

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
5:00 p.m., Thursday, September 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Carroll and Loftus, Chair Buckhannon, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, Public Works Director Pitts 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 Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments** – None

4. **Departmental Reports for August 2012** – Director Pitts

A. **Maintenance Reports**

B. **Trash Collection Tracking Reports**

According to Director Pitts, the focus for August was beach sweeps and mowing of the rights-of-way; the Director thanked the Recreation Department for their assistance in mowing efforts. SCDOT cleaned the sidewalks on Palm Boulevard, and, as a result of the heavy rainfall, pumping was done August 29<sup>th</sup> through September 1 on 46<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues. The major vehicle maintenance expense was tires for heavy equipment. Since the introduction of single-stream recycling, garbage tonnage has decreased significantly; Director Pitts reported that Charleston County had been very surprised at the volume collected from the island.

Chair Buckhannon noted that once-per-week garbage collections would begin on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>; Councilmember Loftus requested that notice to that effect be placed on the message boards at the Connector and Breach Inlet.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Update on Phase 2 Drainage – 42<sup>nd</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues**

Assistant Dziuban reminded the Committee that the City was in the design and engineering stage of Phase 2 of the City's drainage project; at this time, the City has no project funding. Dave Stevens of Civil Site Environmental is in attendance to present what he expects to be the final design of the project.

Before Mr. Stevens began, Councilmember Carroll noted that Director Pitts and Chair Buckhannon had received calls from a resident on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue relative to flooding. Assistant Dziuban reported that she had spoken to the resident explaining that 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a private

road that the City cannot pump; one of her neighbors rented a pump to remove the water and the street is dry today. Councilmember Carroll queried that the second phase of drainage would lower the water table in this area and lessen the flooding problems; Mr. Stevens agreed that the water table would be lowered, but he did not think enough to solve the problem. Mr. Stevens informed the Committee that the design does not show piping on the private streets in the area, but consideration is being taken into consideration for the project design so that they could be included at some time in the future.

Following this line of thought, Chair Buckhannon asked whether the residents on the private streets could be included in the project if they personally covered the costs of the infrastructure; Assistant Dziuban indicated that, from a financial perspective, that appeared to be possible, but to do so might create a liability for the City that it did not want to assume. Mr. Stevens noted that this phase will be more maintenance intense than the first phase because it is a flat system, i.e. a system with no slope.

In Mr. Stevens' opinion, the route chosen down 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue into an existing drainage easement in Wild Dunes eliminates the conflict with electric, telephone and sewer infrastructure already in place and will be the most cost effective long-term. Along Palm Boulevard, the pipes will go between the palmetto trees and the right-of-way; the IOP Water and Sewer lines are running parallel to the sidewalk, so Mr. Stevens wants to interface with them at their crossings.

Mr. Stevens indicated that he will have preliminary numbers by the end of September. He did inform the Committee that, contrary to his original thoughts, this phase of drainage will be from 45<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, not down to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The scope had to be narrowed because the system must work with the capacity remaining in Wild Dunes, and he expects to be at maximum capacity with this plan. The modeling will provide the factual data and determine the exact scope of the project, but, at this time, he anticipates the project to cover 45<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues without major upgrades within the gates of Wild Dunes.

The consensus of the Committee was that the project will be referred to as the 45<sup>th</sup> through 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Drainage until the modeling proves that capacity is available in Wild Dunes to add streets.

## **B. Consideration of Repairs to Cassina Avenue**

Assistant Dziuban recalled that Wayne Moseley had come before this Committee in August asking for assistance in from the City to fill in the holes and grade 18<sup>th</sup> and Cassina Avenues around the Island Center; the estimate that Director Pitts received from Peterson Grading was seven thousand dollars (\$7,000). Assistant Dziuban explained that the work would be an unbudgeted expense that would be paid from the Capital Projects Fund.

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve \$7,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to cover the costs of maintenance as needed to 18<sup>th</sup> and Cassina Avenues; Chair Buckhannon seconded.**

Councilmember Loftus stated that, in light of the recent agreement between the City and The Beach Company, they should partner in this expense.

Councilmember Carroll described his support of the City to take action as a way of appeasing a long-standing member of the City's business community and a resident of the island who has come to the City for help for trucks servicing his and other businesses in the shopping center. He was not opposed to approaching The Beach Company for half of the expense.

Councilmember Loftus suggested that the City would pay for the work on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but repairs to Cassina should be borne by The Beach Company; he pointed out that the City should not be paying for work on private property.

Responding to Chair Buckhannon's question about the legal status of the roads, Clerk Copeland reported the City had signed the documents and given them to City Attorney Halversen to coordinate with The Beach Company's attorney for their signature; the executed documents have not been returned to the City.

Councilmember Carroll and Chair Buckhannon withdrew the motion and second, respectively.

Councilmember Loftus suggested that The Beach Company may have a contractor who would do the work at a lower price.

Assistant Dziuban recommended that a partnership with The Beach Company might be complicated and recommended that the City proceed with 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, leaving The Beach Company to deal with Cassina Avenue.

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to approve up to \$3,500 for the repairs to 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Chair Buckhannon seconded.**

The Committee asked that Assistant Dziuban inform The Beach Company of the City's intention.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Status of OCRM Permit for 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Walkover**

Assistant Dziuban noted that this item should reference the walkover at the Front Beach public restrooms, not 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Since Administrator Tucker had informed Council of this ruling via email, this notification was primarily for the record. OCRM did not grant the City the permit for the use of PermaTrak on the walkover at the public restrooms; the only material they will permit is wood and the walkover cannot exceed six feet (6 ft.) in width. Since OCRM permitted a wider walkover at the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue beach access, the City will attempt to persuade them to reconsider; if unsuccessful, the City will need to modify its request.

**D. Assessment of Street Sweeping Efforts**

Recalling the discussion from the August meeting, Assistant Dziuban commented that the Committee members had been told that the work performed by the street sweeping contractor

has been less than satisfactory, that they have been informed that their job performance is lacking and they had, on several occasions, made repeat sweeps in compliance with their contract. Committee members were asked to take a particular interest in how the primary streets looked after sweeps and to make their own judgment about the caliber of work being done. This was the Committee's opportunity to voice their opinions.

Director Pitts remarked that the recent sweeps had been better than June, but still did not measure up to the previous vendor.

If the City was looking to terminate the contract for breach of contract, it would need photographs to substantiate its claim.

Councilmember Loftus asked what other options the City had and whether Director Pitts knew of other vendors in the area that could do a better job. The Director noted that there were very few companies that do this type of work; Mount Pleasant, for instance, has their own equipment for street sweeping.

Assistant Dziuban stated that cost estimates for street sweeping equipment have been obtained; one quote is for one hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$130,000) plus ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a hopper and a second quote for two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000); an additional expense is an employee to operate the equipment. Responding to Councilmember Loftus query, the present contract is twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) annually. With that piece of information, Councilmember Loftus was quick to point out that the City would never get a return on its investment.

Checking the contract currently in force, Assistant Dziuban stated that the contract expires at the end of November 2012.

The Committee agreed that the staff should generate an RFP to find out whether there are other vendors in the area.

**E. Request on Request on County for Communication Related to Single-Stream Recycling**

Assistant Dziuban reported that, at the Committee's request, Administrator Tucker had communicated with the County for better education of island residents on single-stream recycling and had described the concerns of members of the Committee related primarily to rental units.

Director Pitts announced that the northern end of the island will receive the single-stream recycling bins at the end of October and early November.

If rental units want more than one (1) recycling bin, the owner must make a request to the County.

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of Cleaning/Clearing Sidewalks**

Director Pitts repeated that SCDOT had cleared Palm Boulevard in August while Public Works crews worked to clear obstructions around street signs on Cameron, Hartnett and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

**B. Consideration of Repairs to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Beach Access**

Assistant Dziuban informed the Committee that this beach access is in a state of disrepair and has become a safety hazard; staff has determined that the best solution is to remove the boardwalk entirely. Peterson Grading will remove the boardwalk and remove the sections to the side of the road to be removed by Public Works; Peterson will level the path and top dress the path with shellsand for a total of three thousand dollars (\$3,000). According to Treasurer Suggs, the cost can be paid from Municipal Accommodations Fee if Council is inclined to proceed. The Public Works Department has a length of Mobi-mat in its inventory that can be placed on the ocean side of the path.

Chair Buckhannon asked whether this path would need an OCRM permit; Director Pitts assured him that the work is within Isle of Palms' jurisdiction.

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to approve up to \$3,000 from Municipal Accommodations Fees for the removal of the boardwalk at the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue beach access; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Report on Resurfacing and Water Main Projects**

By way of information, Assistant Dziuban announced that Charleston County confirmed that Lauden Street remains on the re-paving list as do 53<sup>rd</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues and Palm Boulevard, which the City asked to be delayed for the infrastructure project. The IOP Water and Sewer Commission will be replacing water mains on streets that include 54<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenues and all side streets and 41<sup>st</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup>; the Water and Sewer Commission's work will involve removing encroachments to the rights-of-way. The Water and Sewer Commission did send letters to property owners on the streets where the work will be done, but residents are likely to call Councilmembers when the work begins.

**D. Citizen's Concern Regarding Dune Vegetation**

Assistant Dziuban noted that a member of this Committee has been contacted by a member of the community regarding an invasive plant growing in the dunes, which she assumes to be beach vitex, a common invasive plant. She reported that Council passed a resolution in 2006 about how residents should deal with it, and the resolution referred to a Carolina Beach Vitex Task Force that had been formed to deal with the problem. Assistant Dziuban provided the resident with the contact information for him to be sure what he was dealing with and the best manner to do so.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

**A. Letter of thanks to Public Works Department**

An email from a resident praising Director Pitts and his staff for assistance afforded to her was included in meeting packets.

**B. Once Per Week Garbage Collection Beginning Monday, September 10**

**Next Meeting Date: 5 p.m., Thursday, October 4, 2012 in the Conference Room.**

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Chair Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk