

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
**CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS**  
4:00 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2008 in the Public Works Building located at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Councilmen Cronin and Loftus, Public Works Director Pitts, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; Councilman Taylor was present in his role as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes – March 12, 2008**

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2008 as submitted; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Citizens' Comments**

Bev Ballow of 3001 Waterway Boulevard remarked on the beach debris ordinance that has received the recent bad press and widespread misinterpretations. She stated that she would like to see the Spoleto Sand Sculpting Contest and any other City sponsored events on the beach specifically excluded from the ordinance and for the balance of the ordinance to remain the same. She passed around a photograph from another South Carolina beach where a man was standing in a hole that allowed only his head to show over the top. Mrs. Ballow did note that she thought the fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) should be reduced.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to re-order the agenda to discuss Item A, Review of FY 2008-2009 Capital and Operating Budgets, under Old Business as the first order of business; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **Old Business**

A. **Review of FY 2008-2009 Capital and Operating Budgets**

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that changes had been made to the operating budget since the last meeting. The previous version had included changes to salaries to bring them halfway to the mid-point of the Archer recommendations; the "pink" budget included the Archer recommendations from the Ways and Means Meeting

of March 18, 2008, where the Archers had presented the step approach based on length of service to the City. The Administrator further explained that Column H held the cost of implementing the Archer study while Column I included the Archer study recommendations plus the City's merit of up to three percent (3%) and the cost of living adjustment (COLA) that would be 2.9% in 2008, not the 3% indicated. The staff had previously computed a nine percent (9%) increase in health insurance benefits, but the City has learned that the actual increase will be four percent (4%). She pointed out that there has been an increase in the *Fuel and Oil* line based on another month's actual data for this year. Administrator Tucker noted that the figure for *Temp Labor* had also been refined.

Councilman Taylor questioned the breakout on the *Telephone and Cable* line; the Administrator explained that the budgeted number included the cell phones, internet, the percentage of the T1 service charged to the Public Works Department, etc.

In answer to Councilman Taylor's questions about what equipment was covered under *Maintenance and Service*, Director Pitts informed him that the bug sprayer, generator, air compressor, etc., in addition to the electronic equipment.

Councilman Taylor urged the Committee to begin looking into partnering with other municipalities on a solid waste transfer station with the prospect of the Bees Ferry station closing in another year. Administrator Tucker related that the City was in dialogue with Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island on the subject since Mount Pleasant indicated that they have land available. Councilman Cronin asked if a transfer station could be put in place by the time that Bees Ferry closed. Director Pitts explained that DHEC was responsible for permitting this type project and the permits were based on volumes processed. Mount Pleasant would need another level of permit to take on the additional volume of garbage that the Isle of Palms generated.

Councilman Loftus asked Director Pitts if he expected to end FY 2007-2008 over or under budget; the Director stated that, although he may be over budget on a couple of line items, he would be under budget for the department.

Administrator Tucker directed the Committee to page one to point out the some of the changes that had been made to expense allocations. On line 42 the staff was contemplating paying sixty-four thousand dollars (\$64,000) of Public Works temporary labor out of Municipal Accommodations Fees, because the temporary labor would not be necessary except for the additional weekly garbage pickup required for the number of tourists on the island.

Committee members were directed to page 39 to review the Capital Budget; here it was depicted by the funds from which the various items would be paid. The four (4) lease

payments would be paid with half coming from the Capital Projects Fund and the balance being split between Municipal and State Accommodations Fees. The other capital expenditures for Public Works would be paid through the Capital Projects Funds; the items have not changed from the last discussion.

Councilman Bettelli stated that, since there was approximately \$143,000 in the Drainage Contingency Fund and since there was the need to reduce all department budgets, he thought that the 2008-2009 drainage allocation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) was the logical figure to reduce. Councilman Bettelli explained that he and the Public Works Director thought that, with the results obtained through the Eadie's drainage work, many of the smaller problems had been resolved and there was better overall drainage on the island; therefore, negating some of the problems. Councilman Cronin recommended that the 2008-2009 Drainage Contingency allocation be twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000); the committee agreed.

Administrator Tucker reported that the staff was recommending adding eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to the savings reserve for the 54<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Project on this budget. She explained that the next step in the project had been contingent on the next phase of The Village in Wild Dunes that has been delayed. The City could put in the collection system between 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues then manage to get the water from there to the connection on Palmetto Boulevard. Councilman Taylor suggested that this reserve could become of source of funds for the bulkhead replacement, for example, since the project completion time was undefined, and the funds could be replaced in the future.

There were no further questions on or changes to the budget.

#### **4. Department Reports for March 2008 – Director Pitts**

Director Pitts stated that Eadie's had completed the third year of their five (5) year contract; the yellow barrels had been painted and distributed over the island. Charleston County had painted the lines on Front Beach in front of The Palms Hotel and, at the marina, graded the collection box and installed four (4) 6"x6". He stated that the expenses under *Vehicle Maintenance* would end the year very close to budget. Administrator Tucker added that DOT has been replacing sidewalk along Palm at 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Director Pitts explained to Councilman Loftus that he tried to keep the low hanging limbs on the trees trimmed so as not to be a hazard for bikers and that he welcomed calls that informed him of areas that may needed to be addressed.

Councilman Cronin remarked that the Household Garbage Tonnage Comparison report that March was up considerably from prior years; Director Pitts noted that there were five (5) Mondays in the month of March 2008 and that Easter had been during the month.

## **5. Old Business**

### **B. Discussion of Ordinance 2008-3 – Beach and Marine Regulations**

Councilman Bettelli stated that he preferred to call this ordinance the Turtle Protection and Safety Ordinance. Administrator Tucker reported that the City Attorney had been charged with determining that the City has not created a situation where the City cannot hold the sand sculpting contest or allow children the freedom of building their sand castles. Councilman Bettelli remarked that the Administrator might mention to the attorney the idea of exempting City sponsored events. Administrator Tucker stated that she did not think that the fine could be changed because the amount was defined in the City code, and she thought it was five hundred dollars (\$500), but she would confirm.

In response to Councilman Bettelli's request for an update on the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Walkover, Director Pitts stated that between one-half and two-thirds of the path were poured last week, so he expected that part of the work to be completed this week. Councilman Cronin suggested a grand opening to let the public know that it had been completely re-vamped; Councilman Bettelli noted that such an event would create some positive publicity for the island.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of Eadie's Proposal for 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Ditch Reconstruction**

The Eadie's proposal was for \$13,200 to clean and sculpt the ditch from Waterway under the golf cart bridge to the Intracoastal Waterway side of the fairway. Councilman Loftus did not understand why the golf course would not be responsible for a portion of the expense for this job. Administrator Tucker commented that she had a note stating that "the golf courses's DHEC contract says that Wild Dunes are to keep the ditches clear." Mrs. Ballow stated that this ruling had come as a result of mitigation some two (2) years ago. Director Pitts was asked to confirm this information with DHEC. Director Pitts commented that they might clean the ditch, but they would not sculpt it; Administrator Tucker added that possibly the cost could be shared between Wild Dunes and the City.

**MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to table action on Eadie's proposal for further study; Council Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Consideration of Project for Transportation Sales Tax**

Administrator Tucker directed the Committee's attention to the letter from Charleston County seeking requests for project funding using the Transportation Sales Taxes; she informed the Committee that the City had received funds for the 54<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage, Waterway Boulevard Transportation Improvements, and the transportation study for the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Palm Boulevard intersection in the past. She suggested that the City apply for funds for the drainage project again; other possibilities were the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue-Palm Boulevard roundabout or improvements to the bike path along 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and from where the path intersects with 41<sup>st</sup> to where it terminates at 57<sup>th</sup> to make it a regulation bike path. The Administrator noted that the City has been successful in acquiring funds in the past, that the Public Safety Committee would be asked for their input, as well, and that the City could submit multiple requests, but they must be prioritized. She asked for their suggestions by the end of the month since they must be received by Friday, May 9.

**7. Miscellaneous**

The next meeting was scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

**8. MOTION: With no further business to come before the Public Works Committee, Councilman Cronin moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m.; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk