

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

July 8, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on July 8, 2008 in the Public Works Building located at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee and Council members Cronin and Loftus, Public Works Director Pitts, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Because Chairman Bettelli was out of town, Councilman Cronin served as Chair for the meeting.

1. Councilman Cronin 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. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2008 as submitted; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments - None**

4. Department Reports for June 2008 – Director Pitts

Director Pitts reported that in June the Public Works staff had prepared the island for the visitors expected for the July 4th holiday weekend and fireworks display. He reported that DOT has continued to repair sidewalks on Palm Boulevard and repaired the crosswalk timers at 14th Avenue. As he had predicted, the vehicle maintenance expense was approximately \$3,200 over budget for FY 2007-2008. Director Pitts added that the vehicle repair company First Vehicle Services, that Chief Graham had recommended, was working out very well; the company keeps experts in welding and hydraulics and a general mechanic in the vicinity of Sullivan's Island, Mount Pleasant and the Isle of Palms forty (40) hours per week. The Director expressed his satisfaction with their work and added that he was gaining efficiency and man-hours, as well as saving on gas and the actual maintenance itself. Continuing with the report for the month of June, both tonnage and yard debris were up; the staff of this department has worked on Saturdays in order to keep up with the volume.

5. Old Business

A. Update on 32nd Avenue Ditch

Director Pitts reported that the ditch in question was the 31st Avenue ditch as the Administrator had suspected at the last meeting. He stated that he has contacted Eadie's to clean the ditch this week and was hoping that would be done before Chuck Jarmin from Charleston County came to inspect the ditch this week. A recommendation

on closing in the ditch was expected to be made at the next meeting. Administrator Tucker asked that Director Pitts contact the Werners, the residents who had made the inquiry, with the status.

B. Update on Trimming Branches on Oak Harbor Boulevard

The work was taking place simultaneously with the meeting. It was reported that the inquiries from the residents of the street had been informational and that no one had objected to the City's proposal to trim back the overhanging limbs.

C. Discussion of Debris Removal Request for Bids

Administrator Tucker explained to the Committee that the staff had basically started over with this process in order to fulfill the FEMA requirements, which appear to be a moving target. They are trying to ensure that the City's request for bids and subsequent contract are written in such a way as to guarantee FEMA reimbursement of expenses the City would incur in the cleanup process after a major storm event. The only state guidelines are that a municipality follows its own procurement procedures and all of the elements of FEMA requirements.

D. Disaster Preparedness

Councilman Cronin suggested that each City department make a presentation to City Council explaining their procedures for preparing for a major storm; he thought that such a presentation would be helpful to residents as they also prepare. If these presentations were done at a Council meeting, the meeting video could be viewed by residents at their leisure; since Councilman Loftus and the City Administrator were supportive of the idea, Councilman Cronin said he would broach the subject with Mayor Sottile,

6. New Business

Consideration of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None

7. Miscellaneous

Beach Monitoring Results – Results for the month of June were excellent.

Councilman Loftus asked Bev Ballow, who had arrived late for the meeting, if she had any "Citizens' Comments" she would like to make at the meeting. She was happy to report on behalf of the Turtle Team that they had found a nest in the renourishment area for the first time this morning, there were three (3) new nests this morning and there was a total of twenty-four (24) nests on the island. She stated that really liked the new beach access signs, but she thought that there were no signs at 26th or 30th Avenue; Director Pitts said he would check them the next day.

Director Pitts reported on the Department's efforts to enforce Ordinance 2008-03 regarding Beach Maintenance; he announced that there was a flatbed truck filled with chairs collected from the beach to go to the dump this morning. He reported that Public Works employees were on the beach early in the mornings at low tide, and they had been told to be speedy and efficient in removing debris left on the beach unattended overnight. He stated that it was difficult to be visitor friendly and to maintain a clean beach. There have been several complaints for visitors; therefore, he was re-thinking the process and was considering removal by hand. One thing that has come to light is that some rental companies were not informing their renters of this new regulation; Administrator Tucker stated that she would speak with Livability Officer O'Donnell to request better cooperation from the rental companies.

Next Meeting Date: 4 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2008.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to adjourn at 4:35 p.m.; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk