

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2008

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Committee members 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. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 9, 2008 as submitted; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments** - None

4. **Departmental Report for July 2008** – Director Pitts

Director Pitts reported that the additional Saturday work has allowed the Department to keep up with the level of trash of the island; as in June, both trash and debris volumes were higher than in years past. Beach sweeps were conducted on six (6) days.

At this juncture, the discussion moved from the Director's Report to the issues and change in procedures related to removal of debris from the beach as directed in Ordinance 2008-03. Director Pitts reported that they have ceased removing erected tents from the beach as a result of problems with beach-goers. Administrator Tucker explained that the existing plan was not working; therefore, Police Chief Buckhannon, Building Director Kerr and Public Works Director Pitts met and visited the beach to assess the issues related to Ordinance 2008-03. The plan they developed is as follows:

- A police supervisor will ride the beach at night, three to four (3 to 4) times per week, and affix tags to any personal equipment left on the beach; and
- As time allows, Public Works will ride the beach, approximately two (2) times per week and remove tagged items.

The tags referred to are a revision of the Garbage Violation stickers; a copy of the sticker is provided for review. There was considerable discussion that followed covering issues of persons removing the tags and determining what is truly abandoned.

Building Director Kerr and Director Pitts will walk the beach again at 7:30 a.m. to see how the new program is working; they are hoping that the tags will cause visitors to remove their articles before leaving the beach to avoid having them confiscated.

Along the same lines, Councilman Loftus asked about the holes on the beach and if the Beach Services Officers were asking persons they saw digging the holes to fill them in before leaving the beach. He reported that beaches all over the East coast are experiencing the same problem and that they use their beach services officers and/or lifeguards as ambassadors to be proactive regarding holes. Director Pitts and Administrator Tucker reported that Mr. Schupp is still filling in the holes.

Returning to the monthly report, Director Pitts was pleased that vehicle maintenance was low for the first month of the new fiscal year.

Councilman Cronin asked the Director if the Department was current on debris pickup; the Director replied that he could stay even with working on Saturdays.

5. Old Business

A. Update on 32nd Avenue Ditch

The Agenda was corrected to reference the 31st Avenue ditch; Director Pitts reported that the ditch would be cleaned before the end of the month. If the Committee wanted to pipe it, the cost would be approximately fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). Councilman Cronin recounted that Chuck Jarmin of Charleston County Public Works had recommended against piping the ditch, and the Committee had agreed with his assessment.

B. Update on Debris Removal RFP

Assistant Dzuiban reported that she had obtained a model contract from South Carolina Emergency Management Division and that she was making the necessary changes for it to apply to Isle of Palms and to reconcile it to FEMA regulations. She stated that she would like to issue it before the next meeting with the Committee's approval, which the Committee granted.

Director Pitts noted that Isle of Palms could come under the umbrella of Charleston County's contract should there be a major storm before the City signs a contract. The only problem that could arise, according to the Administrator, would be issues related to FEMA reimbursement.

Director Pitts noted that the new beach regulations signs will be placed at the 26th and 30th Avenue beach access paths.

6. New Business

A. Cross Lane Stormwater

Director Pitts provided the Committee members with color pictures, an aerial photo and a quote from Eadie's Construction to clean the ditch in the area of Cross Lane that needs to be repaired. He informed the Committee that the County Public Works Department had failed to seal the joints when they installed the pipe under the road; this was the cause for the sink holes in the road, but there was also an issue of silting through the stormwater. The possibility of placing a work order with the County was discussed because the City would only pay for materials were the County to do the work. However, the problem with that process is that there was no way of knowing when the County would actually get the work done. Since Eadie's quote was only to clean the ditch, Director Pitts had contacted Sanders Brothers, the contractor being used by the Water and Sewer Commission to pave both ends of Cross Lane, and Peterson for quotes on the paving work. The Director reported that Sanders Brothers has multiple divisions and would be capable of both repairing the pipe under the road and paving; Councilman Cronin noted that to use the same contractor as Water and Sewer would likely be less expensive.

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to allocate an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the repair of the ditch under Cross Lane and to repave the road using unallocated drainage funds; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Impact of Increase in Minimum Wage

With the increase in minimum wage mandated by the federal government, the City has been informed that its provider of temporary labor would be raising its labor rate by 7.5% effective July 21, 2008. Administrator Tucker explained that the City would likely be increasing its use of temporary labor; when possible, work orders will be placed with the County. The Administrator noted that this information had been provided to the Committee primarily to make them aware that this line item in the budget would most likely be over for FY 2009.

C. Discussion of Household Hazardous Materials Neighborhood Collection

Prompted by an email from the Administrator, Director Pitts contacted Greg Varner of the Charleston County Recycling Center to find out if and how the County could assist the City in recycling household hazardous materials. The County is currently backlogged, but they would provide trucks and labor for a recycling event; the requirements of the City are to provide a location and to do extensive advertising to make it a successful event. The Committee charged Director Pitts with contacting Mr. Varner again to set a date for the fall and another in the spring; the suggested site was the City parking lot.

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

7. Miscellaneous

Beach Monitoring Results – Good (see attached letter)

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee members that the City was in receipt of a response from SCDOT regarding “multiple drives on the island and other encroachments that take public parking.” The letter stated that permits for more than one driveway are not to be issued without going through the District Engineer and the City.

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2008

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to adjourn at 4:47 p.m.; Councilman Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk