



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
10:00am, Monday, November 15, 2021
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC
and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Streetman, Smith, and Ward

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

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – October 6, 2021

Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 meeting, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

City Clerk DeNeane read into the record a statement from Kelly Thorvalson of the South Carolina Aquarium about her concerns for Ordinance 2021-15. She would like the Committee to consider relaxing "only the food-to-go containers portion of the ordinance and keep single-use plastic bags from being used in businesses and straws upon request." She would also like for the time frame for this ordinance to be for three months.

4. Department Reports – Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero

Director Pitts stated that garbage collection for October was average and yard debris collection was "down a bit." He reported that vehicle maintenance costs for October were \$7,400.

Asst. Director Asero reported that Eadie's has completed 600' of the Forest Trail drainage ditch. They will revisit it later to get a deeper cleaning. They have also cleaned ditches on 23rd and 24th avenues. Public Works staff cleaned the ditch on 45th Avenue. SCDOT has completed the ditch restructuring at Duck and Sparrow. He said that SCDOT has told them the intersection at 41st and Palm Boulevard will be completed before Christmas. The additional delays are due to labor shortages.

Facilities maintenance included the completion of lighting at Fire Station 2 and elevator repairs.

Public Works has cleared the beach access at 46th Avenue. MobiMats have been installed on both sections before and after the boardwalk there. An additional 50' of MobiMat was also installed on 42nd Avenue.

Public Works installed 50 well lights at the front beach to restore the lighting that was originally there. They have also been assessing the beach access paths to determine which ones need further cleaning. Asst. Director Asero met with the landscape contractor about completing front beach improvements during the off season. They hope to have some of those beautifications complete by the Holiday Street Festival.

Discussion ensued about the responsibility for the cleanup of the IOP Connector. Administrator Fragoso said that SCDOT pays for one cleaning a month. The City felt that more cleaning was necessary and pays for an additional cleaning each month. Committee members would like to see the Town of Mt. Pleasant contribute to the Connector cleaning efforts.

Council Member Smith asked if the assessment of the beach access paths include noting which paths would benefit from the monies set aside in the budget for the improvement of the paths and building of footbridges. Asst. Director Asero said that currently the staff is looking to see which paths need cleaning. She encouraged Asst. Director Asero to review the pictures provided by residents of flooded areas during the last King tide for use in grant funding requests. Asst. Director Asero shared that he also had taken many pictures of flooding at that time.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Phase III Drainage Project, small internal projects, and Waterway Boulevard path elevation

Administrator Fragoso said the bids for the 30th and 36th avenues outfalls have been opened and will be discussed later in the meeting. The 41st Avenue outfall and Waterway Boulevard path elevation project are still in the permitting phase. The City has submitted multiple grant applications to assist in the funding of these projects.

She said only punch list items remain on the completion of the small internal drainage projects.

B. Update and discussion of golf cart path along Ocean Park Plaza

Administrator Fragoso reported, “We had a discussion with Stantech to help us with the development of specifications and the encroachment permit for DOT that would allow us to remove a portion of the curb so that we can safely segregate golf cart traffic coming off of Palm Boulevard and 21st Avenue onto Ocean Park Plaza. We are in the process of executing that agreement. The cost for their work was \$3,000, which we felt was reasonable for the work, and we will execute it. They will need a couple of weeks to prepare the permit and prepare the drawing that we would submit to SCDOT. SCDOT will take several weeks to review them. Once an encroachment permit is issued, we will be able to procure an actual construction contractor to do that work. So hopefully we can get that done this winter so it is ready for the spring.” She believes it will only be two days’ worth of work.

6. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 2021-15 – an ordinance to temporarily suspend enforcement of Title 3, Chapter 4, Environmentally Acceptable Packaging and Products for businesses affected by global supply chain issue due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Administrator Fragoso said this ordinance needs a time frame and recommendation to City Council for approval. She has reached out to the island businesses to assess their supply chain issues with regards to to-go serviceware and bags but has received no response.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the ordinance with a 6-month time frame and recommend it to City Council for approval. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion.

Council Member Smith said she would like to make it clear that the suspension of these rules will not affect the materials that are still prohibited on the beach.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to amend the approval so that the suspension applies only to Section 3-4-6, Subsection A. The suspension would remain place for the period of three months.

Council Member Ward said that he believes the supply chain issues will last well into 2022.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the original motion to approve as follows:

Ayes: Streetman, Ward

Nays: Smith

The motion passed 2-1.

Administrator Fragoso clarified that Council Member Smith's motion to amend would mean that businesses can provide disposable serviceware, but customers would not be able to take it on the beach to consume it.

Council Member Ward noted there was no second to Council Member Smith's motion to amend, and so the motion failed.

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to amend by applying the suspension to take-out packaging only and not plastic bags. The use of single-use plastic bags would still be prohibited. Council Member Ward seconded the motion.

Council Member Streetman asked for clarification about the applicability of the ordinance to the beach. Administrator Fragoso explained, "The way that it is drafted in that ordinance it just applies to the whole chapter, Chapter 4. And Chapter 4 has a section that talks about prohibited sales and prohibited uses and in that subsection is where the prohibition of people bringing these materials to the beach is included which, I think that is the goal is for just you providing some type of relief for businesses... So if you are passing an ordinance where Chapter 4 is suspended for six months, the prohibition on what people can bring to the beach is included in Chapter 4. So

you would have to be specific about the subsection you are referring to so that you do not end up actually lifting the restrictions on what people can bring to the beach.”

A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Streetman, Smith

Nays: Ward

The motion passed 2-1.

Committee members briefly discussed the amount of takeout orders that are eaten on the beach and if the prohibition of these materials on the beach should be suspended for the same time period. Council Member Smith said, “I don’t believe the intent of changing this was originally supposed to be on what the businesses could provide with their supply chain issues. The fact about what people can take on the beach should be separate and should not be lumped into an amendment.”

MOTION: Council Member Smith made a motion to amend the suspension to only apply to Subsection A of Section 3-4-6. There being no second, the motion failed.

Council Member Smith encouraged staff to work with island businesses to promote messaging that urges customers to keep the beaches clean. She suggested the development of appropriate signage to provide to businesses that would “encourage positive behaviors.” Council Member Streetman said he did not support putting extra responsibility on the businesses, asking them “to police what is being taken out of their restaurants and where it goes. Council Member Smith said it is not meant to monitor but only to encourage businesses with their message to support positive behaviors.

B. Consideration of approval of a contract to Quality Enterprises in the amount of \$2.27 million for the construction of Phase 3 Outfalls at 30th and 36th avenues

Director Kerr reported that there were two bids for the 30th and 36th avenues outfalls projects. The low bid from Quality Enterprises was for \$2.27M. It has been reviewed by Thomas & Hutton who recommends it to the staff. Staff is recommending the approval of the bid to the Public Works Committee.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion of alternatives to gravity sewer

Referring to information in the meeting packet, Council Member Smith hoped the potential use of affluent sewer could be discussed by the next City Council. Director Kerr said alternatives to gravity sewer have been discussed by the Water & Sewer Commission. He said, “Those kinds of decisions will really be made by the Water & Sewer Commission and their staff. They have definitely always only considered gravity sewer as the solution out here.” He said that while the installation of this other option may be less expensive to install and be less impactful on the environment, the upkeep is labor intensive.

Director Kerr added that the City and the Water & Sewer Commission meet regularly to discuss and plan for the sewer expansion across the island. They are working collaboratively on an MOU that will lay out the plans for the sewer expansion. He said a component of this planning includes helping those who cannot afford the required hookup fees.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be in January 2022 with the date to be determined in the future.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Smith seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk