

Public Works Committee
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, 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 Clerk Copeland; a quorum of the Committee was present to conduct business.

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

Councilmember Smith had a couple of corrections she wanted made to Page 5 and brought a copy with the changes to show Clerk Copeland.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to approve the amended minutes for the regular meeting of April 4, 2019 as changed; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Don Thompson, 2319 Captain John Hunt Road on Goat Island, said that he has lived on Goat Island for nearly thirty-five (35) years, and he has spent an inordinate amount of time trying to arrange for a garbage receptacle for residents of Goat Island. Since Harris Teeter took over the site of the Red & White, they no place to deposit their garbage; currently they use a small dumpster at the library on Sullivan's Island. He was attending the meeting today to ask for a piece of ground on the Isle of Palms about the size of a sheet of plywood to place a 6 x 5.5 lidded container that Charleston County would provide and service; the container would be for the exclusive use of Goat Island residents. He thought that space was available in the back corner of the municipal parking lot where the private contractor puts the trash he takes off the beach.

Chair Rice stated that the City pressure washes its dumpster every week in an effort not to attract vermin and to keep the odor down. She asked Mr. Thompson if he thought they could do that, and Mr. Thompson answered that the Goat Island residents would do whatever was necessary.

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

6. New Business

A. Discussion of a request from Goat Island to place a dumpster for household trash on the Isle of Palms

Director Pitts stated that pressure washing was one (1) issue, but Carolina Waste was the sole provider on the island, and he was concerned that bringing in another contractor would create an issue. In addition, of major concern to Director Pitts was the debris left on the sides of the container after it was emptied; if Council approves the request, he thought that someone from Goat Island

would be required to clean up around the dumpster after it was dumped. He was also concerned about residents and visitors taking advantage of another dumpster. The Director said that two (2) parking spaces would be lost if their container was in the corner. He also reported that, if another container was put there, the surrounding residents would be very unhappy; they believe the dumpsters create a rental income loss although the dumpsters were in place before residents moved into that area.

Councilmember Kinghorn noted that the County was willing to provide the container and to service it, and he was surprised since he considered Goat Island a private entity.

Mr. Thompson said that the County would provide twice a week pickup, and the residents would gladly pay for an extra one (1) if necessary.

Chair Rice stated that she has been shocked at how much oversight a dumpster could demand.

Director Pitts commented that the City contractor might go in on a Monday morning to find a dumpster filled with construction materials that must be removed before he could begin beach trash removal.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she would work with Director Pitts, Mr. Thompson and the City contractor to see if something could be worked out to accommodate Mr. Thompson and the residents of Goat Island.

Bob Brown, 3710 Bucket Road, Goat Island, stated that, when he moved to Goat Island, the garbage disposal site was behind the Red & White, but the residents lost the use of that space when Harris Teeter took it over. He stated that he has other ways of disposing of his trash because he rents a slip in Wild Dunes and at the IOP Marina. He indicated that he has been amazed to learn the complications of having a dumpster on the island; he thought they simply needed a small piece of land, but, like Mr. Thompson, he was certain that they could meet the City's requirements. He thanked the Committee for any assistance the City could provide to the Goat Island residents.

4. Public Works Report for April 2019 – Director Pitts

Based on the volume of miscellaneous garbage, fifty-one tons (51 T.), the Director thought that residents must have been in spring cleaning mode in April. He noted that the yard debris appeared low in comparison, but he reminded the Committee that a storm hit the island the year before last that skewed the numbers for that year. While the crews are still on once a week garbage collection, they try to mow and maintain the rights-of-way; they were mowed twice in April. The parking lot was mowed three (3) times and the 41st Avenue ditch once. He noted that the Mobi-mat put at the Front Beach boardwalk is problematic, and since the area has not had any rain, the soft sand is quickly covering the mobi-mat and making a big hump. He said that he and his crew would continue to do what they can to keep the mat level. The Hazardous Material Collection and Shred Day was held on April 27th, and, as usual, the response was very good; the list of items collected is attached. The cost of vehicle maintenance in April was nominal at approximately seven hundred thirty dollars (\$730), but the Director believes that the year will end right at or slightly over budget.

5. Old Business

A. Status of Phase II Drainage

Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that the engineer is waiting on the revisions to the as-builts while workers complete the driveway repairs and replacements. Once the revisions to the as builts have been completed, they will be taken to Charleston County. Overall, the work has been completed and the system is working well. The project was completed under budget and the balance is being transferred to the Capital Projects fund for use on Phase III drainage – the outfalls improvements.

B. Update on Phase III Drainage project

The Interim Administrator reported that she and Director Kerr would be meeting with Thomas & Hutton tomorrow to hear about their work on several ways the City could conduct outfall improvements along with the cost of each.

C. Update on renovations to the Public Works workshop

HR Officer DeGroot put together a short presentation of before and after photographs; the changes provide more space for the personnel, more organization, and a real office space for the Director, Assistant Director Washington and the new Assistant Director. The new overhead doors will go in today, and the electronics are yet to be installed. The renovation was described as “the overdue re-do.”

D. Update on general ditches and drainage issues – Forest Trail areas

Director Pitts reported that the pipe under Marginal Road has been replaced and the road is no longer in danger of caving in; the contractor is waiting for the gate valves that are due in the next two (2) weeks. Once they are in, the contractor will complete the asphalt work.

Chair Rice told the Committee that she was served with a petition from residents of Forest Trail and Sparrow Drive requesting that “City Council authorize a flood abatement solution” for them. The Chair turned the petition with forty-five signatures over to the Interim Administrator to be presented to City Council at their meeting of May 28. The Chair noted that this area has no drainage infrastructure and experiences frequent flooding.

E. Discussion of comprehensive sewer implementation

The Chair opined that this topic was discussed at length at the last meeting and she had nothing to add until City Council can meet with the board members for the IOP Water and Sewer Commission.

Interim Administrator Fragoso told the Committee that she has not been able to confirm a date with the Water and Sewer Commission for a joint meeting. Based on the discussions related to the urgency to move forward with an island-wide sewer program, the Interim Administrator stated that the ordinances that were deferred earlier in the year need to come back to Council in preparation for the project. The three (3) ordinances presented circumstances when houses must be connected to public sewer. She asked the Committee if they wanted to review them before they went back to City Council.

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to bring the deferred ordinances related to public sewer back to City Council; Chair Rice seconded.

When Councilmember Smith asked if these ordinances were sent back to the Planning Commission for review, the Interim Administrator noted that they spent weeks in research and discussion before recommending these ordinances to City Council for approval. She understood that Council was waiting on the completion of the Water and Sewer Master Plan, and that took nearly a full year.

Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that she and Director Kerr met with the Water and Sewer Commission's rate consultant/financial adviser, and he submitted a proposal to the City to work jointly with the Water and Sewer Commission to develop a financial plan showing that it is feasible for this project to be done.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

On the subject of the rate consultant/financial advisor, the Interim Administrator noted that the FY19 budget had fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the City's share of the development of the MOU; only twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) of that amount was spent; therefore, funds are available to pay the financial adviser in FY19.

As Committee Vice Chair, Councilmember Smith attends the Water and Sewer Commission meetings and she offered to advocate for a joint meeting. She commented that she supported doing the sewer project sooner rather than later since the City could see a cost savings in doing the drainage and sewer projects simultaneously.

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved for City Council to direct staff to complete a full implementation of wastewater connectivity by 2030.

The motion FAILED for lack of a second.

Councilmember Kinghorn opined that the Water and Sewer Commission need to see that the City is serious about island-wide sewer, and they would see that commitment with the proposed franchise fee and the reconsideration of the sewer ordinances.

F. Discussion of prohibiting the use of single-use plastic bags, plastic straws and Styrofoam products on the beach

Before the Committee is the amendment for prohibiting plastic and Styrofoam products from the beach.

Councilmember Smith asked if balloons could be added to the amendment.

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to take the ordinance with the addition of balloons to City Council at the end of the month for approval; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Discussion of implementing a smoking ban on the beach

From conversations with the City Attorney, the Interim Administrator learned that this action could be adopted by Council but that it must have civil penalties attached to it, for instance, Surfside Beach has such an ordinance and has a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fine. With the civil fine attached, the ordinance would have enough "teeth" in it to enforce.

Councilmember Kinghorn thought that an unintended consequence would be that without smoking, vaping would increase.

The Interim Administrator added that several locations that have banned smoking on the beach have done so based on the health and well-being of the community.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked if the City would consider designated smoking areas.

At the Chair's request, staff will do additional research on this issue.

H. Discussion of FY20 Budget, Version 3

When the Interim Administrator confirmed to the Chair that the salary for the new Public Works position was included in the budget, she asked for an update on that hiring process. The Interim Administrator stated that she and Director Pitts have reviewed the resumes received and selected a handful to receive the employee assessments. Once they are returned, the phone interviews will begin and fact-to-face interviews will to be held the week of May 17th. The goal is to announce the new Assistant Director of Public Works at the May Council meeting.

6. New Business

B. Consideration of FY20 Charleston County Transportation Committee project requests

Interim Administrator Fragoso commented that the City has successfully received funding for other pedestrian projects, such as the 28th Avenue sidewalk and the bike path coming off the Connector through Leola Hanbury Park.

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MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to list as the City's #1 priority for CTC funding for the construction of improvements to the Waterway Boulevard multi-use path; Chair Rice seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Director Pitts told the Committee that SCDOT was working on the sidewalk extension at 41st Avenue.

Chair Rice asked the Director if he has been informed by Charleston County whether the island will have weekly recycling again this year, and Director Pitts said that he has not heard anything.

Twice a week garbage collections will begin the week of June 2nd.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Thursday, June 6th, 2019 in the Conference Room.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:
Marie Copeland, City Clerk