



PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:30pm, Wednesday, March 2, 2022
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 Bogosian, Hahn, and Ward

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

Absent: Director Pitts

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – February 3, 2022

Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 meeting, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments -- none

4. Department Reports – Director Pitts and Assistant Director Asero

Director Pitts said garbage collection was up a little for February while yard debris was up by 40 tons. He spent \$4600 on vehicle maintenance for the month and remains under budget.

Asst. Director Asero reviewed the activities of the Public Works Department in February. Drainage work included reviewing Charleston County stormwater drainage plans for home construction, the completion of ditch cleaning from 32nd Avenue to Waterway Boulevard, review of outfall documentation for tide valve installation, vegetation and debris cleaning at 34th Avenue between Forest Trail/Waterway Boulevard to 41st Avenue, and meeting with Davis & Floyd to discuss alternative methods of ditch cleaning.

Facilities maintenance activities included the completion of City-wide backflow testing, the installation of exterior LED lighting at City Hall, replacement of lightbulbs in Council Chambers, repair of Fire Station 2 generator, repair of duct work at the Public Safety Building, and securing estimates for painting at City Hall.

Work at the Front Beach included the completion of lighting from 10th Avenue to the Pavilion, the removal of a bike rack and turtle statue at the VFW to accommodate a larger sidewalk, resetting of the granite monuments, and securing estimates for the sidewalk and brick paver repairs.

The repaving of the 41st Avenue sidewalk from the Marina to Wildwood Drive is now complete. Staff is securing estimates for the pruning of all the palm trees on Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue. Asst. Director Asero also reported that he has created a work route for weekly litter control between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Council Member Hahn asked about the parking bumpers along Palm Boulevard and their potential replacement. Administrator Fragoso shared that the earlier conversations and research into that option revealed that it was cost prohibitive. She said that she intends to discuss short-term aesthetics along with bicycle and pedestrian access along Palm Boulevard with SCDOT staff at their meeting on March 4. Further delineation of the parking spaces on the ocean side of Palm Boulevard “is still something that we would want to pursue for SCDOT to do ahead of the season.”

5. Old Business

A. Update on Phase III Drainage Project [Strategic Plan Priority 5, Goal c]

Administrator Fragoso said not much has changed since the Capital Projects update at the Ways & Means Committee meeting. The contract for the work at the 30th and 36th avenues outfalls has been executed and it slated to begin in April. The City is awaiting permits for the 41st Avenue outfall and is in the process of evaluating the option to pipe a portion of the 41st Avenue right-of-way to increase parking on the marina side.

B. Update on improvements to golf cart path along Ocean Park Plaza [Strategic Plan Priority 1, Goal b]

Administrator Fragoso said the encroachment permit has been secured. They are working on getting pricing on the construction costs. Administrator Fragoso anticipates the work will only take a few days, but she is attempting to coordinate that work with a larger project on Ocean Boulevard that will facilitate the movement of large delivery trucks.

6. New Business

Discussion of proposed FY223 Operational Budget – Public Works [Strategic Plan Priority 3, Goal b]

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the areas of the operational budget with the highest increases over FY22 including salaries which is being driven by the approved adjustments from the Wage & Compensation Study, required employer increases to employee retirement, fuel charges, vehicle maintenance, the cost of temporary labor, and contracts which will include a contract for the temporary use of a mini excavator to see if it is something the staff will use before requesting to purchase a used one.

Council Member Bogosian suggested raising the fuel charges even higher. Administrator Fragoso said those will be adjusted as needed throughout the budget process.

She reminded Committee members of some of the projects from the 10-year Capital Plan, noting the portions of the costs of those items that will come from tourism revenues.

Administrator Fragoso said that staff is reevaluating some staffing in the department in light of an upcoming retirement. They would like to restructure the department to allow for a Stormwater Foreman with the current resources. While this will be a new position, it will not be an additional employee. They will present their idea at the upcoming budget workshop.

B. Discussion of request from The Dinghy to relocate existing compactor located at the Small Municipal Parking Lot

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to suspend the rules of order to allow Mr. Bret Jones to speak to this matter. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bret Jones said that the structure enclosing the compactor in the small municipal parking lot is at the end of its useful life. He would like to see a brick enclosure built at the center of the parking lot. He believes a new and stronger structure would not only be more aesthetically appealing, but also help with the rodent problem in that area. He also said moving the compactor to the center of the lot will create parking spaces.

Administrator Fragoso said that the City pays \$80-\$90,000 annually for the commercial dumpster service that picks up that trash. The business owners who use that compactor split the cost of the County's fee to dump the trash.

Administrator Fragoso said this issue has been discussed in the past. Previous research showed that a move to the center actually reduced the number of parking spaces because of the required setbacks needed around a new structure. The projected expense of the project along with the lost revenue was approximately \$100,000, and so discussion stopped.

Mr. Jones encouraged Committee members to come look at the lot with him. Council Member Ward agreed the area needs to be cleaned up and would like to continue to discuss the matter. Council Member Hahn asked for cost breakdowns of what the City pays, what the business owners pay, and potential costs involved with moving the compactor. Administrator Fragoso said the issue will be discussed at the staff level with Mr. Jones, and ideas will be brought back to the Committee.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 3:30pm.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Hahn made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk