

Public Works Committee
9:00 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 11, 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Kinghorn and Smith, Chair Rice, Interim Administrator Fragoso, Public Works Director Pitts and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum of the Committee was present to conduct business. Councilmember Kinghorn was absent.

1. Chair Rice called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 3, 2019 as submitted; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Jim Raih, 3904 Cameron Boulevard, praised Director Pitts for the job he does managing the temporary help in his department; he suggested that the role of temporary workers could be expanded in the Public Works Department. He also suggested hiring an entry-level person who could learn and move up the ladder to become a CDL driver. He expressed his support for a trash campaign with a tag line like, "If you bring it, take it home;" if the saying were to become fact, the City would not need to have trash cans or trash removal on the beach or be looking for cans with lids for the beach. He commented that the beach sweeps were doing part of the Schupp contract for him. On item D under Old Business, he was in favor of allowing residents to solve problems in their neighborhoods.

4. Monthly Reports for January 2019

Director Pitts stated that household garbage was comparable to the volume in 2018, but debris was higher. Eadie's started another annual cycle of cleaning the island's ditches. The Director reported that the drop inlet at 29th and Palm was lowered and vacuumed on the ocean side; he also noted that the ponding at the beach access path 31A causes the closure of Palm. The drainage issue on 22nd Avenue was checked by SCDOT and vacuumed. Based on the meeting between SCDOT and Directors Kerr and Pitts, they agreed to meet once a quarter to discuss problem areas on the island; from the initial meeting, SCDOT has nine (9) projects which they will address with multiple crews the third week of March. In the month of January, the shoulders of Palm Boulevard were stabilized with ROC, and the municipal parking lot was top dressed with the same product. Although the Public Works trucks incurred some rather substantial repairs, the Director expects to end the year within budget.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Phase II Drainage project

The Interim Administrator reported that work on 52nd Avenue has been completed, i.e. the infrastructure is in place and the landscaper follows to return the properties to their original

condition. All of the infrastructure is expected to be in the ground by the end of February, but the landscaping and repairs may take longer; therefore, the project should be completed the May, leaving plenty of spare time.

B. Update on trashcans with lids on the beach

Director Pitts reported that he has located the trashcans with lids in Myrtle Beach, but they are not using them; they use the same can IOP does. They recommended to Director Pitts that he use the lidded trashcans with a hole cut into the top for recycling.

C. Update on ditches and drainage issues

• **Marginal Road & 41st Avenue**

According to Director Pitts, SCDOT has been told that the problem is a flap, and they will schedule the repair.

Charleston County has been held up in stabilizing the sides of the Burke ditch at 32 – 32nd Avenue; Frank Pandullo said he will coordinate the work with the property owner.

D. Consideration of a proposal from resident to install a flap gate on Tabby Lane

Interim Administrator Fragoso told the residents present that in order for a flap gate to be installed the City would need a survey and an engineer's drawings and design; the estimate for the work from Civil Site Environmental is ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Jameson Howard of 7 Tabby Lane explained that the two (2) drain boxes drain onto 25th Avenue and that he and his neighbors were willing to pay to have the work done to eliminate the back flow of tidal waters that seem to constantly be on the road. He expressed the opinion that ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) was too high to do the surveying and engineering and that he was frustrated that the City was generating a problem in getting the work done.

Thea Interim Administrator stated that the ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) was a not to exceed amount. She added that Director Kerr has contacted Thomas and Hutton for their recommendation, and they have sent a different proposal. She explained that the City must have a statement from a certified engineer that the work to be done will not impact the surrounding areas and the City's overall drainage system.

Mr. Howard reiterated that they were not changing anything only trying to top the back flow.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that if the City and the Committee were willing to share in the costs, the funds could come from the drainage contingency line item.

Director Pitts said that this was a small isolated system, and he questioned that there would be enough head pressure to open the flap, plus the fact that they are easily broken. Mr. Howard was told that the City would share the proposal from Thomas and Hutton.

MOTION: Chair Rice moved to re-order the Agenda to discuss Item A under New Business; Councilmember Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Frank Pandullo, Deputy Director of Public Works for Charleston County, said that he believes that the cost of the work should be reimbursable by FEMA. The project is to remove and replace the failed cross-line pipes along Ocean Boulevard and it is estimated to cost one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and take approximately forty-five (45) days. In the meantime, Charleston County will appeal the FEMA decision. Either way, the Isle of Palms will only be responsible for materials that are estimated at twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). The project will begin on March 15th with a competitive bid.

Chair Rice said that she wanted to hear FEMA's decision on the appeal before anything happens.

The failed cross-lines are located at the following addresses on Ocean Boulevard: 108, 112, 120, 202, 212, and 308. Mr. Pandullo assured the Committee that the work would not be done over the summer months and that they would keep one (1) lane open at all times.

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that, if the FEMA decision was negative, the City would still be responsible for the materials and that Charleston County and the State would be responsible for the balance.

5. Old Business

E. Consideration of Ordinance 2019-04 – An ordinance amending Title 3, Public Works, Chapter 4, Single Use Plastic Bags

The Interim Administrator reminded the Committee that this amendment adds plastic straws, plastic stirrers and polystyrene to the ban on single-use plastic bags, but omits cutlery, plastic cup lids and condiments packaging. The ordinance was approved for First Reading at the January Council meeting.

When Councilmember Smith asked why these items were excluded, Chair Rice responded that she hoped to encourage people to bring their own containers and to encourage businesses to have the large pump bottles for some condiments.

Interim Administrator Fragoso told the Committee that she was trying to coordinate a meeting with the Front Beach business owners to discuss the public transit initiative and would add the expansion of the plastics ban to the agenda. She recommended that the expansion would go into effect January 1, 2020, giving the businesses time to transition.

Councilmember Smith noted that the plastics ban had not picked up any momentum on the state level.

6. New Business

B. Consideration of an award of a contract to Butler Chrysler Dodge Jeep in the amount of \$50,659.00 for two (2) Pick-Up Trucks (\$25,329.50 each) [Pg. 25, In.120 – Muni ATAX, Public Works Capital Outlay - \$33,500 and pg. 29, In. 281 – State ATAX, Public Works Capital Outlay - \$33,500]

Director Pitts told the Committee that his truck was still at Jones Ford from its being stolen. He also stated that the Dodge truck was on state contract.

MOTION: Chair Rice moved to purchase the 2 Dodge trucks as described above at state contract pricing; Councilmember Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discussion of revenue generating opportunities

1. Consideration of implementation of a 3% franchise fee on IOP Water and Sewer

Interim Administrator Fragoso recalled that this was discussed at the Special Ways and Means Committee meeting on January 31, 2019 and repeated that the City has constitutional approval to charge franchise fees. The fee would appear on the water and sewer bills; the fee would be billed and collected by the Water and Sewer Commission.

Councilmember Smith asked if the franchise fee would be only on the water portion of a bill; she opined that residents who have sewer would be paying twice.

The Interim Administrator was informed by Kristen Champagne that the sewer expansion plan was included in the Master Plan.

Chair Rice said that she would like to see the expansion plan before deciding on a franchise fee; she added that, if the City were to impose a franchise fee that was billed and collected by the Water and Sewer Commission, those collections could be the City's contribution to the expansion project. The Chair noted that Wild Dunes was the Water and Sewer Commission's biggest customer.

2. Consideration of increasing the NPDES stormwater fee

This revenue generator was also discussed at the January 31st meeting, and the consensus was to increase the fee to seventy-two dollars (\$72) per year.

Councilmember Smith said that she did not like applying the fee to every household and business on the island; someone with a small J.C. Long house did not create a stormwater footprint as large as a three (3) story rental property. She thought that the stormwater fee should be based on the square footage of impervious surface as it was for business properties.

The Interim Administrator informed the Committee that staff reached out to the NPDES Stormwater Management Program staff to inquire about whether or not the stormwater fee could be based on impervious surfaces rather than an across the board. The NPDES program manager said that it could be done, but it would take a tremendous amount of work to determine how much of each lot is covered with impervious surfacing. The County did this for commercial properties and for us to do it for residential properties should follow the same process.

The City would need to build a database and a series of maps that show the coverage of every lot based on aerial photographs and GIS measuring. Then take these maps and field verified the surfaces and correct if it was a gravel drive but got counted as concrete. This process is estimated to cost the City approximately \$366,000.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee to increase the residential stormwater fee to \$72 per year for FY20; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Discussion of FY20 Operating Budget for the Public Works Committee

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that each department budget has a two and one half percent (2.5%) provision for employee wage increases, and health insurance expenditures are projected with an eight percent (8%) increase.

Eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) of State Accommodations Taxes are being saved by retro-fitting the roof of the Public Works Building. Since the roof must be replaced, Councilmember Smith asked if staff had considered a solar roof. Included in the Capital Projects fund for FY20 is the final engineering, design and permitting for Phase II drainage at two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).

City-wide landscaping is budgeted with a base price of seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) and additional funds for improved landscaping and irrigation on City-owned properties.

Contracted Services in the Hospitality Fund covers the street sweeping contract and the commercial dumpster service.

This first version of the Public Works Operating Expenses totals two million one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$2,130,000).

8. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2019 in the Conference Room

9. Executive Session – not needed

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m.; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk