



**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**8:00am, Thursday, November 5, 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 and Streetman\

Absent: Council Member Smith

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

Also Present: Rick Karkowski and Hilary Aton of Thomas & Hutton

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

Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 meeting, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion.

Director Pitts asked the minutes be amended to reflect a \$2,600 invoice instead of a \$26,000 invoice.

The amended minutes passed unanimously.

**3. Citizens' Comments**

The only comment was from Kelly Thorvalson of the SC Aquarium who spoke about cigarette litter on and near the beach. She noted that data indicates a 2-6% decrease in cigarette litter on the beach since the smoking ban was implemented. She hopes the City will do more to educate the public on the smoking ban and the toxicity of cigarette litter to the environment. She reported the Charleston Visitors Bureau has a plan for an educational campaign about beach smoking bans and that Folly Beach is in the early stages of discussing a similar ban. Administrator Fragoso said that the City has ordered appropriate signage for the most heavily used beach access paths and intends to add more signage each year.

**4. Department Reports – Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero**

Director Pitts reported average garbage collections for October and yard debris collection is up a little. However, miscellaneous garbage collection was very high. There will be some invoices for vehicle maintenance, but expenses are still within budget.

Asst. Director Asero reviewed the Public Works activities for October. Eadies cleaned a ditch at the Methodist Church and 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Vegetation cleanup also was done in that area. Estimates for drainage repair on Driftwood and 23<sup>rd</sup> and Harnett are being reviewed. Facilities maintenance included fencing and sensor repair at the Public Works building, City Hall elevator shaft repair, and plumbing repair at the Front Beach restrooms. He also is collecting estimates for the roof repair work needed on the Public Works building, but those received are higher than the estimate received from Trident. Work on that project is expected to begin next week.

He reported on pothole filling on Intercoastal Court, Waterway Boulevard sidewalk, and around City Hall and the Public Works Building, landscape removal and installation at the Public Safety building, and the removal of a wall on Forest Trail and Cross Lane.

Director Pitts reported that as of 1/1/2021, Seagrove Condominiums will be serviced by commercial dumpsters from Carolina Waste. He said the change was well received by the management company.

## 5. **Old Business**

### A. **Update on Phase III Drainage Project, small internal projects, and Waterway Boulevard path elevation – presentation by Thomas & Hutton**

Rick Karkowski and Hilary Aton of Thomas & Hutton gave a three-part presentation detailing the status and challenges associated with the Waterway Boulevard path improvements, the smaller internal drainage projects, and the Phase III Drainage Project. A link to the YouTube video of this meeting containing that presentation and discussion can be found to the City's project timeline on the website.

Mr. Karkowski shared details of proposed 6' protection improvements along sections of Waterway Boulevard. He highlighted those areas in need of improvement and the area of the island positively affected by the improvements. Mr. Krakowski and Director Kerr stated that raising the protections higher than 6' did not increase the level of protection very much but added to the cost significantly.

Director Kerr noted that the parts of the path needing this work are also part of a drainage project. He envisions the project being completed in phases: repaving the path in the near future "with the roadmap of adding those [tidal] gates and doing those other smaller projects as we can."

Mr. Krakowski said the cost estimate will include drainage retrofitting and the installation of tidal controls. He added that the tidal controls impact the flooding more positively than the actual raising of the path. He said this level of protection is predicted to last 25 years and protect against King tides. The success of the project in the long term will require a public/private partnership with Wild Dunes.

Committee members agreed that Thomas & Hutton should move forward with a cost estimate on the Waterway Boulevard path improvements with at 6' protection as proposed.

Mr. Krakowski then reviewed the bids received for the small internal drainage projects. The low bid came from Gulfstream, but their estimate was still above the \$500,000 budgeted expense at \$612,000, which does not include any contingency. He shared that after talking with Gulfstream and the Water & Sewer Commission, Thomas & Hutton is prepared to submit a letter of recommendation to award the bid to Gulfstream.

Mr. Krakowski and Committee members discussed which of the projects could be dropped from the bid to keep expenses in line with the budget. Administrator Fragoso stated that another revenue source for this project comes from NPDES Stormwater Fund, which is managed for the City by Charleston County Stormwater. The City's fund balance is currently \$475,000. She said that while she prefers to keep a 25% balance in the fund at all times, it does accrue at approximately \$225,000/year. Administrator Fragoso and Director Kerr believe the process by which these funds are applied for and received will be straightforward. Mr. Krakowski added that the completion of the small internal projects will be helpful with regards to drainage, but their full effect will be seen upon completion of Phase III.

Committee members directed staff to apply for funds so that the full scope of the internal projects could be completed while allowing the City's budget to remain intact. Administrator Fragoso indicated she would like to have the project approved by full Council in November so there is no price increase, and the project can begin in January to be completed before the next beach season begins.

Mr. Krakowski then spoke about issues and concerns around the 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue outfall. He suggested changes to the easements in that area to allow the City easier access to the outfall without having to go across the golf course. Director Kerr summarized saying there is an increase in costs associated with this outfall, a potential increase in mitigation and permitting, and an increase in the need for easement area from Wild Dunes.

Director Kerr shared the work needing to be done in this area will affect the playability, look, and feel of the Wild Dunes Golf Course. Sodding over the entire area increases the costs significantly because for every percentage of acre that is disturbed there are offsetting mitigation costs. He hopes there is a way to partner with Wild Dunes on a wetlands project as part of the mitigation.

Mr. Krakowski said that the permitting for this area as well as the outfall at 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue will need to be divided into two separate permits. He said Thomas & Hutton continues to work through the cost, regulation, and mitigation issues to get the most out of the City's money. The start of the project will be into FY22.

Mr. Krakowski reported that the permits for Forest Trail are ready to be submitted and they believe their approval should be a quick process, hopefully starting construction in early 2021. He then briefly reviewed the designs of the other outfalls.

## **B. Discussion of outsourcing household garbage collection services**

While there is nothing new to report on outsourcing, Council Member Pounds said he is encouraged to see work being done to eliminate backdoor service.

**C. Update on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Dominion Energy ahead of next tree-trimming cycle and discussion of Dominion Energy's Non-Standard Service Fund and list of eligible projects**

Council Member Pounds reported that he and Administrator Fragoso met with Dominion Energy recently. They are still waiting on high-level estimates from Dominion regarding eligible projects funded by the Non-Standard Service Fund. Administrator Fragoso agreed it was a productive meeting, and Dominion Energy understands the need for a strategic plan with the City moving forward. Conversation about the MOU is ongoing.

**D. Discussion and consideration of amendments to §5-4-32 of the City's Zoning Code to allow for sewer pump stations with a 1,000 square foot or less footprint**

Director Kerr said that following City Council's approval of the amendment at First Reading, the Planning Commission and the Water & Sewer Commission met to discuss further amendments to §5-4-32. He believes the Planning Commission will formalize their recommendation at their meeting next week, which will be presented to the full City Council at their November meeting.

Director Kerr reviewed the proposed changes the Planning Commission is considering. They would like the approval of a lift station changed from staff level to BOZA as a special exception. They also created a list of performance criteria for the lift stations, including: maintaining the 1,000-square-foot size limitation; providing odor control; enclosed within a 8' fence or building; the inclusion of a 10' vegetative buffer to create additional screening; lighting limited to when work is being done on the site only; backup power must come from mobile generators and only be onsite when needed' and a height limit of 12' for the equipment and a 16' height limit for a roof peak if the equipment is contained within a building.

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of beach litter and trash collection**

Director Pitts explained that when the recyclable trash containers at the beach are contaminated with non-recyclable trash like diapers, animal waste bags, and cardboard, they are refused by drivers for Charleston County Recycling Division. Administrator Fragoso said the City could do a better job of educating the public on how to properly dispose of their garbage and recyclables. Director Pitts noted that short-term rentals are doing a good job of informing their renters of how to properly handle their garbage and recyclable materials.

Administrator Fragoso said she is working with Chief Cornett on enforcement of the City's ordinance regarding the proper times to put out and pull up garbage and recycling roller carts.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is to be determined by further action from Dominion Energy. A meeting will be scheduled in December if it is deemed necessary. Otherwise the Committee will meet in January 2021.

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Pounds made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk