



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
8:00am, Thursday, September 3, 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, Asst. Administrator Hanna, Director Pitts,
Asst. Director Asero

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – August 6, 2020

Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2020 meeting, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

The only comment was read into the record by Asst. City Administrator Hanna.

Sherry Welsh, 19 24th Avenue, asked about the process by which she can get a new trash can.

This comment in its 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 August's garbage collection is closer to normal for this time of year. He reported that Charleston County has notified the City that all of their garbage must now be taken to the Bees Ferry landfill. Vehicle maintenance is on budget.

Asst. Director Asero reviewed works for the month of August. He reported that SCDOT fixed a broken pipe on Charleston Boulevard, Eadie's has reconstructed a ditch at 2nd avenue, vegetation was cleaned up at Forest Trail, and Charleston County Stormwater reviewed plans for new home construction. He also shared that SCDOT is working on how to keep Hartnett Boulevard drained.

He shared some of the tasks completed regarding facilities maintenance and landscaping. He also completed an analysis of what is needed to fill in the problematic areas along Palm Boulevard between 21st and 57th avenues in preparation for paid parking in those areas. Palm tree pruning is happening from Breach Inlet to 21st Avenue. He met with the landscape architect for the Public Safety Building and did a city-wide inspection of the irrigation system with the landscape contractor.

Administrator Fragoso reported that Charleston County only gave the City four days' notice about the change regarding trash being dumped at the Bees Ferry landfill. This change will create inefficiencies and cost overtime during the beach season. Director Pitts said it will add approximately 90 minutes to the route during that time due to traffic. The County has said this is a cost-saving measure as it costs them \$115,000/year for the Isle of Palms to use the transfer station.

5. Old Business

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

Administrator Fragoso reported that Thomas & Hutton continues to work on the permitting and engineering and design for the Phase III Drainage Project. She said staff and Thomas & Hutton met with Wild Dunes to discuss a "mutually agreeable design" for the 30th Avenue outfall.

Administrator Fragoso said the bid package for the smaller internal projects has been received and it is being reviewed. It should go out for bid by early next week.

Staff is also working with Thomas & Hutton on an application to the Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant. The City was granted the maximum amount of \$500,000 for Phase II of the drainage project a few years ago. The City is eligible to receive additional funding for Phase III since it services another part of the island. The application deadline is September 14.

B. Discussion of outsourcing household garbage collection services

Treasurer Suggs reviewed potential savings surrounding the outsourcing of garbage and yard debris collection. Savings across numerous places in the budget for outsourcing garbage collection only comes to approximately \$586,000. The potential savings for outsourcing garbage and yard debris collection comes to approximately \$1,042,000. These numbers are based on non-binding estimates received from Carolina Waste, Republic Services, and costs found in Sullivan's Island's garbage collection contract. Administrator Fragoso said that outsourcing garbage collection is not financially feasible, adding that the community is very satisfied with the service they receive from the Department of Public Works.

Committee members then discussed the backdoor service received by many island residents and the need to rethink that service in light of the associated costs of the County's new requirement of taking trash to the Bees Ferry Landfill. Eliminating the backdoor service provided by the City will result in additional costs to condominium owners. Costs would likely be run through their HOAs. Committee members felt the backdoor service is inefficient and would like to see a financial analysis of eliminating the service.

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

Council Member Pounds reported that he and Administrator Fragoso met with Dominion Energy to discuss moving forward with a tree-cutting agreement and the use of the monies in the non-standard service fund. Administrator Fragoso suggested the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding with Dominion Energy rather than a tree-cutting agreement as it could provide

more City-centric direction. Committee members agreed they would like to see monies budgeted for a certified arborist to represent the City's interests in preserving as many trees as possible. Council Member Smith suggested some proactive messaging educating residents about types of trees and planting locations so they do not become hazards.

D. Discussion of Dominion Energy's Non-Standard Service Fund and list of eligible projects

Referring to a list of potential projects compiled by Dominion Energy in 2016, Council Member Pounds said that they have asked Dominion Energy to provide some high-level estimates for the costs of these projects. He shared that the cost to underground 0.1 mile of utility lines on Sullivan's Island cost \$310,000. Earlier estimates of undergrounding utilities from Breach Inlet to 15th Avenue came to \$12M. He said it is necessary that the City have a strategy on how best to use the monies in this fund.

Administrator Fragoso suggested having an expert in the undergrounding of utilities speak to the committee about all that is involved in the process. It was agreed that it may not be feasible to underground utilities island-wide.

Committee members agreed it is necessary to keep the discussions with Dominion Energy, the potential MOU, and list of projects as reoccurring agenda items to keep the issue front and center. Council Member Pounds asked if the high-level cost estimates for the smaller projects could be available for the next meeting. He also asked Council members Smith and Streetman to review the list of projects so it can be discussed in further detail at the October meeting.

6. **New Business** -- none

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 8:00am.

Shred Day will be held Saturday, September 26 from 9am-12pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk