

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 4, 2011

The Public Works Committee held its regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Stone and Thomas, Chair Duffy, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 7, 2011 as submitted; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Departmental Reports for September 2011 – Director Pitts

Director Pitts stated that the focus for work in September had been general right-of-way maintenance. Vehicle maintenance was up for the month due to preventative maintenance done on a couple of vehicles and the purchase of tires; the Director noted that expenses remain under budget. Garbage collection was up from last year, but still trending down.

The Director informed the Committee that personnel had started tearing open the plastic bags of yard debris and that no plastic bags were being taken to the Bees Ferry Landfill. He indicated that personnel would continue to open bags as long as doing so did not put them behind.

Administrator Tucker clarified for the record that City Council passed an ordinance in June, 2011 mandating that yard debris be placed in plastic containers or paper bags; placing yard debris in plastic bags is technically an ordinance violation at this time. When a resident has a number of plastic bags, Director Pitts has been personally notifying the resident about the change in City policy.

Councilmember Stone asked approximately how many plastic bags staff had encountered the previous week; Director Pitts said that the number was about twenty percent (20%) of the total volume of yard debris.

Director Pitts explained that the plastic bags of debris are torn open and the contents put into the truck; the plastic bags are held on the truck and placed with household garbage for disposal.

The Director commented that residents are paying more attention to the media coverage of the discussions taking place at the County level than to the action taken by the Isle of Palms City Council.

Administrator Tucker referred Committee members to two (2) articles in *The Post and Courier* covering the single-stream recycling program Charleston County has started; the Administrator

also recounted that City Council, in its September meeting, had unanimously passed a motion asking to be moved to the top of the list of participating municipalities in the County's single-stream recycling initiative.

Councilmember Stone asked Chair Duffy and Director Pitts to explain the advantages of this process; Chair Duffy answered that the County is expecting greater compliance with its initiative to increase recycling to forty percent (40%) of the total garbage because recycling would be easier without having to segregate recyclable materials. In addition, the new recycling containers can be emptied automatically, reducing personnel requirements and speeding up the collection process.

5. Old Business

Update on Drainage Projects – Status of Petition Request

Director Pitts reported that, despite applying two (2) gallons of rust remover on the ground water stain on 54th Avenue, the stain is still visible, and a second application may be necessary. After discussion, the Committee agreed that a second application should be delayed for a month, and the subject will be addressed again at the November meeting.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of Placement of Trash Barrels on Non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard.

Assistant Dziuban explained that this request had come from a resident on the feature of the City's website that allows residents to place comments to the City. Many of these comments can be addressed by staff, but, due to the fiscal implications of this request, staff agreed that it should be brought before the Committee.

The request was for trash barrels to be placed on the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard opposite the beach accesses. Staff estimates that approximately twenty (20) barrels would be needed to mirror the placement on the ocean-side of Palm. In addition, Assistant Dziuban related that she had contacted Mr. Schupp about any additional costs to the City for emptying additional barrels; Mr. Schupp responded that the additions would not significantly impact his route or add to the time his equipment would be working. To purchase the additional barrels and to paint them would run approximately six hundred dollars (\$600) annually, and, based on what is placed in the barrels, there could be additional tipping and usage fees.

Chair Duffy questioned the rationale behind the resident's request, and Assistant Dziuban stated that the resident had been collecting trash in the right-of-way adjacent to his property and was thinking that a trash barrel on his side of the road might encourage visitors to properly discard their trash.

Mr. Schupp reported that the yellow barrels at 21st, 25th and 34th Avenue access paths were the only ones that regularly contained trash. In addition, he reported that, when people serving community service go along the roadway, they collect very little trash on the non-ocean side of

Palm. Mr. Schupp commented that there are only ten to twelve (10-12) yellow barrels on the ocean side because there are some beach accesses that are not used.

Administrator Tucker stated that the trash this resident is dealing with may be blown out of barrels or off of trucks.

Councilmember Stone expressed the opinion that he thought the barrels would draw vandalism and could become a liability issue for the City; he added that he does not see the problem that twenty (20) yellow barrels would solve.

The Committee agreed that a line of yellow barrels along Palm Boulevard would greatly detract from the esthetic appeal of the island. Chair Duffy suggested offering the resident an additional roll-out cart at no charge from the City if the resident's need is so great, but the roll-out cart would not to remain in the right-of-way constantly.

B. Consideration of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000

Budgeted Replacement of Garbage Hopper Truck at State Contract Pricing

Administrator Tucker explained that this truck was budgeted replacement; the amount budgeted was twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000), but the quote included in the meeting packets is twenty-eight thousand four hundred forty-three dollars (\$28,443).

Director Pitts pointed out that the quote includes the Linex, but he has placed a call to the person in charge of fleet sales in an effort to get the truck to the budgeted amount.

Councilmember Thomas stated that he spent ten (10) years in purchasing and asked for reassurances that going with state contract pricing was in the best interest for the City. Administrator Tucker started her response by stating that the state has laws that govern procurement, as well as ethics laws that bind state employees. She continued that, since the state procures large quantities, it is more likely to get the most competitive pricing. In addition, the City is saved the time and expense of generating a procurement package and going through the process; in the Administrator's opinion, the City benefits from being able to hold vendors to state contract pricing. Administrator Tucker expressed ninety-five percent (95%) confidence that the City was getting the best deal by using state contract pricing.

Director Pitts noted that the model quoted has a higher fuel efficiency motor; he could opt for a less fuel efficient model to reduce the price - the quoted model is rated at 22 mph in tow.

The Administrator pointed out that the quote is good through October 21, 2011.

Councilmember Stone asked about the expected life of the truck; Director Pitts remarked that it will replace a ten (10) year old vehicle with mileage of seventy-six thousand (76,000) miles.

MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to recommend to Ways and Means an award of a contract not to exceed \$28,443 to Jones Ford for one (1) Ford F150 truck; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Administrator Tucker reported that beach monitoring results for September had been within acceptable levels.

Next Meeting Date: 3 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m.; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk