

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
8:00am, Thursday, November 14, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

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

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting's Minutes

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2019 meeting, and Council Member Kinghorn seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments – None

4. Department Reports for October 2019

Director Pitts gave a brief report, stating he did not yet have access to his monthly budget information. Garbage, yard debris, and D&C collection are all up over 2018 totals. Assistant Director Asero reviewed the work being done with regards to facilities maintenance including roof repair at City Hall and winterizing two of the showers on front beach. He shared work has begun on the clearing of the beach path and that he has attended several meetings with regards to the drainage projects.

Discussion ensued about the landscaping and beautification efforts at the front beach. Assistant Director Asero said the focus has been on making the area better functioning (irrigation and lighting) ahead of making it prettier. However, he said the area will be cleaned up for the Holiday Festival. Council Member Kinghorn suggested staff look into the matching grants previously given by SCE&G for municipal lighting projects. He said lighting would be helpful at Bunch Park. Council Member Rice suggested staff look at solar energy options with regards to lighting.

5. Old Business

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

Administrator Fragoso shared the design process is underway for the smaller projects and that all residents in those areas have been notified of the upcoming work. She also shared that City staff has met with the Water & Sewer Commission and Wild Dunes to discuss potential infrastructure conflicts in the Phase III project. The City is waiting to hear from OCRM about where they will draw their jurisdictional line and how that will impact the City's requirement for any mitigation.

She believes they will get that answer in a few weeks, noting that OCRM and the Army Corps of Engineers is receiving a lot of pressure from Columbia to move through their numerous applications more quickly.

B. Update on IOP Connector and Palm Boulevard sidewalk expansion project

Administrator Fragoso reported that the agreement to allow the work to commence has been executed, and the next step is waiting for the bids, which are due in early December. County Council has required that the project be completed within 60 days of it starting or by March 1. When the work begins depends on how the bids come back. Council Member Smith noted how long this project has taken to come to fruition. Administrator Fragoso said that delays in projects like this are often as a result of waiting until the off season when there are less people and traffic on the island. Council Member Kinghorn suggested lining up these sorts of projects more strategically so that improvements constantly being made.

C. Update on CTC Program Funding for improvements to the Waterway Boulevard multi-use path

Administrator Fragoso reported that request for the funding of this project has been denied. Council Member Kinghorn suggested applying to multiple places for funding of these sorts of projects in the future. Council Member Smith noted there is money in the FY20 budget to complete this project.

D. Update on project to replace cross-line culverts on Ocean Boulevard between 1st and 3rd Avenues

Administrator Fragoso reported this project is out for RFP through the county and the project is being partially funded by the City's stormwater fee. The City is funding the materials at a cost of \$25,000 for the project, and FEMA is going reimburse the county for the actual construction. A pre-bid meeting is planned for January. This project is also expected to take approximately 60 days.

E. Discussion of questions related to the Isle of Palms Water & Sewer Commission becoming a department of the City

Council Member Kinghorn said he is waiting to hear answers to the questions he posed about this issue at the last City Council Meeting. Council Member Rice said she would like to how the new members of Water & Sewer Commission affect the Commission as a whole. Council Member Kinghorn would like for the Mayor to directly address his questions at the Ways & Means Committee meeting next week, adding that this issue directly affects the health and safety of all island residents. He asked for the City Administrator and City Clerk to provide those questions to the Mayor and Council Member Rice so they can be answered. Council Member Smith said she is open to discussion about the Water & Sewer Commission becoming a department of the City and would like more information about it.

6. **New Business**

A. **Consideration of an ordinance to ban smoking on the beach**

Council Member Rice made a motion to suspend the rules of order to allow Kelly Thorvalson from the South Carolina Aquarium to speak to the Committee. Council Member Kinghorn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Thorvalson provided additional statistics about cigarette butts on the Isle of Palms beaches. She encouraged the Committee to support a smoking ban on the beach front. Council Member Smith spoke to the arguments made against the smoking ban at the October 22 City Council meeting. She would like to see a revised smoking ban ordinance focus solely on banning smoking on the front beach and providing additional trash receptacles in other City-owned areas to include proper disposal messaging. She would like for this revised ordinance to be on the November City Council agenda for First Reading and have second reading at the December 3 meeting or call a Special Meeting to enact this ban by January 1, 2020. She believes that since the smoking ban has been the work of this council that this council should be the one to vote on it.

Council Member Kinghorn disagreed with reducing the scope of the original ordinance and said the focus must be on the litter and not on the smoking. He added, "It is no wonder that cigarette butts have drawn attention. The vast majority of the 5.6 trillion -- and let's stop counting cigarette butts on the beach. We know it is a problem. It is a waste of energy. There are a lot of cigarette butts on the beach. It does not matter if there are 3,000 or 25,000. It is a problem. The vast majority of the 5.6 trillion manufactured worldwide each year come with filters made with cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that can take a decade or more to decompose. A decade or more. If you don't do the entire beach, it does not matter if it is on 3rd Avenue or 49th, it is going to end up in the ocean and or it is going to accrete down one island or the other... As many as two-thirds of those filters are dumped irresponsibly each year," according to a study done by the Cigarette Butt Foundation Project. He encouraged Council members Rice and Smith to speak with their fellow Council members to ascertain their support of this effort prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion reintroduce a new ordinance "that targets beachfront smoking and bans smoking on the beach" to be effective January 1, 2020. Additionally, the ordinance should appear on the agenda of the November 19, 2019 City Council meeting for First Reading and Second Reading appear on the agenda of the December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting. Council Member Rice seconded the motion.

Council Member Kinghorn expressed concern that this motion "dilutes" the previously introduced ordinance. Council Member Smith said she believes this more targeted ordinance will help with messaging and better clarifies the area in which smoking is prohibited. Council Member Rice shared that the Marina has severely restricted the allowable smoking area and agrees more trash receptacles are needed. Council Member Kinghorn said he does not support this motion but does support the previous one. Both Council members Rice and Smith agreed this version is a step in the right direction.

VOTE: Ayes: Smith, Rice
Nays: Kinghorn

7. Miscellaneous Business

Council Member Kinghorn said it has been a pleasure to serve with the staff. Administrator Fragoso noted the Committee's support of the Assistant Director of Public Works position and is glad Assistant Director Asero is in the position. Director Pitts said he knows he selected the right person for that position.

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 8am.

8. Executive Session – none needed

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk