

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2008

The Public Works Committee held its regular meeting at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2008 in the Public Works Building at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present for the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Councilmen Cronin and Loftus, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, 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 of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2008 as submitted; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments**

Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, noted that she had had only a short time to review the proposed revisions to Ordinance 2008-03, the beach holes and debris ordinance, but she expressed that the ordinance might stand a better chance of being approved if Section 7-3-14(d) referring to the holes were eliminated entirely.

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

Director Pitts related that the highlights of the month were the new temp trail at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue beach access, the number of times that the beach was cleaned and the cleaning of beach paths primarily on Thursday afternoons when personnel were available. As he has stated in recent months, the maintenance expenses for the year are slightly over budget.

Councilman Cronin asked about the removal of a limb on Oak Harbor; the Director reported that one of the trucks had sheared a small limb and that it had to be removed.

Councilman Loftus noticed that tonnage was up a bit from last year, yet he thought there were fewer people on the island, and he had been told by people in the real estate field that business was down. Director Pitts commented that these numbers were actually a bit low because he had not received one of the Bees Ferry reports until June; the numbers for Bees Ferry and the total should actually be increased by nine (9) tons. On the other hand, Administrator Tucker stated that the island might experienced its biggest Memorial Day ever.

5. **Old Business**

A. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Ditch

Director Pitts stated that Chuck Jarmin from Charleston County had spoken with the complainant when he visited the site, and it appeared from that conversation that the complainant actually wanted the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue ditch piped. Mr. Jarmin expressed his opinion that an open ditch should remain open because of the increased problems created in a disaster with a piped ditch that would significantly reduce runoff; he did agree to research the situation for cost and the ability to obtain a permit for it. Mr. Jarmin informed Director Pitts that the cost to pipe the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue ditch would exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000) allowing that it could be permitted and the County performed the work. Based on the discussion in this meeting and telephone conversations with the complainant, Administrator Tucker planned to contact them again to make sure that the City was checking on the correct street and ditch.

The Committee was in agreement with Chuck Jarmin that the ditches should not be closed. Director Pitts reminded the Committee members that, with NPDES in place, the City and County must concur on any action to be taken.

B. Recommendation for Trimming Branches on Oak Harbor Boulevard

Administrator Tucker confirmed that letters stating the City's intent had been sent to residents and there had been no feedback at this point. Assistant Dziuban stated that she had received one phone call from a resident who wanted specifics, but who did not register an objection; she referred the person to Director Pitts. Assistant Dziuban informed the Committee members that she had consulted with Building Director Kerr that the planned trimming did not conflict in any way with the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance. Administrator Tucker asked for approval to proceed if there were no objections voiced from residents.

**MOTION: Council Cronin moved to proceed with the trimming of the trees along Oak Harbor Boulevard as long as there were no objections from the property owners; Councilman Bettelli seconded.**

Councilman Loftus asked if the limbs to be removed could be identified by a ribbon or rope before being cut. Director Pitts did not see a problem in doing that; he related that there was only one (1) limb of significant size that would be included.

**Call for the Question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. Ordinance 2008-03 – Beach holes and Debris

Administrator Tucker noted that the Committee had been given a new version that takes into account the questions and issues raised at Committee meetings, as well as at City Council – the Hobie cats, “sculptures or structures,” and defining a hole.

Chairman Bettelli asked if the Administrator knew how Attorney Sottile had decided on twenty-four inches (24"); she stated that she did not. The Chairman produced a plastic barrel that he reported to be twenty-three inches (23") in height and that he had marked at eighteen (18) and twelve (12) inches. The purpose of his demonstration was to show just how deep twenty-four inches (24") truly was and how dangerous stepping into a hole that size could be.

Councilman Loftus suggested that the Committee address the ordinance by sections. He voiced his opinion that Section 2 was reasonable, but he was uncertain that City Council would agree. Councilman Cronin did not agree item (d), but wanted to move ahead with the ordinance to enforce the debris problems. Director Pitts reported that there had been seventeen (17) holes on the beach this morning and that one (1) was large enough that it swallowed up the vehicle used to fill in the holes.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to recommend Ordinance 2008-03 to Public Safety and City Council with the changes presented plus removal of Section 7-3-14(d) and that the Administration, through signage and instructions to staff, try to discipline beach goers on how to handle holes on the beach; Councilman Bettelli seconded.**

Councilman Loftus argued that people who are involved with the beach believe that they need the force of an ordinance to support them when speaking to people about the holes being dug. Councilman Bettelli commented that he felt the portion on holes was being eliminated for expediency in getting the ordinance on the books until that section could be made satisfactory to all. Councilman Cronin expressed his opinion that the ordinance combined with the new signage that would be placed at the beach accesses reminding people to fill in holes and remove what they take to the beach should be sufficient, and, if not, the situation can be reassessed after the season.

**Call for the Question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. New Business**

Report from Director Pitts on Underground Storage Tanks Meeting

Director Pitts reported that the City must be in compliance with the new DHEC regulations for underground storage tanks by May 30, 2010; he noted that the City has two (2) underground storage tank locations, the Public Works Building and the Marina.

Under the new regulations, owners would be required to have three (3) categories of operators, identified as A, B and C, for their facilities; one (1) A operator could handle multiple sites, a B operator would be required for each site, a B operator could also be an A operator and there would also be C operators. Director Pitts has been designated the A operator for the City; the B operator would be considered the daily operations manager; C operators for the marina would be the store clerks and/or managers; C operators for the Public Works facility would be any personnel who used the facility – the C operator must only to hit the red button and call 224-9265 (Director Pitts' cell phone) if there were to be a problem. The primary thing that the City must do to be in compliance is for signage to be put in place with the Director's phone number. DHEC is in the process of developing the program they will use to train A and B operators.

If a site were not to be in compliance by the specified date, DHEC would stop delivery of fuel within ten (10) minutes. The exception to that would be in the event of a major storm.

## **7. Miscellaneous**

### **A. April and May Beach Monitoring Results**

Administrator Tucker reported that the results had been satisfactory.

### **B. Letter of Commendation**

The letter was from Delores E. Mitchell who lives at 12 Abalone Alley; she was recognizing the work that Director Pitts and his staff perform in all kinds of weather, as well as the manner in which that job was done.

## **8. Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk