economic development, and none of these funds will go to the County or to the City.

In response to concerns regarding the annexation requirement, Emrick advised Council that waiving this requirement for one entity could lead to discrimination claims from other property owners who were required to annex to receive water/sewer service. If it is the desire of Council, Emrick stated that it would be easier to amend the business license schedule than the annexation ordinance.

Josh Kay, MBREDC President and CEO, stated that Council should consider other companies in the Atlantic Business Center might leave if they were forced to annex. Emrick spoke on the benefits of being in-city, such as enhanced fire and police protection as well as lower water rates and lower fire insurance premiums resulting from the City’s excellent ISO rating. Lazarus acknowledged these benefits and explained that they were only seeking clarification for the new company. **OUTCOME:** There was no support expressed for revising the annexation ordinance. An ordinance to revise the City’s business license fee structure for manufacturing businesses will be drafted for consideration by Council at its next meeting.

C. Discussion on alteration of fee structure for the Rivertown Tennis Center. Robert Smith served as spokesperson for the group of tennis center members and reported on the group’s preliminary discussions on how to increase revenue for the tennis center. Smith commented that the group believed the number of members would have to be increased in order to help lower the deficit and that raising fees would result in less memberships. There was discussion by Council on youth programs at the tennis center, tournaments, time needed to see results of the tennis group’s efforts, and maximized use of courts. Emrick noted that the 45 day delay for implementation of the increased membership rates in the FY 2017-18 budget that Council had granted earlier will soon expire. He also advised that any changes to these membership rates would have to be made by ordinance. **OUTCOME:** Based on input provided by Council during this discussion, staff will prepare a recommendation regarding the membership fee structure for consideration by Council at its next meeting. Other proposals from the tennis center group to reduce the center’s deficit will be presented to Council after these ideas have been more fully explored and developed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to enter into executive session to discuss employment of an employee [pursuant to SC Code §30-4-70(a)(1)]. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Smith, to come out of executive session. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.
EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEE: **Motion:** Anderson made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to approve the Interim City Administrator’s recommendation to employ Mary Catherine Hyman as City Planning Director.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** White made a motion, seconded by Alford, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approve by City Council this ___/___/2017 day of ___, 2017.

[Signature]

Debbie F. Smith, City Clerk