

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
5:00pm, Thursday, September 19, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council Member Rice (chair), Council Member Kinghorn, Council Member Smith

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Pitts, Assistant Director Acero

2. Minutes

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting, and Council Member Kinghorn seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Committee

4. Department Reports for August 2019 – Director Pitts

Director Pitts reported that garbage and debris collection are up from this time last year. He also reported a radiator issue with one of the trucks, but despite that expense, the department remains within budget. Assistant Director Acero gave the facilities maintenance report. Council Member Rice asked if the areas of 53rd-57th avenues were covered under the Phase II drainage project, and Administrator Fragoso said this had been part of Phase I. However, the drainage issue at that spot now is as a result of human error and not an error within the system. She said the City has been working with Dominion Energy and other to find a permanent solution.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Phase III Drainage project and small internal projects

Administrator Fragoso reported staff is working with the attorneys on the contracts to include language that the “City is committing to 30% of the design before it goes to permitting.” She believes this should be completed by tomorrow.

B. Update on trial use of trash cans with lids on the beach

Director Pitts shared the story of having to remove the test can from the beach just prior to the storm. He reported that it took about 5 hours to remove all the public trash cans from the beach prior to the storm, but this particular can was full of water and took 4 people and a tow dolly to move. The lidded cans would be more labor intensive to move and would require being taken off the beach long before a storm hit the island. He suggested these cans may be better used in places off the beach.

6. New Business

A. Request from the Isle of Palms Water & Sewer Commission for approval of a \$16M bond for the decommissioning of the Wild Dunes Waste Water Treatment Plant and the consolidation and expansion of the Forest Trail Waste Water Treatment Plant

Administrator Fragoso introduced General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, and Attorney Bill Youngblood of the Water & Sewer Commission to the Committee members. She stated this is the 9th bond approval request from the Water & Sewer Commission, adding that their approval of the bond request will not affect the City's finances in any way.

Mr. Jordan stated these monies, if approved, will be used to decommission the waste water treatment plant in Wild Dunes as it is old and requiring significant maintenance and expand the waste water treatment plant at Forest Trail so that over time it will be able to accommodate the needs of an island fully on sewer. The Wild Dunes plant will become a below ground pump station; current tanks and equipment will be demolished. There is no current plan for the rest of that property. Commissioners discussed the project timeline with Mr. Jordan and Mr. Youngblood who agreed it is a 3-4 year process. Council Member Kinghorn recommended the Water & Sewer Commission becoming part of the City government where it could be administered as a City department. He also expressed concern that there is still no signed and finalized MOU with the Water & Sewer Commission.

MOTION: Council Member Kinghorn made a motion to defer further discussion of this request until the next meeting. Council Member Rice seconded the motion.

Council Member Kinghorn said there are many questions that need to be answered and they may not even have the knowledge to ask the right questions yet. Council Member Rice expressed concern about the vacancies and changes that have occurred in recent months at the Water & Sewer Commission. Administrator Fragoso reported the Personnel Committee would be interviewing interested candidates for those vacancies next week. Council Member Kinghorn requested the Committee discuss this issue further in Executive Session.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of Front Beach beautification

Administrator Fragoso spoke highly of the work already done by Assistant Director Asero at the Front Beach. They have met with a landscape company to discuss a phased-in approach for Front Beach improvements. Administrator Fragoso plans to speak to The Beach Company to enlist their involvement in the project as well. Assistant Director Asero said there are many areas to look at for improvement, including irrigation, landscaping, and lighting. Administrator Fragoso said she hopes the space will become a place of pride for the residents, one in which they can gather and enjoy the area.

C. Update on Hurricane Dorian debris removal

Director Pitts gave an overview of how the removal of storm debris has been handled to date. He believes the debris will be completely picked up by the middle of next week. Committee members thanked Public Works for all their hard work and effort.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be on Thursday, October 3, 2019 at 8:00am in Council Chambers.

8. Executive Session

MOTION: Council Member Rice made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters related to the Water & Sewer Commission's bond approval request. Council Member Kinghorn seconded the motion. The Committee moved into Executive Session at 5:53pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk