

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Public Works Committee held its regular meeting at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at the Public Works Building located at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli and Committee members Bergwerf and Duffy, City Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, City Treasurer Suggs and City Clerk Copeland.

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 4, 2009 as submitted; Chairman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, stated, "Donnie is my hero!" referring to the work he does for the Turtle Team.

4. Departmental Reports

Director Pitts distributed the tonnage information for the incinerator for the month of May that he had received earlier in the day. He stated that the highlights of the month had been the painting of the public restrooms on Front Beach and the fact that the South Carolina Department of Transportation had been actively working on the island. He stated that vehicle maintenance had run approximately five thousand five hundred dollars (\$5,500) for May, but he anticipates being right on target at year-end, June 30, 2009. There is roughly ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) remaining if the budget to cover June vehicle maintenance expenses. Mayor Cronin asked Director Pitts is there was anything in the way of vehicle maintenance that could be purchased in this budget year rather than waiting until FY10; Director Pitts said that he could buy tires at the end of the month assuming there had not been any unanticipated expenses that deplete the budget.

Director Pitts stated that he was seeing a downward trend in trash collections that he thought could be attributed to fewer renters on the island; he thought this downward trend would be evident to the Treasurer through accommodations taxes receipts.

He reported that, during beach sweeps, several tents have been confiscated. He noted that there has been a great deal of communication by the Beach Services Officers and rental agents; he has seen a reduction in the number of tents left on the beach. Broken chairs are still left on the beach, but people are putting them by the trash barrels for pickup.

Councilwoman Bergwerf related that she had received an email from a Turtle Team member stating that the trash barrel nearest Breach Inlet has not been emptied; in responding, Director Pitts reported that the barrel had not been placed at that location by the City. He added that it would be picked up early on Wednesday morning and returned to its original location.

On the subject of beach debris and its pickup, Administrator Tucker stated that she had asked Chief Buckhannon to have the Livability Officer communicate with Frank Fredericks at the Wild Dunes Resort to have the Wild Dunes' employees who work the beach from 56th Avenue northward speak to beachgoers about tent removal. The Administrator commented that, in this area of the beach, the problem of the tents was the worst, and Mr. Fredericks had assured the Administrator that the resort employees would assist the City in any way they could.

5. Old Business

A. Debris Removal RFP

Treasurer Suggs commented that she was present today to review the calculations involved in the debris removal RFP. She explained that the detail in the RFP's fee schedule was to ensure that the City was completely compliant with all FEMA legislations related to the letting of the contract so that there would be no problems with FEMA regulations and reimbursement of expenses should the island have a storm event.

The Treasurer stated that the challenge had been to take all of the numbers from each bidder and to reduce the numbers of bidders to a reasonable number for consideration. The key factor in that discussion had been the most likely event the island would experience; that event was determined to be a tropical storm or low-level hurricane creating primarily vegetative debris. This scenario would be similar to the island's experience with Gaston; the City did hire a contractor to collect and dispose of the debris that was mostly vegetative and was transported to Station 4B on Rifle Range Road, within five (5) miles of the City. Director Pitts has confirmed with Charleston County that vegetative debris could be taken to Station 4B this year if there should be a storm event. For this scenario, the low bidder was URG, second low bidder was DRG and third was Bamaco as indicated on the multi-colored schedule.

Should the island experience a major storm, like Hugo, the City would need a temporary disposal site, likely the Front Beach parking lots and a contractor to pickup debris that would be vegetative and construction-related and deliver it to the temporary site (in the 0 to 20 mile category). At the temporary site, the debris would be disposed of in some way, possibly burned, with the remains being hauled to the Bees Ferry Landfill (in the 21-40 mile category). This situation is Item 2 on the multi-colored schedule.

When the analysis was done, no single vendor was low bidder in all categories making it difficult for the staff to make a recommendation on the award of the contract. The staff then took a qualitative approach and contacted the references the top five (5) vendors had listed; four (4) vendors were acceptable, but Bamaco's references were extraordinarily good. URG, as the lowest bidder in the first category, would appear to be the winner of the contract, but their references were less than the City would have liked; there was one (1) positive reference, one (1) reference was non-responsive, and a third said they had never heard of the vendor.

Administrator Tucker mentioned that the ability to deliver the service without complaints from the residents is extremely important because the City would not have the resources to "bird dog" the contractor. She commented that, for this reason, references were important because the

vendor must not only provide a good price to the City, but also provide a good service to the citizenry at a time when patience would be in short measure.

Mayor Cronin asked for further explanation of Item 6; Director Pitts noted that the City must provide observation for every load to quantify the percentage of fullness; he added that this observation is a FEMA requirement.

Councilman Duffy stated that, from the data, he saw Bamaco as a clear winner in that they were first in three (3) categories and third in another, plus the fact that their references were excellent.

There was general discussion that followed including the fact that Bamaco is located in Gunnell, Florida; the various places in the country they have worked, some of which were local; and Bamaco has been in business since 1977.

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee to award the contract for post-disaster debris removal to Bamaco; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Update on 18th Avenue/Cassina Lane

Director Pitts stated that he did not have any additional information at this time.

5. New Business

A. Review of Beach Debris Ordinance

Administrator Tucker stated that she had hoped to have an amended ordinance to present to the Committee at this meeting, but completing the RFP for Marina Management had taken precedence with the City Attorney to meet City Council's requested deadline. The Administrator assured the Committee that work was going on between Director Kerr, Chief Buckhannon and Attorney Sottile. Proposals that have come forward to this point are (1) the allowance for certain things to remain on the beach and (2) the allowance for going on to private property to remove those items that beach-goers have abandoned and could potentially pose a hazard. Additionally, informal conversations have occurred about the possibility of the ordinance being effective in the Conservation Overlay, with the exception of certain areas, like the commercially zoned property.

The Administrator reiterated the comment she had made in an email to Council members that the complication is making the distinction between the problem that was identified in 2008 for which the ordinance was ratified and the unintended consequence that the ordinance has created of potentially asking that something be removed from the beach that was not intended to be effected by the ordinance.

As work continues on an amendment to the existing ordinance, the instruction to personnel is to continue to enforce as was done last year, and holding in abeyance the issue of which Council members are aware. She asked that if anyone had suggestions as to the resolution of the matter, she would be happy to communicate them to the City Attorney for consideration.

B. Discussion of 27th Avenue/Waterway Boulevard Stormwater Ditch

Director Pitts informed the Committee that he had received several complaints from residents of 27th Avenue about this ditch; in response, he went to the area to see and understand the problem. He was told by a resident that she had not seen the problem until the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission had completed their construction on Waterway Boulevard, but he could not personally say that was true. He did note that this was the first ditch restructured (with a V cut in the center of the ditch) under the five (5) year plan; the plan is going into the fifth year and there is silting coming out of the covered portion underneath Waterway Boulevard at the mouth. The Director added that he could see where the silt has filled in causing standing water on the 27th Avenue side where the ditch makes a ninety-degree (90°) turn and continues parallel along Waterway approximately one hundred (100) yards, then goes between 26th Avenue and 27th Avenue residences. The solution of the standing water problem is to vacuum the silting at the mouth, approximately four hundred (400) feet.

He stated that he would be meeting with Bill Jenkins of Water and Sewer at the site to see the problem and determine if their contractor may have created the problem in the construction process. Director Pitts stated that, if the City continued with the ditch program, this ditch would be addressed again in two and one half (2½) years and the vegetation will be removed in July 2009. Chairman Bettelli noted that this is the type of problem for which the Drainage Contingency Fund was established and there were more than sufficient funds to solve this problem. The estimate for the work from Eadie's is five thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$5,160).

Administrator Tucker asked if the contractor working at 9th Avenue was the same contractor Water and Sewer had used for the Waterway project, and Director Pitts responded that it was. The Administrator said that, since the contractor is still working on the island, they should be able to go to the site rather quickly to determine if they had caused the problem.

The Committee agreed to give tentative agreement to Director Pitts to contract with Eadie's to remove the silting if it is determined that the IOP Water and Sewer contractor was not at fault.

C. Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 - None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Councilwoman Bergwerf commented that several beach accesses that not have trash barrels and that some of the barrels really look bad. Director Pitts stated that the barrels from 2nd Avenue to 56th Avenue, with the exception of 49th Avenue that has been removed, were new cans. Chairman Bettelli added that the cans had not been double-coated this year. She also commented that some of the barrels have only a palm tree trunk, and the Director told her that the time came when they had to be placed on the beach. According to Director Pitts,

there are approximately one hundred ten (110) barrels remaining and over the summer they will replace cans as needed.

Councilwoman Bergwerf stated that the Turtle Team had been contracted by the garden club about painting turtles on one (1) side of the barrels. She was given the go-ahead to do that, but she asked who would provide the paint. Director Pitts said the garden club had provided the paint when they painted the palm trees, but he noted that he still had approximately fifty dollars (\$50) in his contingency fund that could be used for the paint.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2009.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m.; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk