

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
Isle of Palms, South Carolina  
November 12, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2007 at the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairman Bettelli, Councilman Cronin, Councilwoman Hanbury, Public Works Director Pitts, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. **Call to order.** Councilman Bettelli called the meeting to order and stated that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes.**

**MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury moved to approved the minutes as submitted; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments.** None.

4. **Public Works Report for October 2007 – Director Pitts**

Director Pitts reported that, with the heavy rains in October, for the first time in two years the Public Works Department was required to pump water. He had a photograph of the 4" pump, which was purchased two (2) years ago, at work at 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue; he related that the pump was in action for three days for 8-10 hour shifts. Pumping also took place on 51<sup>st</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenues onto the beach in emergency situations.

The Director also wanted the Committee to be aware of the large tree that had to be removed as a result of the Charleston County Recycling truck "plowing" through it; the tree was located primarily on the right-of-way of Cameron and 4 Thirty-fifth Avenue.

The primary expense to Vehicle Maintenance was preventative maintenance on the trucks.

5. **Old Business:**

**A. RFP for Pre-disaster/Post-disaster Debris Removal – Update**

Administrator Tucker commented that, despite the indication in the minutes that the RFP had been submitted to the attorney, she does not believe that has happened. She knows that many changes were made to the document and that it is now ready to go to the attorney.

**B. Ordinance Revisions Related to Rollout Carts and Beach Debris/Holes**

Councilman Bettelli distributed three (3) handouts, i.e. Chapter 3, Public Works and Leola's suggestions. In the PUBLIC WORKS Section, Councilman Bettelli suggested adding "Beaches" to the title of Chapter 1; in discussion, he expressed the opinion that Attorney Sottile probably should be consulted on it before any action was taken on that option.

Including the suggestions from Councilwoman Hanbury for Section 7-3-4, the revisions Councilman Bettelli proposed for Chapter 3, *Beach and Marine Recreation Regulations* go from the general to the specific. In (b), items that make up debris are defined; in (c), a time was set in the evening when the items mentioned in (a) must be removed from the beach. The Committee members were in agreement in (d) to set a twenty-five foot (25) minimum distance for beachgoers to locate their beach furnishings. From materials that Committee members had received, Councilman Bettelli had compiled (e) to address the problem of holes on the beach. Councilman Cronin wanted more force put into (f), therefore, it was agreed to replace "may" with "will."

Councilman Cronin pointed out that saying "left on the beach overnight" means that enforcement will not be aware of problems until the next morning; there would be no enforcement action in the evening. If "by 7 p.m." were inserted, then a Beach Patrol Officer could leave a message for the Public Works Director and the time that the violation was noted would be indicated in the voice mail notification. This insertion also puts the power in the hands of the City's law enforcement personnel.

The suggestions the Committee has agreed upon will be forwarded to the City's attorney for review and proper wording for an amendment to the existing City Code.

Councilman Bettelli's proposal for Chapter 1 of *Public Works* was under the topic of "Excavations, Sec 3-1-25, Restoration of surface;" he thought that the words "including public beaches" could be added after "public space" both places. Councilman Cronin wanted a definition of the word "hole" to be contained in the wording of the final ordinance so that there will be no doubt in either the digger's mind or the enforcer's mind. After some discussion, it was agreed that a hole would measure one (1) cubic foot. Another of Councilman Bettelli's ideas was to add Section 6-1-14 "Public nuisances affecting public safety" to this portion of the code. Councilwoman Hanbury expressed her opinion that the changes to section 7-3-4 negate the necessity for the changes here; in her opinion this compounded the issue by putting the subject under two (2) headings in the law. Councilman Cronin tried to clarify matters when he stated that 7-3-4 covers litter and holes definitely are not litter.

Councilman Bettelli stated that these are issues that Attorney Sottile will resolve as he reviews the information and prepares the amendment(s).

Councilwoman Hanbury had also prepared her recommendations on the rollout carts and distributed it to the Committee members for their future consideration.

**5. New Business:**

**A. Street Sweeping Contract**

Administrator Tucker stated that there had been three (3) bids, as indicated on the bid summary page; the bids ranged from \$9,480 to \$22,800. The middle bid of \$12,677.40 is the one that the Public Works Director, the City Treasurer and the City Administrator recommend. Administrator Tucker explained that a contractor the City had had in the past had small equipment, which Director Pitts offered pictures of for the Committee; the smaller equipment could not handle the work that the City required; therefore, the Director and Administrator were continually complaining to the contractor about the quality of work done and to re-do it. Upon inquiry, Director Pitts learned that the low bidder here had that type of equipment. Sweeping South is the City's current contractor; they operate DOT approved equipment. Due to the size of most of the roads the City is required to sweep, which include wide areas of Palm Boulevard and the Connector, Administrator Tucker expressed that Public Works Director had indicated to her that he felt the second low bidder Sweeping South might have a better chance at successfully executing the contract to the City's satisfaction.

Director Pitts stated that the small equipment was designed to pick up parking debris, not sand particles. He pointed to one of the photographs to the shallow brush system; he also stated that the vacuuming system on the International was much stronger to pickup the sand particles. The Administrator explained that the RFP had stated that the contractor would be required to have the proper equipment to perform the job.

Based on the information provided, Administrator Tucker explained that the lowest bidder would be eliminated based on the fact the Director and Administrator do not believe that his equipment is adequate to do the job; therefore, the recommendation is to accept the second lowest bid from Sweeping South of \$12,677.40.

When asked by Councilman Cronin how this bid compared with the current contract, Director Pitts responded that it was within one thousand dollars of this bid. He also asked if the City recovered any of the street sweeping expense from the County; Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the State also sweeps the Connector, but that they do it so infrequently that the City includes it in its contract.

She also commented that the City uses its own accommodations taxes to pay the street sweeping contract.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved that the Public Works Committee recommend to the Ways and Means Committee to accept the bid from Sweeping South for the Street Sweeping Contract for 2008 in the amount of \$12,677.40. While they are not the lowest bidder, they are the most responsive bidder based on the equipment they plan to use; Councilwoman Hanbury seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **B. Internet Line for Public Works**

Director Pitts reported that the Public Works' internet line has been down for approximately two (2) months, and, despite the best efforts of Chief Buckhannon, he has been unsuccessful at getting the department on-line. The Chief said the best way to permanently solve the problem is to hardwire, which will cost approximately two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The service has been wireless, but it continues to fail. The service would be provided by AT&T, and the Public Works Department would be independent, not tied into the network. Administrator Tucker assured the Committee that they would find the most economical solution.

#### **C. September/October Beach Monitoring Results**

The Administrator announced that this was the last monitoring of the year, and the results were good. In response to Councilman Cronin's question about how many years the City had gone without any negative results, Administrator Tucker recalled that it had been two (2) for sure, and possible three (3).

#### **6. Miscellaneous**

Councilman Bettelli thanked Councilwoman Hanbury for her service to the Committee.

Councilwoman Hanbury recalled that, under **Old Business**, she had wanted to ask if the City had gotten an answer from Charleston County NPDES regarding pool water; Administrator Tucker replied that she had not.

For **New Business**, Councilwoman Hanbury asked if she could send a memo concerning landscaper trash; she has not forgotten that she wants to get that into an ordinance. Councilman Bettelli answered in the affirmative.

And under **Miscellaneous**, Councilwoman Hanbury gave Director Pitts a lot of credit for the speed with which the political signs exited the island. After calling the Recycling

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Department of Charleston County, she learned that political signs could be burned; all political signs need to go to the incinerator where they are burned and become a part of the energy scene. The wires that come out of the signs are recycled as well. She added that her call prompted the Recycling Department to use this information in their promotions for the upcoming presidential elections.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 10, 2008.

**MOTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, Councilman Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m.; Councilwoman Hanbury seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marty Bettelli, Chairman