

**Public Works Committee**  
Isle of Palms, South Carolina  
July 17, 2007

The regular meeting of the Isle of Palms Public Works Committee was held at 4:25 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, 2007 in the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairman Bettelli, Councilwoman Hanbury and Councilman Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Call to Order. Councilman Bettelli called the meeting to order and stated that the press and the public had been duly notified in accordance with state and federal laws.

2. Approval of Previous Month's Minutes.

**MOTION:** Councilman Cronin moved for the approval of the minutes of the June 5, 2007 minutes as presented; Councilwoman Hanbury seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Citizens' Comments.

Mary Pringle of 713 Ocean Boulevard had requested time to speak at this meeting. Accompanying her were Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, and Barb Bergwerf, 611 Ocean Boulevard, fellow members of the Turtle Team. Mrs. Pringle stated that their appearance was prompted by the debris they are finding left on the beach, not just overnight, but simply abandoned. Specifically, they were referring to the canopies that visitors are buying, putting up on the beach upon arrival, then leaving behind when they depart the island; they brought several pictures to illustrate the problems they are finding. The support poles and guide wires for the canopies present a hazard to both humans and turtles; people have tripped over them, particularly at night, and the turtles have become tangled in them or bumped into them and crawled back into the ocean. Ms. Pringle noted that the ordinance states that debris is not to be left on the beach overnight, but the word "debris" is not defined. She and her companions were hoping that the members of the Public Works Committee could arrive at a solution for the problem, which appears to be substantially worse this year than in years past. They related that the problem exists not only along our coastline, but also as far away as Greece, and all have chosen different means of dealing with it – from ignoring it to legislating for removing all personal items from the beach upon departing each day. They also related that one of the rental companies has removed chairs and canopies each evening. It was suggested that members of the Beach Patrol could notify people that the canopies must be removed at the end of the day.

Director Pitts reported that, when there is a low tide between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., the "Cat" and the flatbed go onto the beach for metal refuse. They start

at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and go to Dunescrest removing everything metal, good condition or bad; this occurs about once a week.

Councilwoman Hanbury stated her opinion that the specific things that cannot be left on the beach overnight should be spelled out, rather than just stating "debris."

Jim Raih was also present; he commented that these tents or canopies are of such poor quality that they are not worth the time and effort to pack up to take home. Councilman Cronin agreed and stated that the canvas roof is normally removed at night leaving the poles and their guide wires to become hazards after dark.

Administrator Tucker wanted it noted for the record that the service that delivers and removes umbrellas, chairs, etc. is performing an illegal act when they go onto the public beach to do this. They are only allowed to deliver to private property.

4. Monthly Report.

Director Pitts reported that, for another month, the Department had been short-staffed. During the month of June, a Saturday work schedule was introduced which will continue through the balance of the summer. Councilman Cronin stated that he had found the schedule comparing the current month's figures to the same month the prior year most interesting and would like to see each month; Director Pitts remarked that he had simply forgotten to include it, but would do so in the future. He will print the report for June and place it in the Committee member's mail boxes in the Administrative offices. Director Pitts stated that he anticipates being approximately four thousand dollars (\$4,000) over budget in the maintenance category; he noted that all of the invoices have not been received. He reported that he had hired three (3) persons during the month, but one (1) had stayed. He still hopes to hire one (1) additional person.

5. Old Business.

A. NPDES Storm Water Management Plan – Update

Related to the Isle of Palms Storm Water Management Plan, Administrator Tucker reported that there will be three (3) ordinances on the July City Council Agenda, plus one (1) resolution; she and the City Attorney are in the process of fine tuning them. The ordinances will state that the City will perform the particular task, that it has a structure to do the task, then the City will actually turn it over to Charleston County to perform as the City's agent. Administrator Tucker noted that the ordinances will not be ideal, but they must receive a first reading in July to meet the September deadline giving a month to perfect the verbiage.

If the City should not make the deadline, Administrator Tucker remarked that the worst thing that she anticipates happening is that the City will be reported in the newspaper as being non-compliant, but she expressed confidence that the City will not stand alone in that position. There is also the remote possibility that a fine or penalty could be imposed.

B. Roll-out Cart Issues and Draft Newsletter

Councilman Cronin distributed the second draft of the newsletter; some of the differences incorporated are as follows:

- “Trash Collection Policies/Respect your Neighbors and Avoid a Citation” have been added to the masthead;
- Recycling Collection was added to the bottom; (Administrator Tucker suggested that a comment about keeping recyclable materials secure would be helpful; Director Pitts had chased blowing newspapers earlier today).

Councilwoman Hanbury interjected that she was not ready to discuss the newsletter because she is convinced that the ordinance must be addressed first; she is adamant that the ordinance should not require citizens to “hide” their trashcans between pickups. She presented several pieces of information on this subject she has received over the years; excerpts are as follows:

- Information sent to Isle of Palms property owners 10/25/96 when the roll out carts were first introduced; they were actually put into use in February 1997;
- The ordinance was not adopted until February 2001; and
- In another undated flyer, she directed attention to page 2, item 3, that states “If not in a permanent street side enclosure, your cart should be removed to your side or rear yard.”

The section in the ordinance that she finds troublesome is the requirement that the trash cans be kept in a place not visible from the street; she believes that there are few people on the island who can comply. In addition, she expressed her belief that this matter cannot be addressed fully until the problem with the corrals is resolved.

Councilwoman Hanbury noted that, during Livability Court, a woman asked about the trash cans placed in the corrals at the edge of the street that stay there all of the time. Councilwoman Hanbury believes that the City will make a lot of trouble for itself if it tries to enforce this section of the ordinance. On the other hand, if it is not going to enforce it, this section should be removed from the ordinance.

Councilman Cronin agreed that something must be done about the corrals, but, at this point, the City is awaiting an opinion from SCDOT regarding the rights-of-way. He

expressed his opinion that waiting on a response to that inquiry, so comments on the corrals could be included, would delay the newsletter three (3) to four (4) months. Councilman Cronin felt that the information incorporated into this second draft needs to get to the residents of the island; another communication can be sent once there is concrete information to disseminate about the corrals.

Administrator Tucker commented that the problem has multiple pieces, i.e. possibly the ordinance does need to be revised and the corrals are not in compliance with the City's ordinance or SCDOT rights-of-way issue as interpreted by City officials. Toleration of the corrals has continued only because the City originally encouraged them. She suggested that the newsletter could include a paragraph stating that corrals are being phased out as a way of putting residents on notice of future actions from the City. The Administrator noted that, at one time, the City had actually provided the specifications for the construction of corrals.

Councilwoman Hanbury related that the Public Safety Committee had discussed the issue of visibility of roll out carts and decided that it was a Public Works matter. There had also been two (2) Court cases of garbage can violations at the June Livability Court; neither person was charged the full fine. She noted that one Committee member expressed agreement with the unworkability of the visibility clause in the code.

Councilman Cronin asked that attention be re-directed to the newsletter particularly the second page which has been added for this draft. The second page is along the lines of what the Turtle Team were discussing about keeping the beach clean by taking home what you bring. One addition everyone was in agreement about was to add the word "daily." For the sake of time, members of the Committee were asked to send their changes, corrections or additions to the newsletter to Councilman Cronin within a week.

The newsletters will be mailed to property owners using the mailing list from the Water and Sewer Commission. When Councilwoman Hanbury asked how renters would know about the content, i.e. the City's garbage code; the other members of the Committee agreed that it was the responsibility of the owners to communicate the contents through the property management companies to the renters. The newsletter will be sent directly to property management companies as well.

Another item Councilwoman Hanbury thought should be included in the newsletter was the fact that the Public Works Department will provide special assistance to residents with medical needs. Councilman Bettelli remarked that everything that comes under the umbrella of garbage and/or trash collection cannot be included in one newsletter; he indicated that the primary purpose of this newsletter was to indicate to offenders what they are doing wrong and what they can do to correct it.

C. Kudzu at Breach Inlet

This item was placed on the agenda based on a complaint lodged with Director Pitts by Alan Medlin. The resident wants the kudzu removed from his area on Breach Inlet and asked if the City would try to remove it as it is impeding his yard; the kudzu is in the SCDOT right-of-way. Councilman Bettelli asked that Director Pitts contact SCDOT for their suggestion on the best way to handle this problem.

D. Commercial Yard Debris Pickup

Councilwoman Hanbury recalled that, at one time, Council had considered an ordinance requiring landscapers to remove their debris as opposed to creating an additional burden for the Public Works employees. She noted that Mount Pleasant has an ordinance stating that "in no case shall any trash, refuse or garbage placed curbside for collection impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic," which brought to mind the instances, when Public Works goes onto Palm Boulevard with three (3) trucks to pick up contractors' debris, traffic is certainly impeded. Councilman Bettelli explained that the Mount Pleasant ordinance was concerned with the garbage itself being in the road, not the removal equipment. Councilwoman Hanbury stated that she will continue to look into the matter as she is in favor of measures that will relieve extra burdens to the Public Works Department.

E. Underground Wiring

Councilwoman Hanbury asked for confirmation that funds were in the FY 2007-08 Budget for the placement of underground wiring, and she received this. She then asked if there were a plan in place to use these funds, and, if not, could a project be selected. Councilman Cronin asked if there had been any additional information received from SCANA on the wiring at Fire Station #2. Administrator Tucker stated that she had not spoken with anyone and had not had the time to review the agreement. Councilman Cronin stated that the resolution of that problem may lead the Committee to the next phase; he added that the budgeted funds are usually \$35,000 to \$40,000 per year.

**6. New Business**

Director Pitts reported that he had received a written request from the Sweet Grass Pavilion in Wild Dunes for permission to install a grease trap separator. The situation is one where stormwater runs across the concrete pad under their compactor; there is leaching from the compactor. The materials run together and flow into the stormwater. Director Pitts told the person making the request that it should be directed to the Wild Dunes Community Association, not the Public Works Department of the City of

Isle of Palms. Director Pitts reported that he had told Dave Kynoski with Wild Dunes that DHEC approval must be obtained first.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

SCDOT Spring Deposit of Dirt – Councilwoman Hanbury simply wanted to comment that she was pleased to see the grass growing on some sections of the right-of-way.

Councilwoman Hanbury informed the Committee that there will be an official Beach Sweep this year; it is planned for September 15, 2007. She looked to Administrator Tucker to give specific instructions on areas that should not be included in the sweep, as well as how best to dispose of sand bags, if any.

Administrator Tucker reported that she had seen a demonstration both at the City/County Managers Meeting and the MASC Convention on GPS systems being mounted in garbage trucks that have increased their Public Works efficiency and reduced costs. Literature was distributed and is attached. The premise is that the garbage truck drivers, who must run every street to pick up household garbage, indicate in the GPS system locations where they see debris piles and what is in that pile – yard debris, furniture or appliances. This information is automatically downloaded to generate the routes for debris pickup the following day thus eliminating needless driving and freeing up the personnel to do other jobs. The Administrator gave the DVD on the system to Committee Chairman Bettelli to view first, then circulate. She added that she believes that this system would work well in this community and was worth the time for further investigation.

Finally, Administrator Tucker reported that all of the numbers had been good on the beach monitoring results for June 2007. A copy is attached.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 6, 2007.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on a motion from Council Cronin and second from Councilwoman Hanbury.

Respectfully submitted:

Marty Bettelli, Chairman