

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**9:00am, Wednesday, August 7, 2019**  
**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to order**

Present: Council members Rice (chair), Smith, and Kinghorn, Administrator Fragoso, Director Pitts, Asst. Director Asero, Director Kerr, John Garrells

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 meeting, and Council Member Kinghorn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3. Citizens' Comments – none**

**4. Department Reports for June and July 2019**

Director Pitts noted the June garbage collection is in line with last year's data, but there was a spike in July. Data indicated the yard debris collection was down in June but returned to normal levels in July. He thanked Administrator Fragoso for "jumping in and getting along with the businesses and the Police Department for ensuring that the City no longer has any issues with the compactor located in the municipal parking lot that is used by the Front Beach businesses. A brief discussion ensued about the many groups wanting to do beach sweeps and how much debris they collect.

He reported that the vehicle maintenance budget ended the year only \$1,100 over. The total budget is \$85,000, and he believes that is the right number. He stated he has been able to stay within budget for 15 years. He introduced Robert Asero as the new Public Works Assistant Director for Facilities and Maintenance. **Old Business**

**A. Presentation of Robert Asero, the new Public Works Assistant Director**

Assistant Director Asero gave a brief personal history to the Committee. He then reviewed the Facilities Maintenance overview for July 2019 included in the packet. Discussion ensued about the work done by Sweeping South, their schedule, similar work done by staff, and whether the County should be petitioned to help with the street sweeping. Administrator Fragoso said staff will reach out to the County to discuss the possibility of scheduling the County sweeper to come to the island once a month. Director Pitts pointed out the City's contract with Sweeping South has them sweeping more streets than what is included in the SCDOT contract.

The need to further promote “Secure Your Load” was discussed. Director Pitts said that it is the driver of a vehicle pulled for debris that falls from it that receives a ticket, not the entity that owns the vehicle.

Administrator Fragoso shared that Assistant Director Asero is involved in the meetings regarding the Public Safety relocation because it will be his responsibility for the upkeep of that building once it is complete. She reported that she has asked Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero to look at all the maintenance contracts across departments to see where they could be consolidated. She believes money is being wasted having these contracts segregated as they are now.

**B. Update on Phase III Drainage Project and small internal projects**

Director Kerr reviewed the options presented by Thomas & Hutton for Phase III of the drainage project. He said Thomas & Hutton is concerned with making the maintenance of whatever design “easily accessed and easily maintained.” Of note in Option 3 was the fact that the City would gain highland, creating additional parking spaces adjacent to the marina. Administrator Fragoso pointed out there is no money in this budget year for construction since permitting could take a year to secure. Council Member Kinghorn believes this project is an excellent consideration for any number of grants on State and Federal levels. Administrator Fragoso said grant research is in process, but she will further research halfway grants.

Committee members and staff discussed the pros and cons of all of the options presented by Thomas & Hutton.

**MOTION: Council Member Kinghorn made a motion to pursue Option 3 and for staff to continue to look for grants. Council Member Rice seconded the motion.**

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that the estimated total cost for Option 3 is actually less than the amount that has been discussed for budgeting purposes (\$3.2 million presented vs. \$3.9 million budgeted in the FY21 forecast). Director Potts stated that Option 3 is the best option for maintenance issues and will also help prevent saltwater intrusion at the Fire Department.

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

Regarding the status of smaller projects, Administrator Fragoso said staff had asked Thomas & Hutton to compile and prioritize a list of smaller projects that need to be completed. The list was reviewed, and the top five projects fit within the budget of \$500,000.

**MOTION: Council Member Rice made a motion to approve the small drainage projects presented by Thomas & Hutton, staying within the budgeted amount of \$500,000. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

As no permitting is required for these projects, they are expected to be completed quickly. Administrator Fragoso said neighbors in those areas will be notified when the project timelines are complete. She added that the project list generated by Thomas & Hutton will be used as a planning document for future fiscal years.

**C. Discussion of ordinances related to the connection to public sewer that had been deferred.**

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the history and status of Ordinances 2017-08, 2017-09, and 2017-10.

**MOTION: Council Member Kinghorn made a motion to recommend all three ordinances to Council for second reading. Council Member Rice seconded the motion.**

Discussion about the ordinances, their costs, and unintended consequences ensued. Water & Sewer Commissioner Curtis Helfrich participated in the conversation.

**VOTE: the motion passed unanimously.**

Council Member Rice said members of the Water & Sewer Commission should be present for the August 27, 2019 City Council meeting and be prepared to answer questions. Administrator Fragoso shared there is a meeting scheduled for August 12 between City staff and members of the Water & Sewer Commission. She said she will research ways to “mitigate the concerns expressed by the Commissioner that one of the unintended consequences may be that people are going to gravitate towards grinder pumps as a result of the regulations.

**D. Consideration of a smoking ban on the beach**

Administrator Fragoso, pointing to the memo in the packet, reported that infractions of a smoking ban have civil, not criminal, penalties. Fines can be set by the Committee, but fines set by the City Code for smoking in public buildings range from \$10 to \$25. Discussion of the spaces in which to ban smoking included public outdoor spaces like the beach, beach access paths, rights of way, municipal parking lots, sidewalks, as well as parks and all city facilities. Committee members would like the ban to include vaping, pipes, cigars, and other tobacco products.

**MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to direct staff and counsel to draft ordinance to ban smoking on the beach, public parks and other public spaces, including vaping, pipes, etc, (based on memo presented by staff) and present the draft ordinance to Public Safety. Council Member Rice seconded the motion.**

**VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.**

Council Member Kinghorn asked about similar policies at nearby County and Federal facilities, stating it was important to communicate this effort to them. He suggested that staff reach out to the Town of Sullivan’s Island about their similar efforts and to discuss ways to jointly promote this tobacco-free program.

**E. Discussion of proposed trash cans with lids on the beach**

Director Pitts stated there are 56 beach paths and 175 yellow barrels on the beach. He said he has received numerous letters commending the beach garbage collection service this year, adding he has “yet to see an overflowing barrel in this particular year.” Mr. John Garrells,

of JLG Enterprise, said that if a barrel is not upright it is because it is empty. Options for weighting down the barrels were briefly discussed.

Administrator Fragoso then shared a video of Mr. Garrells and his truck emptying one of the barrels and one of the new trashcans being suggested. The concern is that when the hopper is full, there will be damage to the top of the lidded trashcan and trash may easily fly away when dumping it. Council Member Kinghorn suggested speaking to the manufacturer to see how they suggest dealing with this issue. Council Member Smith expressed concern about the many overturned cans and overflowing trash she has seen. She believes the City is giving the public a false sense of security telling people to put their trash in the receptacles and it will be taken care of. She added it was important to stress in public messaging that if the trashcans are full, people should be taking their trash with them rather than let it pile up next to the trashcan. Mr. Garrells said emptying these covered trashcans will require more time, and he will need to renegotiate his contract should the City move to using these cans.

Administrator Fragoso said a potential first step is to use these cans on the land side to replace the green cans. As the covered cans are \$300 each, she will pursue the idea presented by the resident who purchased the trial can of the public and the businesses donating the monies for their purchase. She also said more testing and research needs to be done on the use and viability of the cans. Discussion ensued as to where to locate a can to see how the public responds. Council Member Rice said staff should determine where to place the can and report back to the committee on its findings. Council Member Smith said she would advocate for increasing Mr. Garrells's contract if that becomes necessary.

#### **F. Update on plans for improvements to Waterway Boulevard multi-use path**

Administrator Fragoso said the application for construction funding for this project had been submitted to CTC for grant funding. She also spoke with Council Member Buckhannon who suggested reaching out to the Civil Engineering Department at The Citadel to see if students could take on the development and drawing of plans as a class project.

### **6. New Business**

#### **A. Discussion of plastic pellet pollution**

Council Members discussed the presence of plastic pellets in the water around Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island. Council Member Smith said the City should be advocating on State and Federal levels to regulate the handling and shipping of these plastic pellets, while demanding transparency from the port and the company about their plans to clean it up and prevent it from happening again. Council Member Rice said she would like this to be on the City Council agenda for the full Council to make a statement. Council Member Kinghorn suggested staff draft a resolution to present to Council.

#### **B. Discussion of litter control messaging**

Council Member Rice said more and better messaging needs to be done notifying the public that it is a crime to use plastic bags. She suggested using some of the messaging used by

other communities. She added that the “secure your load”/using a tarp should be included in that messaging. She stated she would like to see another water fountain at the marina. Council Member Smith suggested messaging encouraging the use of reusable packaging and perhaps limiting packaging on the beach. Council Member Kinghorn suggested renaming the Public Works Committee to Environment, Public Works, and Infrastructure Committee to send a message about the importance of the environment to the public.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Discussion ensued about changing the time of the next meeting. No final decision was made at this time.

**8. Executive Session**

**MOTION: Council Member Kinghorn made a motion to move into Executive Session in accordance with Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) to discuss contract negotiations as related to the sewer expansion project. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Upon return from Executive Session, Council Member Rice said no actions or votes were taken.

**MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 10:58am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk