

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Buckhannon, Loftus and Ward, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Councilmember Loftus nominated Councilmember Buckhannon to serve as Chair; Councilmember Ward seconded. The Committee unanimously elected Councilmember Buckhannon as Chair.

Chair Buckhannon nominated Councilmember Loftus as Vice Chair; Councilmember Loftus declined and nominated Councilmember Ward. Chair Buckhannon seconded, and Councilmember Ward was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **Citizens' Comments** – None

5. **Department Reports for November/December 2012** – Director Pitts

Since November and December are typically slow months for the Public Works Department, the department had no overtime; in fact, several employees took vacation time over the holidays. Director Pitts stated that he expects garbage tonnage to be twenty (20) tons less per month than prior years due to single-stream recycling. Spending on vehicle maintenance is running just over budget at fifty-nine percent (59%) for the first six (6) months of the fiscal year.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Update on Single-stream Recycling**

Assistant Dziuban reported that the County has completed its educational initiative with the island's rental agencies. Chair Buckhannon commented that he wanted to see residential education like that of the rental agencies.

On the subject of recycling bins in the rights-of-way, Councilmember Loftus asked Director Pitts what efforts were going to get habitual offenders to remove their bins from the rights-of-way between pickups.

Assistant Dziuban stated that the City has no formal mechanism to require residents to remove recycling bins from the right-of-way, and is, therefore, limited in what it can do.

Councilmember Loftus inquired about getting approval from Charleston County for the City to remove bins habitually left out. Assistant Dziuban said that the City could make that inquiry.

Chair Buckhannon stated that the City had an ordinance prohibiting obstructions in the right-of-way which could support any action the City might take. He added that he would review the statutes to make a recommendation on this subject at the next meeting.

## **B. Update on Dune Walkover Replacement**

Assistant Dziuban recalled that the 2013 budget includes replacing two (2) dune walkovers, i.e. one (1) at the Sea Cabins and one (1) at Front Beach at the public restrooms. The City's permit request to OCRM for the Front Beach walkover has been unsuccessful; OCRM will not approve the Perma-Trak material, the added width of the walkover or the higher elevation. The City appealed this permit denial and again was unsuccessful, and staff does not believe that a second level of appeal would yield different results. In an effort to get the dune walkover permit issued, staff had decided to adjust the materials and elevation in hopes of getting the additional width needed.

Building and Planning Director Kerr stated that the alternative plan is to comply with OCRM parameters for a narrow, wooden walkover at the prescribed elevation for the Sea Cabin's path. As for the walkover from the public restrooms, staff anticipates two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in maintenance this year as staff prepares a revised permit application that will deal with the greater width.

Assistant Dziuban repeated that the plan is to build the walkover at the Sea Cabins this budget yet and to carry forward to the FY14 budget the funds for the path at the public restrooms.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of Street Sweeping Contract**

The City received one (1) bid for the street sweeping contract, and it is the company that held the contract in the past and that did a very good job for the City. Sweeping South went out of business when it did not get the award from the City the last time, but the company was purchased and has been doing sweeps for the City on a per call basis in recent months. The bid was twelve thousand sixty dollars (\$12,060); the previous contract was three hundred four dollars (\$304) higher. Staff recommends an award to Sweeping South as the preferred vendor for its quality work.

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to recommend to Ways and Means the award of the street sweeping contract to Sweeping South in the amount of \$12,060; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **B. Discussion of Tree Ordinance**

Director Kerr reported that he has been approached by a resident for permission to remove a tree because its roots are undermining the foundation of his home, but Director Kerr stated that the tree is protected by the City's Historic Tree Preservation Ordinance.

Chair Buckhannon commented that a common sense approach would be that, upon validation by an engineer, the homeowner should get relief from the tree and be required to plant another tree somewhere on his property.

Councilmember Loftus recounted that he had been a member of the Planning Commission when the current tree ordinance was written and that the code had intentionally made stringent due to the abuses that were occurring on the island. He added that he preferred to keep it rigid rather than to have it relaxed and see the abuses return.

Director Kerr said that the homeowner could seek a variance, but would be required to prove that the property could not be used until such time as the tree was removed. The Director said that he is getting more and more such requests from people at closings that a tree is causing damage to the home or as a result of fire inspections. Another issue that he is getting calls about is invasive trees, a subject that also is not addressed in the code.

The Committee thought the Planning Commission could review the tree ordinance and to make recommendations regarding trees damaging a home and invasive trees. Assistant Dziuban stated that the process would begin with staff research.

## **8. Miscellaneous Business**

### **Results of CTC Funding**

Copies of the letter from the County Transportation Committee (CTC) containing the results of 2013 "C" Funds projects were in meeting packets; Isle of Palms did not receive any funding for this funding cycle. Assistant Dziuban speculated that the City did not receive money toward the second phase of the drainage project because the design and engineering have not been completed.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 6, 2013, in the Conference Room.**

## **9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Chair Buckhannon moved to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk