

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7 2019

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, March 7, 2019 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember 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 February 11, 2019 as submitted; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments** – Recognition of Bernard Gourdine and 18 years of service to the City

Chair Rice recognized Bernard Gourdine who would be retiring at the end of March after giving eighteen (18) years of continuous service to the City; he will be missed in the Public Works Department. The Committee wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Jim Raih, 3904 Cameron Boulevard, said that he has been studying the 10-Year Capital Plan and opined that the City would have some difficult decisions to make in FY 21 through FY 27 with large capital expenditures anticipated in those years. He thought that the time was coming when the City was going to have to look at the capital outlay and the real costs of Public Works to continue the level of service provided today.

4. Department Reports for February 2019

Director Pitts noted that garbage was down significantly in the two (2) year comparison, while yard debris was relatively flat over two (2) years. With the extreme high tide, a breach occurred in the stormwater pipe at the marina in the underground storage tank area which filled the area where the new tanks were. The tanks did not float since they had been filled with water. The water was pumped out and the area was secured, and the breach was repaired. In addition, they found an error in the fuel exhaust pipe in the construction area; he was going to meet with Travis Stafford, the Fire Inspector, because there are regulations about exhaust within three feet (3 ft.) of electrical that could require the exhaust to be re-located from the center island to another spot at the marina. The Director was hoping that they could find a way to off-set the exhaust so that it would not have to be relocated away from the center island but be three feet (3 ft.) from electrical components. Responding to the Chair, Director Pitts thought that the project would be completed in five or six (5- 6) weeks. The work highlight for February was preparing the parking lot for the March 1 re-opening. The Director noted that he had invested a significant amount of money in the 2001 flatbed truck, but, by doing so, he opined that it had added five or six (5 – 6) years to the useful life of the truck. He added that the Public Works Department fleet of vehicles was ready for another visitors' season.

Councilmember Smith commented to the fact that the Horry County site that has been the repository for recycled materials was not accepting any more and asked if this would have an impact on the City.

Director Pitts responded that, when Horry was not accepting recycled materials, Charleston County took its material to the landfill.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Phase II Drainage project

Currently work continued on the landscaping and driveways along the route of the project. Additionally the people representing the Rural Infrastructure Grant have visited the work site and were finalizing their report. On the day the representative was on the island, it was raining and no standing water could be seen on the avenues included in the project; she went through the documents she needed from the City and found everything to be in order. The project should be completed by the end of March.

B. Update on ditches and drainage issues

Interim Administrator Fragoso had a brief update on the Burke ditch at 32 – 32nd Avenue that the crew from Charleston County would begin work this week and expect to complete the work by the end of the month.

She reminded the Committee that the City gave SCDOT a list of nine (9) small drainage projects on the island; she reported that the crews began their work on Monday, March 4 and have completed the work seven (7) of them and were working on the last two (2) projects now. The crews have been visible all over the island. The schedule for the balance of the year is that SCDOT will send seven or eight (7 – 8) crews to the island the first week of June, and again in September and December; every three (3) months crews will come here to address projects the City has identified for them.

Director Pitts also noted that Eadie's was continuing its work to clean out the ditches on the schedule for this year.

Responding to Councilmember Smith, the Director that, through research, he had discovered that the 21st Avenue was the ditch that was not a ditch, but it was visible to all who passed by. The depression could handle stormwater from low-lying areas between 21st and 22nd Avenues. The next step would be for the City to get easements before any work could be done, but Directors Kerr and Pitts did not anticipate any problems.

Director Pitts stated that the stormwater from this ditch flowed into the 21st Avenue collection box.

Once the easement has been recorded, the Interim Administrator opined that, possibly, NPDES funds could be used to cover the costs of the improvements.

C. Update on proposal from residents to install a flap gate on Tabby Lane

Proposals for the surveying, engineering and design were submitted to the City by Coastal Environmental Services (CSE) in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and from Thomas & Hutton for seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500). The staff recommendation was to award the

contract to Thomas & Hutton in an amount not to exceed seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) and paid from the Drainage Contingency Fund.

MOTION: Chair Rice moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee the award of a contract not to exceed \$7,500 for the surveying, engineering and design for a flap gate installation on Tabby Lane; Councilmember Smith seconded,

Chair Rice noted that the residents would pay for the construction costs.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Update on repairs needed at Marginal Road

Chair Rice recalled that the City was waiting for a decision from Charleston County about whether they would participate in the work; she also noted that the road was sinking more rapidly than she had expected.

Director Pitts reported that he has pressed Eadie's to give him a cost to do the work; they made a second site visit and quoted him a cost of twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500). Kip Eadie said that the job would require the contractor to cut across the road, to replace the joints and then to install the flap gate.

Chair Rice asked about the balance remaining in the Drainage Contingency Fund.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she would have confirm the number with Treasurer Suggs.

When the Chair stated that she wanted to see a ~~formal~~ ~~actual~~ ~~quote~~ ~~quote~~ from Eadie's, Director Pitts suggested that he would continue to press the County and SCDOT for quotes and to obtain quotes from other contractors before making a decision.

Chair Rice agreed that the Committee needed to do its due diligence, but she stressed that the work should be completed before the next king tide; she did not think that section of the road could withstand it, and the Director agreed.

MOTION: Chair Rice moved to recommend to Ways and Means an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for emergency repairs needed on Marginal Road; Councilmember Smith seconded.

Councilmember Smith asked the Director why this work would be deemed an emergency and the ramifications if the work was delayed.

The Director replied that the issue of delaying the work was that Marginal Road would collapse.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that the ordinance expanding the plastics bags ordinance was offered at the February City Council meeting for Second Reading and was deferred and sent back to the Committee. She reported that a meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 4th

with the restaurant owners and managers to explain the ordinance changes and a representative of the COG would attend to report on the progress made in the public transit initiative. Additionally she reported that she and the Mayor had gone to Columbia last week to attend a Hearing where the plastic ban ordinances should be made null and void; the reasons to take this action were that they did not think the ordinances would be enforceable and that the ordinances were inconsistent from one (1) community to the next. One (1) of the inconsistent issues was the thickness of the bags; for example, the City of Charleston recently amended its ordinance to go to four (4.0) mills thickness from two point twenty-five (2.25) mills. She stated that Mount Pleasant, Sullivan's Island and the Isle of Palms' ordinances state a thickness of two point two five (2.25) mills. Another topic of discussion was to exclude as exceptions plastic drink lids and plastic condiments tubes; prior to First Reading the Committee decided to include in its ordinance the ban on plastic drink lids and plastic condiment tubes. Members of the food and beverage industry voiced concerns over this and pointed out that the Isle of Palms would be the only community to do so; they also questioned the practicality of banning these items. In an effort to be consistent with the island's neighbors, the Interim Administrator recommended that the City's ordinance should include plastic drink lids and plastic condiment packaging as exemptions in the plastics ban.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to add plastic drink lids and plastic condiment packaging in the exemptions in the ordinance expanding the plastics ban; Chair Rice seconded.

Chair Rice reiterated the need to be consistent with Folly Beach, Sullivan's Island, the City of Charleston and Sullivan's Island.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

After First Reading, some Councilmembers asked about banning drink lids and condiment packaging from the beach like Sullivan's Island and Folly Beach, and the Mayor thought it was worthy of evaluation.

Councilmember Smith thought that to ban these items from the beach would make enforcement easier and that it would show how seriously the City values the environment in the sea and on land. Based on the Mayor's opinion, she thought the subject should be put before the full Council for discussion.

Chair Rice agreed with the idea of Council discussing the issue, but she also wanted to hear from the public safety side.

Having reached out to Folly Beach about their ban on plastic drink lids and condiment packaging from the beach relative to enforcement, the Interim Administrator learned that their enforcement consisted of issuing warnings to people. She also learned that they were involved in public awareness and education on the problems associated with plastics in the waterways. She also remarked that Kelly Thorvelson, the Sea Turtle Rescue Program Manager for the South Carolina Aquarium, was a strong advocate for banning these items from the beach.

Councilmember Smith agreed that consistency in the beach communities was valuable and offered that possibly a public service message could be coordinated with these municipalities. She was pleased to know that polystyrene coolers would not be allowed on the beach because of its deadly impact on marina life.

6. New Business

A. Request from 48th Avenue LLC to tie into the City's drainage system

As background, Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that 48th Avenue was a private road, and, as such, was not included in the Phase II Drainage project; they contacted the City several months ago asking what the process would be if they wanted to tie-in to the new drainage project. They contracted with Dave Stevens and CSE for the engineering and design and the Interim Administrator reminded the Committee that Mr. Steven told them that he had designed the system to handle additional capacity thinking that 47th and 48th Avenue and the Citadel Beach House would likely tie-in at some point in the future. The City Attorney was drawing up an agreement stating that the responsibility for maintaining the system would fall to the 48th Avenue LLC to insure that any issue they incurred would not impact the City's overall drainage system.

Mr. Stevens reiterated that the stormwater from 48th Avenue would not be additional flow because it was taken into account in the original design. He stated that they needed a letter from the City requesting that they be allowed to tie-in to the SCDOT system because it was part of the IOP drainage system and the City was required to maintain it.

Responding the Interim Administrator's question about when construction would begin, Mr. Stevens replied that they would begin as soon as the encroachment permit was issued. He also assured the Chair that traffic on Palm would not be interrupted since this drainage would tie-in to the junction box at the corner that has already been installed.

Interim Administrator Fragoso explained that the letter of approval would also include language for the City to enter into a maintenance agreement with the LLC. In addition, she reported that she has been working on an agreement between the City and the property owners to ensure that they understand their responsibility for the maintenance of the drainage system up to Palm Boulevard.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to recommend to Council the approval of the 48th Avenue LLC to tie-in to the City's drainage system at their cost and to assume the responsibility for its maintenance; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discussion of Dominion Energy's 2019 tree trimming schedule for the Isle of Palms

The Interim Administrator said that the tree trimming on the length of the island was being done now in preparation for hurricane season as part of a five (5) year program, and the pruning was projected to take two (2) months. She said that she has met with them twice and asked them to hold a public meeting on the island to demonstrate what they do and they have agreed to do so. In addition, they have a thorough educational program that will involve notifying property owners by mail and by email ahead of the start. Their task is to remove tree limbs that are near power lines. She stated that she did not have a timeframe when work will begin.

Chair Rice said that it was "very horrifying" and "really alarming" what they do to trees, and she predicted that the work would generate quite an "uproar."

On the City's website will be 'before and after' pictures to inform people about what they should expect, as well as notification of the public meeting encouraging residents to attend.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 4th in the Conference Room

8. Executive Session – not needed

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Chair Rice moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m.; Councilmember Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk