

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2008 in the Public Works Building, 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.

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

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

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 7, 2008 as submitted; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments**

Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, represented both the Isle of Palms Neighborhood Association and the Turtle Team, as she asked that the Committee follow up with the beach holes and debris ordinance to get it back on the City Council's on the agenda for second reading. She expressed her understanding that the City's attorney was reviewing the ordinance, but she hoped that he would have it ready for the May Council meeting. She cautioned that, without the force of law, the island would experience a repeat of the problems from last summer with the tents and other large debris being left on the beach for a week at a time. This ordinance would be vital to the nesting turtles and their hatchlings and to the safety of persons walking the beach after dark.

Barbara Bergwerf, 611 Ocean Boulevard, also representing the Turtle Team, stated that the City needs not just an ordinance, but a good ordinance; she requested that the City push forward with it.

Ms. Ballow added a final comment that there must be a cost to the City for removing the debris from the beach, so the passage of an ordinance could save the City money, as well as save turtles and their nests.

4. **Department Reports for April 2008 – Director Pitts**

Director Pitts reported that approximately half of the new street signs were in place and that, once the caps and tees were received, the remainder would be installed. He reported that new mobile mats were placed at 42nd Avenue and that the 30th Avenue

ditch had been restructured, plus additional maintenance had been done up to the fifteen inch (15") covered pipe. As the island has moved into the tourist season, he stated that both garbage and maintenance have increased, but, assuming that there was no emergency, the Department would end the year in good fiscal condition.

5. Old Business

A. Status of 30th Avenue Ditch Restructuring

Director Pitts covered this topic in his report, but Councilman Cronin asked what had become of the "muck" that was removed from the ditch; the Director responded that it had been de-watered and trucked off the island.

B. Review of Radio Operations

Administrator Tucker stated that she had understood from budget discussions that there was a certain lack of understanding of the actual use of the radios within the departments, subsequently she has asked the Department Managers to explain the radio usage within their departments at the respective Committee meetings.

Director Pitts stated that, on a typical garbage pickup day, Public Works' crews ran two (2) full routes and two (2) shorter routes. When the drivers of the short routes completed their job, they contacted – via the radio – the drivers on the long routes to find out where they should begin to assist the long route drivers to complete the routes and ensure that the entire island was cleaned each week. Director Pitts stated that it was vital that the Public Works Department not be limited by 2-way transmissions; the ability for other drivers to hear communications saved a great deal of time and contributed to the efficiency of the crews. On Wednesdays to pick up debris, the heavy equipment was used to pickup the large debris piles without bags; there would be constant communication on Wednesdays directing the CAT where it needed to go, rather than roaming all of the island's streets looking for debris to remove.

Another use of the radios would be the safety factor or insurance of communicating with County agencies, be it a broken down truck or a storm emergency.

Concerned over the large number of radios the City has and the anticipated fee from Charleston County of twenty-five dollars per month per radio, Councilman Loftus expressed the need for the City's elected officials to be creative in finding ways to reduce the expense Citywide.

C. Use of Surplus Temporary Trail

Administrator Tucker stated that, when a wheelchair took the new 21st Avenue walkover via the sidewalk, there was soft sand at the end of the wooden portion, and the wooden section has been extended as far as OCRM would allow. Therefore, she would like the Committee's approval to put surplus temporary trail at the end of the wooden path to hard sand facilitating wheelchair access to the beach; she added that OCRM has approved the suggestion. Director Pitts confirmed that there was plenty of surplus temporary trail for this purpose. The Committee had no objections to the request.

D. Pinpoint Public Works

Councilman Bettelli commented that each member had received the information and proposal in the meeting's packet. He stated that, with the budget situation that the City was in, he could not spend an addition nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000) on something that was not a necessity. He agreed that there would probably be increased productivity, but he did not think there would be enough to offset the cost of the product.

Councilman Loftus expressed his opinion that the Isle of Palms was too small to warrant such a system, and he agreed that the City could not afford the system at this time.

Director Pitts remarked that he felt his department used the Pinpoint Public Works currently without the equipment; however, he stated that he thought the system would be an asset to the City in providing services to the residents. He noted that the system could be designed to indicate streetlights that were out, potholes in the streets, low hanging limbs, etc.

Administrator Tucker stated that she would take the information and put it into a file to be reviewed again next year when the budget was being built and look then at a re-design of its use. Councilman Cronin commented that there might well be additional vendors by next year.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of 32nd Avenue Ditch

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that she had received a citizen's complaint regarding the 32nd Avenue ditch; this ditch has sections that the City piped and a section that was not. A house has been demolished thereby providing easy access to the un-piped section; therefore, the resident was asking that the City look at piping the section that presently was not piped. The Administrator added that she had asked Director Pitts to go there and to give his opinion.

Director Pitts reported that Chuck Jarmen of Charleston County Public Works was to be on the island the following day, and he would accompany the Director to the site and give his recommendation. The Director explained that the ditch ran parallel to 32nd Avenue along the rear lot lines.

Councilman Bettelli asked that Director Pitts be certain to ask about runoff; he noted that it was something that concerned him whenever there were discussions about closing in ditches.

B. Recommendation for Approval to Trim Branches on Oak Harbor Boulevard

Administrator Tucker directed the Committee to the proposal from B&G Tree Service for fourteen hundred dollars (\$1,400) to remove the overhanging branches on Oak Harbor Boulevard. She explained that this proposal has come before the Committee once before and been denied and that it was being presented again because large City trucks have been damaged when running emergency calls. Director Pitts commented that the smoke stack on one of the fire trucks had been seriously damaged.

Councilman Bettelli suggested that each property owner be contacted to explain the plan and get their feedback before any action was taken, and Administrator Tucker agreed.

C. Request by Kelly Messier to Encroach on 22nd Avenue Beach Access

Administrator Tucker spread the colored drawing of Ms. Messier's vision of her project; the path at 22nd Avenue is forty (40) feet wide. The Administrator explained that Ms. Messier was asking to encroach ten to fifteen (10 to 15) feet into the forty (40) feet of the path with palm trees and other foliage; Administrator Tucker expressed her view that Ms. Messier was requesting too much of an encroachment into the right-of-way.

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved that the Committee deny the request for encroachment into the 22nd Avenue access path; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Miscellaneous

Councilman Bettelli relayed a suggestion from Bill Schupp for signage at the pedestrian opening at the large parking lot directing visitors to food and the public restrooms and showers.

Director Pitts has recommended two (2) Public Works employees, Charles Williams and Joseph Washington, as Employees of the Month for April 2002 for the extra efforts they put forth to locate the lost cell phone of an island resident.

Councilman Loftus asked the status of the ordinance on beach holes and debris; Councilman Bettelli replied that it was in the hands of the attorney. Councilman Loftus asked if the attorney would have it ready for second reading at the May Council meeting, and Administrator Tucker stated that she would contact Attorney Sottile to determine the status of the ordinance.

Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2008

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk