



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
8:00am, Thursday, August 6, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Pounds, Smith, and Streetman

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Pitts, Asst. Director Asero

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – July 1, 2020

Council Member Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2020 meeting, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Comments were read into the record by the City Clerk.

Lawrence Milley, 105 Sparrow Drive spoke with concern about the noise and smell issues coming from the wastewater treatment plant. He believes both are problematic for his family's health and wellbeing.

Sally Weisman, 35 Fairway Dunes Lane, had questions about the blue recycle and yellow garbage cans on the beach, asking about the pickup schedule and issues related to overflow.

These comments in their entirety can be found on the City's website alongside the agenda for this meeting.

4. Department Reports – Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero

Director Pitts said July's garbage collection of 415 tons is a record for his time as Director of Public Works. He said that it may be time to consider having one of the condominium complexes move to a commercial dumpster. He said the individual user would not see any change in service, and if the complex consolidates its pickups, it could save them money.

He also reported that the Public Works staff is nearly caught up on yard debris collection. He said he may need to run into overtime to stay on top of the yard debris and miscellaneous garbage. Administrator Fragoso spoke with concern about the amount of debris (beach chairs, beach toys, tents, etc.) left on the beach. She said staff will brainstorm about how best to handle/manage this issue.

Assistant Director Asero reviewed the activities regarding stormwater and facilities maintenance for the month of July. He said SCDOT has been on the island and worked on pipe cleaning and ditch reconstruction at 21st-25th Palm Boulevard, the installation of ROC at the 25th Avenue beach path drainage pipe, the vacuuming of the ditch at 2206 Hartnett, and ditch reconstruction at 2204 Hartnett. He has also been working with Pleasant Places, helping them to refine their scope of work. He said they have been very responsive.

Facilities work included the installation of an air conditioning line at the Department of Public Works, city-wide elevator inspection, landscape clean up and inspections at Morgan Creek Grill. He said the Front Beach trash and debris is being clean weekly.

Palm tree pruning from 21st Avenue to Breach Inlet will start soon. Director Pitts said this trimming is part of a 2-year cycle and is for aesthetics only. He said the cost of the trimming has not increased in several years since DPW staff picks up the trimmed fronds.

5. Old Business

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

Administrator Fragoso reminded Committee members of Council's approval of the change order to have Thomas & Hutton to take over the bidding and construction oversight of the small internal projects. She said the bid packages should be done in 40 days. Construction is expected to take 3 months, and they hope to have it completed by the end of 2020.

With regards to the Phase II Drainage Project, she reported that Thomas & Hutton are working on the mitigation efforts around the 41st Avenue outfall. She said they are analyzing the costs and benefits of various mitigation options as well as identifying other options for the City to pay mitigation credits. Permits for this project are expected by the end of the year.

B. Discussion of outsourcing household garbage collection services

Director Pitts said he was still waiting on more data to complete this study. Treasurer Suggs will attend the next Public Works meeting to go through the assumptions for the study. Administrator Fragoso said they have had trouble getting hard numbers as companies are not inclined to give prices outside of a formal bid process.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of development of a cutting agreement between the City and Dominion Energy ahead of the next tree trimming cycle

Council Member Pounds said it is important for the City to be proactive in its relationship with Dominion Energy. He referred to the sample agreement between Dominion Energy and Charleston County included with the agenda.

Administrator Fragoso said there is time to work with an arborist before the next scheduled cutting. Additionally, there is time to develop a planning document for undergrounding utility lines and how best to use the monies (approximately \$637,000) in the non-standard use fund. Council Member Smith noted that Charleston County created a committee to look into the

undergrounding of utility lines. She also asked about transplanting the palms prior to the next tree cutting, and Administrator Fragoso said the cost of transplanting the trees is three times that of planting a new tree.

Committee members discussed the value of undergrounding in certain areas. Council Member Pounds asked that Administrator Fragoso and Director Pitts come up with a plan about how best to move forward with regards to Dominion Energy and undergrounding utilities, whether that means sending the matter to the Planning Commission, creating an advisory committee, or another option.

Administrator Fragoso mentioned funding options for undergrounding utility lines include use of the monies in the non-standard fund, Dominion Energy, local municipalities, and sometimes resident funding when it is applicable to their neighborhoods.

B. Discussion of Section 3-2-5© of the Code of Ordinances related to Leaves and Grass Clippings

Director Pitts said he had received some complaints from residents who said that the Public Works should be cleaning up what is left behind in yards following yard debris pickup. He said there is not enough staff or staff time to do that for each property. Committee members suggested that staff use social media to communicate the proper way for residents to dispose of leaves and grass clippings.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 8:00am.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:09am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk