

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010 in the Public Works Building located at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Stone and Thomas, Chair Duffy, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Dave Stevens of Civil Site Environmental was also present.

1. Chair Duffy called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Director Pitts stated that there needed to be a correction to page 1, paragraph 2 under Item 4 stating "the apparatus had been purchased" should accurately state "the apparatus had been acquired from Wild Dunes."

MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2010 as corrected; Chair Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Carolyn Holscher, 2 Fifty-third Avenue, stated that she and David Rawle were aware that the City Council and Public Works Department were doing all in their power to remedy the flooding situation on Fifty-third Avenue, and she added that she hoped that Mr. Rawle's suggestion to buy additional pumps would be realized.

4. Department Reports for March 2010

A. Trash Collection Tracking Reports

Director Pitts reported that garbage collection was low for another month.

Personnel were involved with tasks to prepare for the coming season; the car stops have been installed in the small parking lot. At the time the report was written, forty-one (41) new trash barrels had been placed on the beach; another forty-five (45) barrels have been placed since then for a total of eighty-six (86) new barrels. The garden club is scheduled to paint the palms on the barrels Saturday, April 10. Time was again spent pumping water from 46th, 51st and 53rd Avenues. The sand buildup was scraped near the beach paths on 46th, 49th and 51st Avenues; there is a picture of the work being done on 51st Avenue attached to the historic record of the meeting; this work is being done to install the collection boxes discussed at the March meeting. The Director reported that the scraping had exposed an additional seventy-five (75) feet of asphalt. The collection boxes cost approximately thirty to thirty-five dollars (\$30-35); one (1) has been installed at 51st Avenue and a two will be installed at 53rd.

B. Maintenance Report

Vehicle maintenance continues to run approximately four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per month keeping the department at or under budget.

Director Pitts reported that he has been trying to dispose of Truck 22; he had originally thought to put it on govdeals.com, but it did not happen, and bids in the past were very low using that website. The truck was put out for bid on the City's website and no bids were received. He has since contacted Charleston Steel in an effort to sell the truck for scrap, and they have offered him twenty-three hundred sixty dollars (\$2,360). Another scrap company, Don's Car Crushing offered twenty-eight hundred six dollars (\$2,806). The Director related that he had also contacted Summerville Auto Auction who agreed that scrapping the truck was the right move; although the City might want to hold onto it in anticipation rates increasing for scrap and getting an additional one or two hundred dollars (\$100-200). Administrator Tucker added that the quotes would be less the towing charge of two hundred thirty dollars (\$230).

The recommendation from the Administrator was to tow the truck to Don's Car Crushing, which had made the higher offer, because Public Works needed the space that Truck 22 was occupying.

MOTION: Chair Duffy moved to dispose of Truck 22 as at the best possible price; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Old Business

A. Status of 54th-57th Avenue Drainage Project – Bid Process

Administrator Tucker related that there had been a couple of pieces of correspondence from David Rawle, who is serving as the spokesperson for the residents of 53rd Avenue; he met with Director Pitts and Assistant Dziuban last week. Summarizing the points Mr. Rawle made related to actions the City should take, the Administrator said Mr. Rawle thought the water on 53rd Avenue should be addressed with the project the City is in the process of undertaking; in addition, he requested a peer review of the engineering work that has been done thus far, and finally requested that additional pumps be purchased to improve the short-term solution.

From her perspective, Administrator Tucker was of the opinion that while another firm might offer some information, she thinks that she can predict what they would say. To have a peer review would cost the City a significant sum of money – money that could be spent on the project to solve the problem. The kinds of things that the Administrator expected to hear from a peer review were the following:

- The existing plan is a good one;
- The options for collection of the water in the area that is flooding from 46th to 57th are to pump it to 41st Avenue which would require pump stations that would require maintenance, and the City would, likely, need easements in order to place the pump stations; or

- To continue along the present path and create another project to capture the water in the area from 42nd Avenue to 52nd Avenue and send it to another outfall on the Waterway side of the main gate to Wild Dunes, and/or
- Build retention ponds either at the ends of the roads or on the Citadel's property, and the City would go in with the Citadel.

Administrator Tucker stated that she did not believe that another engineering firm would have an issue with the work that has already been done, and she also stated that she does not think that the City would learn anything that would be enlightening. The end result would, in the Administrator's opinion, be a time delay and additional expense to the City.

The purchase of additional pumps was at the will of the Committee to recommend; she noted that, even if the City endeavored to do a massive drainage project from 46th to 57th Avenues to completely solve that drainage problem, the City would always have a use for pumps. The purchase of pumps would be helpful in a storm event or in other areas of the island that have been a lower priority. Administrator Tucker noted that she is not convinced that the number of pumps is the issue, but that the problem is an internal one that needs to be solved. She related that Director Pitts reports that he can pump 53rd Avenue dry in a three (3) hour period, but the water returns because it is part of a seven (7) acre drainage basin. The City hopes to establish a workable solution both to check on the water buildup and to train others, in the absence of Public Works on the island, to go and to switch the pumps on and off when the water accumulates.

In the Administrator's opinion, the most important point Mr. Rawle makes is that the 54th to 57th Avenue project is one that the City has been contemplating for a long time, so maybe it is time to step back and re-evaluate whether this path remains the best one or should be adjusted to deal with the situation that exists today. Given the idea to step back and re-think, Mr. Stevens' proposal of doing Phase One of the present project, a smaller scope project, is one notion, but, based on Mr. Rawle's appeal, the Administrator asked Mr. Stevens determine whether the water accumulating on 53rd Avenue could be incorporated into the project that has been referred to for so long as the 54th to 57th Avenue Drainage Project. Assistant Dziuban related that Mr. Rawle had requested the peer review, not because he questioned the quality of work from Civil Site Environmental, but because he questioned the parameters of the project. Mr. Steven stated that Dave Kynoski of the Wild Dunes Community Association had established the parameters of the project within their system by disallowing an increase in the size of the outfall.

Mr. Stevens displayed a map of the island pointing out the area that encompasses the seven (7) acre drainage basin that is on 53rd Avenue. He stated that he had dropped the proposed drainage system one foot (1 ft) back to 53rd Avenue. On the computer model, assuming he can use the existing outfall, the duration of the flooding would improve as follows:

2-year storm	10 inches of water would drain in 4 hours;
10-year storm	12 inches of water would drain in 13 hours; and
100-year storm	would drain in 24 hours.

Mr. Stevens explained that the Wild Dunes' system must peak before any water from the new project would be discharged into it; therefore smaller pipes were used so as not to impact their

discharge. If he can increase the outfall structure or re-do the emergency overflow, the duration time would be improved; Mr. Stevens indicated that the outfall structure was the key. He expressed the opinion that, with the permission from Wild Dunes, the outfall could be amended easily to apply for a new permit.

Mr. Stevens voiced confidence that everything could be done by February 2011, but he needed time to study the manipulation of the pipes and outfall structure.

With the Chair's permission, Mrs. Holscher stated that she and Mr. Rawle were aware of the fact that Mr. Stevens had operated under very specific parameters, but they were of the opinion that, since the original plan was developed, there have been a lot of changes, which could not be included in that plan. The suggestion of a peer review would incorporate those changes.

Mrs. Holscher added that the purchase of more pumps would mean that 51st and 52nd Avenues could be pumped since they are a source of much of the water that accumulates on 53rd Avenue.

Mr. Stevens noted that he does not believe that expanding the project scope to include 53rd Avenue would require a lot of modifications; he commented that the addition of one (1) pipe into the Wild Dunes outfall and widening some of the weir structure there may solve the problem. He reminded the Committee that originally the plan was moving water from a ten-acre (10 acre) basin, but the revised plan means moving water from a seventeen-acre (17 acre) basin.

If the project were to go out to bid now, Mr. Stevens said, the bid should indicate that the pipe is dropped a foot; he did not think it would affect the cost significantly to allow for the potential for this change.

Mr. Stevens indicated that, if he were allowed to make upgrades to the Wild Dunes' outfall, the balance of the work could be done relatively quickly. If, on the other hand, the City had to permit another outfall, there could be a delay in the project. Mr. Stevens did not see any reason to delay getting the bid package ready.

Administrator Tucker summarized the discussion to the point as follows:

- Mr. Stevens will continue to work on the bid package for what was contemplated as the original project, with the exception that the collection pipe will be lowered one (10) foot, and
- In tandem, the City will be seeking policy approval from Wild Dunes Community Association to be able to upgrade their existing outfall, Mr. Stevens will be designing to accept the seven (7) acres, as well as looking at what must be done to the outfall or the need to add another outfall which the City would be layering on the project being put out for bid.

Mr. Stevens indicated that the City may have to get easements from some of the people in the project area, but he thought they would gladly grant them.

For the record, Administrator Tucker stated that there would “still be some instances on some occasions where these areas that have flooded in the past still will have some flooding for a very brief period of time.”

Councilmember Stone surmised that the project would not be complete for at least a year; therefore, he was concerned about the need for additional pumps.

When the subject of adding the cost to purchase additional pumps into the FY 11 budget, Director Pitts expressed the opinion that pumps should continue to be rented, rather than purchased, to determine if having additional pumps was going to make a difference. He added that there is no space in the Public Works Building to store any more pumps, and the rental price of four hundred dollars (\$400) per week was certainly reasonable.

MOTION: Chair Duffy moved to expand the scope of the 54th to 57th Avenue Drainage Project to include the catch basin that includes 53rd Avenue; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker asked Mr. Stevens to provide her with the cost of additional engineering for the Ways and Means Committee meeting of April 20, 2010.

B. Discussion of Design Estimates

1. 49th – 53rd Avenues

Mr. Stevens stated that, sooner or later, the City would need to address drainage issues on 49th Avenue through the marina; the project scope here would be 49th through 52nd Avenues.

Administrator Tucker informed Mr. Stevens that the City needed estimates from him for this work; Mr. Stevens said that he had only done a feasibility study of going through the marina.

2. 44th – 46th Avenues

Mr. Stevens reported that the storm drain between 44th and 46th Avenues needs to be cleaned out because it is silted in to the point that it cannot be surveyed; Director Pitts informed the Committee that the ditch in question was included in Year One of Eadie’s contract, therefore, likely was in need of cleaning.

Administrator Tucker asked Director Pitts to get an estimate to clean the ditch.

Mr. Stevens suggested that, before doing anything, a camera should go the course of the ditch because he suspects there is a failure, a collapse, of the line at 42nd Avenue.

3. Sparrow Drive

Mr. Stevens suggests that the same problems exist here as between 44th and 46th Avenues.

MOTION: Chair Duffy moved to authorize up to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the Drainage Contingency Fund to clean the collection boxes at 41st Avenue and Sparrow Drive; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Status of Drainage Maintenance Request for Proposal

Assistant Dziuban reported that Director Pitts has prepared a draft of the RFP, and she will check it to ensure adherence to the City's procurement code. The RFP is worded so as to allow the bidders to propose the time line for the contract that would begin with the new budget year.

6. New Business

A. Review of Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2010-2011

Administrator Tucker stated that the goal for this meeting was to look at the highlights and to review the changes since the first look at the budget in preparation for the workshop on Tuesday, April 20. The biggest change is that the projected revenue budget is attached as well; she reported that approximately four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) had to be captured in order to present a balanced budget.

Salaries	\$412,797
A global change to the operating budgets was a reduction to 3.5% for the pool available for performance-based increases; in addition, one full-time position has been eliminated. Director Pitts added that the elimination of that position was contingent upon the approval to purchase the new truck.	
Group health insurance	76,633
The increase was originally projected at 10%, but the provider has since confirmed a 5% increase by moving the City into the modified pool.	
Workers' Compensation	19,588
These rates are based on experience; the City is presently in a 3-year period of very good experience, as well as excellent ratings on the annual safety audits, so the increase is anticipated to be less than originally projected.	
Vehicle fuel and oil	75,313
Vehicle maintenance	85,000
These 2 lines are still being "tweaked."	
Temporary labor	162,614
Increased due to increase in minimum wage; this expense is offset by 50% from Municipal Accommodations fees.	

The Public Works Operating Budget overall is projected to have a three percent (3%) decrease over the FY10 budget.

On page 39 of the budget document, the capital budget is displayed by the fund from which the expenditures would be paid. The capital leases are equally paid from the Capital Projects fund, Municipal Accommodations Fees and State Accommodations Taxes; replacing the privacy fence along 13th Avenue and staff computers and the emergency fuel shot-off mechanism for the fuel tanks would be funded from the Capital Projects fund. Under special projects, the

design, engineering and construction of the 54th-57th Avenue drainage project is funded at six hundred twelve thousand three hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$612,339) from the Capital Projects fund, of which six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) has come from CTC grants. Finally, the one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) for dune walkovers is to be funded from State Accommodations Taxes.

B. Consideration of Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 - None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Director Pitts repeated that the garden club will be painting the yellow barrels Saturday, April 10 during the Household Hazardous Materials Collection and Shred Event beginning at 9 a.m.

Chair Duffy reported that the new street sign at Forest Trail has two (2) r's; Director Pitts said he would report the error to Charleston County to get it replaced.

Next Meeting Date: 4 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, 2010

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk