

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Carroll and Loftus, Chair Buckhannon, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Buckhannon 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:** Councilmember Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Citizens' Comments**

Jim Owens, 2805 Palm Boulevard, initiated his comments by praising Director Pitts and his personnel for the job they do and thanked them for the personal assistance they have provided him in recent weeks as he rehabilitated from shoulder surgery. He related that, when he learned that the subject of recycling containers and yard debris was on the *Agenda*, he planned to attend and to address the Committee; he commented that everyone knew that he kept his recycling bins in the right-of-way at his house. He indicated that, since he placed the bins there, he has not had to pick up any trash from in front of his home. He recalled that he had requested for the City to place the yellow trash barrels on the inland side of Palm Boulevard at the end of all beach paths to give beach-goers a place to deposit their trash when they are leaving the island. Mr. Owens continued that another reason he leaves the recycle bins in the right-of-way preventing beach-goers from parking there is to block the view from his home of the terrible behavior of many of the island's beach visitors, which include public nudity, public urination, etc. He noted that he had contacted Charleston County earlier in the day and was told that his leaving the recycle bin in the right-of-way is not a problem for them. Mr. Owens remarked that people on the island know that he has parked vehicles in the easement, and he was emphatic that he will continue to do so to protect his family from what he described as "disgusting."

On a related subject, he commented that the adjacent property is a six (6) bedroom, short-term rental property that will typically have twenty-four (24) occupants in a period of two (2) weeks; the one (1) recycle bin at that address is insufficient to accommodate materials generated in the two (2) weeks between pickups by Charleston County.

Wayne Moseley, of 6813 Back Bay Drive and the owner of the Red & White in Island Center, approached the Committee to fill the potholes on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Cassina Drive; the holes have gotten so deep that they are making it difficult for delivery trucks to make their deliveries to the businesses in the shopping center. In addition, Mr. Moseley reported that standing rain water is standing in these ruts creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes, exacerbating an already bad mosquito problem on the island.

Administrator Tucker explained that the City has a couple of options to resolve this issue; the remedies are to contract with a business like Peterson Grading that grades the City parking lots or to appeal Charleston County to do the work. The more expeditious of the two (2) options would be for the City to hire a contractor; the cost would be dependent on the amount of materials needed to fill the holes.

The Committee agreed that the City should contact Charleston County to determine if they could do the work in a timely fashion since the City would pay for materials and not labor. In the meantime, the City should contact Peterson Grading to find out when they could perform the work and an estimate of the cost.

#### **4. Department Reports for June/July 2012**

Director Pitts noted that debris collection got behind in the weeks immediately following Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup>, causing him to run an additional six (6) hour shift each of those weeks. In both June and July, the Department ran many beach sweeps to remove metal from the beach in the form of broken or discarded chairs, tent frames and a few umbrellas. The Director reported that he had met Charleston County Stormwater personnel to check out the pot hole on 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, who forwarded the problem to SCDOT; SCDOT was on the island today and said that there is nothing wrong. At this point, Director Pitts anticipates that Charleston County will camera the ditch and make a final determination.

Based on the Director's preliminary numbers, the vehicle maintenance expenses for FY12 will end the year approximately twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) under budget.

With single-stream recycling initiated in June, Director Pitts anticipates seeing a reduction in the garbage tonnage. Responding to Councilmember Loftus' query, the Director stated that the island's residents have embraced single-stream recycling; he forecasted that, in the future, Charleston County will be forced to increase its servicing of the island's recycling bins or increase the number of containers at certain locations to manage the volume of recycled material.

Councilmember Loftus asked Director Pitts if he was tracking rental houses that need additional recycling bins. The Director indicated that he has not been tracking them, but that he could note them.

Councilmember Loftus suggested that the rental agencies would know which of the addresses they manage need more recycling containers. Chair Buckhannon voiced the opinion that residences with multiple roll-out carts would need an equal number of recycling bins.

The Chair recommended that residents need more education about single-stream recycling, either through the local newspapers or through Charleston County.

When asked about the delivery of the new carts to the balance of the island, Director Pitts said that the delivery of the recycling bins was being delayed by the fact that the trucks used to empty the new bins have been backordered.

## **5. Old Business**

### **A. Update on Drainage Repairs to Hartnett Boulevard**

Administrator Tucker reported that the update was the repairs to the Hartnett Boulevard drainage had been completed at a significantly lower price than was originally quoted; the material costs were originally estimated at twenty-six hundred dollars (\$2,600), but the actual cost had been just over one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

### **B. Discussion of Recycling Containers and Yard Waste**

Administrator Tucker distributed a copy of the City Code as it relates to the times when garbage roll-out carts can be on the street; she indicated that some people have complained about the cans being rolled out to the street at times other than before pickup times. The Administrator also pointed out that the City's ordinance does not address recycling bins or recycling roll-out carts. In her opinion, if the Committee wanted to do more than public education, the language of the ordinance could be changed to include recycling bins and roll-out carts.

Councilmember Carroll voiced his preference to pursue various avenues of education at this time.

The Administrator reported that the information that is coming to City Hall is that short-term rental tenants are rolling out the recycling bins when they leave the island when the actual recycling pickup date might be ten (10) days away; therefore, she indicated that the rental agencies need to place information about the recycling pickup days in the rental units.

Chair Buckhannon indicated that he did not want to proceed with amending the ordinance until the entire island has the new, larger single-stream recycling containers.

Councilmember Loftus disagreed because residents want to keep the island beautiful all of the time; the island has experienced a change, therefore, the code should reflect it. He noted that the containers for yard debris should also be included in any new language in the code. In addition, he remarked that he continues to receive comments from residents that the City is not enforcing its own regulations by allowing these containers to remain in the rights-of-way. If members of the Committee were concerned about fines being levied against residents, Councilmember Loftus was certain that the issue could be handled through public safety personnel until such time as all residents have the new containers and have been sufficiently educated. In his opinion, an ordinance amendment would be a proactive move in addressing the concerns of residents.

Administrator Tucker stated that she would contact Charleston County, explain what the problem is on the island and ask that they generate and distribute educational materials for island residents.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Discussion of 41st Avenue Ditch – Smith's Request**

As was the case when this subject originally discussed, this issue will be addressed both by the Public Works Committee and by the Real Property Committee. The Administrator reviewed the history of the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue drainage ditch and the silting it adds under the dock of Phillip Smith; the communication from Mr. Smith is attached to the historical record of the meeting. In the recent letter from Mr. Smith, he makes two (2) requests of the City; they are (1) to investigate a means of mitigating the silting under his dock from the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue ditch and (2) to reimburse him for expenses he incurred in completing the dredging of his dock area. The request pertinent to this Committee is the fact that Mr. Smith's problem will repeat itself until something is done to prevent the silting from accumulating under his dock and requiring dredging, which is an expensive project. Administrator Tucker related that this ditch has been evaluated in the past, but the City has not done any analysis recently. She opined that some new technology could have been developed that would lessen the amount of silting flowing into the Intracoastal Waterway, but the City would need engineering expertise to tell the City if something could be done.

Councilmember Carroll noted that the Intracoastal Waterway was silting in all around the island; therefore, he could not support seeking a solution for one (1) area of the island. Administrator Tucker conceded that an initiative like this could lead to many more requests for assistance from the City.

Chair Buckhannon suggested that this be one (1) more component of the marina development program; he voiced concern that engaging an engineer would be a substantial un-budgeted expense for the City.

A brief discussion ensued about the fact the open ditches drain better and faster than enclosed ditches.

## **B. Consideration of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000**

### **Discussion of Street Sweeping Contract**

Administrator Tucker explained that she had placed this item on the *Agenda* to encourage the Committee members to play close attention of the appearance of the main thoroughfares that are included in the street sweeping contract. She recalled that the City had changed contractors when the contract was re-bid a couple of years ago; by going with the low bid, the City has saved a lot of money, but the work has been less than satisfactory. The streets included in the street sweeping contract are the IOP Connector, the Breach Inlet bridge, Palm Boulevard between 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue curve, and Ocean Boulevard from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The Administrator believes that the contractor's equipment is not adequate to the job on the island; in her opinion, the equipment does not have sufficient suction to clean the sand from the streets.

Director Pitts recounted that, in the past, the contractor had emailed him the day after a sweep, and he has, periodically, gone behind and checked the work. The Director said that he can see where the sweeper has been, but it appears to have only moved the sand around, not picked it up. On several occasions, the contractor has returned to the island to re-do the sweep at no

additional charge to the City. Based on a sweeping schedule provided by the contractor, the streets are to be swept overnight on Tuesday, August 7.

Administrator Tucker commented that the street sweeping is a service the City needs, but the City should not continue to pay for inferior service. The time, therefore, may come when the contract should be severed for lack of performance on the part of the contractor. Additional component to this issue is that few contractors for street sweeping exist in the area; the City may need to contemplate buying a street sweeping machine to ensure that the job is properly done.

Chair Buckhannon asked whether arrangements could be made for the contractor to sweep during the day providing Director Pitts an opportunity to follow the sweeper and determine whether the contractor's equipment is not properly maintained or is simply not up to the job.

Administrator Tucker agreed to pursue the options discussed in the meeting and asked the Committee members to be vigilant to how the streets look after being swept.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Beach monitoring results were satisfactory for the months of May, June and July, 2012.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 6, 2012 in the Conference Room.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk