

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Isle of Palms, South Carolina

February 12, 2007

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2007, in the Public Works Department, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Councilman Bettelli, Committee members Cronin and Hanbury, City Administrator Tucker and Public Works Director Pitts.

1. **Call to Order:** Councilman Bettelli called the meeting to order and stated that members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with State Law.

2. **Approval of Prior Month's Minutes**

November 1, 2006 and January 10, 2007 Minutes

Councilwoman Hanbury provided the Committee with written corrections to the November 1, 2006 minutes (**Exhibit A**), which she stated were minor, and noted she did not have any corrections for the January 10, 2007 minutes.

MOTION: Councilwoman Hanbury made a motion to approve the following: November 1, 2006 minutes with corrections as provided by Councilwoman Hanbury (Exhibit A) and January 10, 2007 minutes as presented; seconded by Councilman Cronin; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

4. **Citizens Comments-** None

5. **Monthly Department Report for January 2007:**

Public Works Director Pitts referred the Committee to his monthly report (**Exhibit B**), highlighted issues and answered questions. Councilwoman Hanbury noticed that City garbage collection reports indicated that collection levels were at a lower than anticipated level. She stated that it is her understanding that rental occupancy has dipped and perhaps this could be the biggest reason for reduced garbage volume. Councilman Cronin asked for clarification. Director Pitts responded that in December 2005 he pulled approximately 15-16 ninety (90) gallon roll out carts from the Charleston County Park and installed a trash container; however, he concurrently added cans for the new condominiums between Splash and Beach Biz. He noted that another variable might be that he pulled the ninety (90) gallon roll out containers from the Property Owners' Beach House and installed a larger container at the site, reducing some garbage collection for Public Works. Councilman Cronin submitted that, without any more data provided, such adjustments were not significant enough to explain the changes in garbage volume. Director Pitts noted Administrator Tucker commented to him that the level of demolition work on the City could impact the garbage collection. Councilwoman Hanbury responded that there was a glut of empty houses on the island's market, approximately four hundred (400) houses for sale as told to her by real estate companies. The Committee further discussed the garbage collection rates on the island.

Councilwoman Hanbury commented that Director Pitts has reinitiated listing the addresses of houses in violation of garbage roll out cart ordinance. She noted that she would like a

breakdown on which violators were rentals and the Committee agreed this data would be very useful. The Committee discussed this topic for some additional time. Councilwoman Hanbury commented on articles she has read about the nationwide trend toward short stay vacations, with many busy families taking breaks from work for less than one week, usually three (3) or four (4) days.

Director Pitts noted Josh Graham cleaned all the sidewalks on the island, an activity that needed to be accomplished each year. He noted that this task took Josh Graham six (6) hours. Director Pitts further noted that the Marina road patches have been accomplished.

6. Old Business.

A. Beach Management Plan (Status)

Administrator Tucker reported that the coastal engineer prepared a draft Beach Management Plan for which City Attorney Sottile, Building and Planning Director Kerr and she provided revisions. She reported that she reviewed the revised draft plan and sent her recommended changes to the coastal engineer this weekend. She noted that, as soon as staff revisions are accomplished, a draft version will be sent to Council for brief comments. Thereafter, she noted the draft plan would have to be sent out for public comment before Council could vote on the plan. She noted that OCRM would also hold a public comment period, too. Administrator Tucker expressed pleasure at the draft beach management plan, noting it was very comprehensive. She further reported that it would be necessary to make some minor ordinance amendments in association with the plan.

B. RFB for pre-disaster response post-storm debris removal – Update.

Director Pitts reported that the RFB is still in draft form and Administrator Tucker noted that she has not had the opportunity to look at it.

C. Waterway Boulevard and Bike Path Replacement – Status

Administrator Tucker noted there is nothing new to report, other than that the City would be moving forward on this project. She noted that the City would not realize increased bicycle path width, as desired, due to road and ground restrictions. She commented that the path would appear wider once the silt has been cleared, but that the clearing of silt would remain a continuous maintenance issue. Councilman Cronin asked about City ordinances against parking on bike paths. Administrator Tucker clarified that the City has an ordinance prohibiting parking on sidewalks and blocking bike paths.

D. Sidewalk repairs- Status

Director Pitts noted that sidewalk repairs were accomplished on January 28, 2007.

E. Twenty-first Avenue Beach Access (CDBG) – Status

Administrator Tucker reported that the grant application has been submitted. She encouraged the Committee to go to the Twenty-first Avenue Beach Access area to review its current condition as the revisions, if the grant funds were realized, would be significantly different than the current configuration. She noted that the revisions would include widening the concrete path, building a boulevard, and a creating a different access configuration.

F. Continued consideration of irrigation system for large municipal parking lot.

Administrator Tucker commented that, if the City intended to retain the municipal parking lots in their current status for another two to five (2-5) years, the City needed to consider installing an irrigation system to encourage grass growth.

Director Pitts noted that the irrigation system materials would cost approximately \$1,800 for a total of \$3,000 in labor/materials. He noted that the City would have a water consumption increase for the irrigation, but the City could tap into the same irrigation system running Front Beach. The Committee discussed the idea of incorporating this expense in the budget under non-capital tools and equipment section, with the Committee noting this project would fall under the Real Property Advisory Committee's purview.

G. Replacement of irrigation on Front Beach.

Director Pitts reported that he has requested bids from two additional vendors, noting he has one bid in hand. Administrator Tucker noted that Director Pitts would like to develop a better irrigation system for Front Beach which would be more reliable and keep the vegetative growing at the Front Beach. Chairwoman Hanbury noted that the existing Front Beach irrigation system has been performing poorly and probably needed replacement. Councilman Cronin asked for clarification as to the scope of the irrigation replacement. Director Pitts noted he has expressed concern about the drip zones currently exist along the Front Beach, which are safety hazards for citizens. He submitted the City should eliminate the drip zones and install four-inch (4") pop up heads in five (5) irrigation zones. The Committee briefly discussed the irrigation system, noting that funds for the repair work could come from the Front Beach Fund or the \$70,000 balance in the Bricks, Benches and Palm Trees Fund account.

Councilwoman Hanbury questioned the opportunity to seek redress from the former contractor. Administrator Tucker clarified that the system to which the City agreed upon currently installed system. Councilwoman Hanbury submitted that the system has been faulty for years, to which Administrator Tucker noted that the contractor was provided a punch list and the City has required the contractor to make corrections in the past. She then noted that the irrigation system has been in place for a number of years and needed to be fixed sooner rather than later.

MOTION: Councilman Cronin made a motion to recommend to Ways & Means to replace the irrigation system on Front Beach at a cost not to exceed \$9,900 from the Bricks, Benches and Palm Tree Fund, with the understanding that Director Pitts would provide additional quotes by the February 20, 2007 Ways & Means Committee meeting; seconded by Chairman Bettelli; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

6. New Business.

A. Review of Capital Budget for FY07-08.

Director Pitts reviewed the proposed capital budget for Public Works, fiscal year FY07-08:

- (1.) Replace truck #8: 1994 Ford, 30 yard Packer with a 30 yard Mack Packer**

\$162,000.00 as an eight (8) year lease.

Director Pitts noted that the Ford Packer's transmission is very weak, missing a couple of gears and currently being used as a debris truck; however, the department would have to start spending money on the vehicle if retained. He noted that this item has been deferred for two (2) years.

(2) Replace small Ford pickup and its "hopper"

Director Pitts noted that the long-range plan is to eventually substitute one of the small Ford pick-up trucks with a PW2 20 yard Packer vehicle. This other vehicle would accomplish two (2) objectives: (1) eliminate the driver having to hunt the larger Packer truck on which to dump debris and (2) eliminate flying garbage on the roadways. He submitted the concept that within two (2) years the Ford pickup would be reduced to debris removal from the Palm Boulevard right-of-way. He noted that, without increasing personnel, a new route would be established on Waterway Boulevard, Intracoastal Court, Sparrow Lane, Duck Lane and Forest Trail using the smaller pickup truck.

The Committee spent some time discussing the shuffling of trucks this past summer to deal with garbage collection along the beach and roadways.

(3) Replace fourteen (14) year old pressure washer.

Director Pitts stated he does not have a pressure washer at present, noting that the current pressure washer's motor and pump has failed. He noted he has had to rent a pressure washer, with the weekly rental rate being \$368.00, and the cost of a replacement pressure washer being \$4,300. Chairman Bettelli noted that the pressure washer is used three days a week, to clean the fleet.

MOTION: Chairman Bettelli made a motion to Ways & Means Committee to replace the fourteen (14) year old pressure washer for a cost not exceed \$4,300.00 from FY06-07 budget; seconded by Councilman Cronin; MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.

Director Pitts noted that the remaining budget included standard expenses articulated in the department's five (5) year plan and highlighted Year Three Drainage initiatives. Administrator Tucker noted she intended to include funding for wider, heavy-duty temp trails upon which vehicles could drive. Chairman Bettelli noted that the wider temp trails were needed for emergency vehicle access to the beach. Administrator Tucker submitted the existing temp trails could be placed along other foot access portions of the beach. She noted that Director Pitts would need to obtain prices, but submitted that the more heavy-duty temp trails would cost approximately \$25,000 for budget consideration. Councilwoman Hanbury questioned where the new temp trails would be located and Administrator Tucker noted that the Public Safety Committee would consider temp trail placement for emergency vehicle access paths.

The Committee decided to add heavy-duty temp trails for approximately \$25,000.00

Councilwoman Hanbury recommended staff provide the Committee with the five (5) year department plan for reference during future budget consideration. Councilman Cronin suggested Director Pitts provide for Council a fleet chart to better explain the proposed re-allocation of vehicle assets.

B. NPDES Storm Water Management Plan.

Administrator Tucker noted there is a mandatory meeting of all affected MS4, of which the Isle of Palms is one, on February 22, 2007 in Columbia. As this date conflicts with the Special Council Meeting regarding the issue of short-term rentals, she noted Director Pitts would attend the DHEC meeting in Columbia. She noted that the City would soon have to make some decisions on how it plans to implement a storm water management plan, which is federally mandated. She submitted that the City could not meet this requirement with existing staff, suggesting that the City either outsource this work or hire expertise to perform the necessary work. Administrator Tucker noted that while she, Director Pitts and Building and Planning Director Kerr could accomplish portions of the program requirements, one individual needed to “own” the project. She noted that, because this program is federally mandated, the City could not afford to allow any requirements to lapse.

Administrator Tucker noted that the first step was for the City to adopt the NPDES Storm Water Management Plan, which the City has not done yet. The Planning Commission completed all elements of the plan, but the project was not assigned to a department. She noted that the City needed to be prepared to move forward quickly on this plan, commenting that it would be an operational budget concern.

7. Miscellaneous.

Set Date for Next Meeting – 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 12, 2007 at the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard.

Councilwoman Hanbury noted that Director Pitts had information regarding golf course debris and reminded the Committee of her concern with the existing roll out debris container ordinance. She submitted that the existing ordinance does not properly address the placement of containers on the street and rights-of-way. She noted that the ordinance requires the carts to be placed out of sight; however, she questioned how the City would enforce this requirement. Chairman Bettelli submitted that trash receptacles should not be visible from the road when it is not trash collection day, but Councilwoman Hanbury reiterated her concern with enforcement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Bettelli, Chairman