

Public Works Committee

5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2014

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2014 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Loftus, Chair Ward, Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; Councilmember Ferencz' absence was excused. A quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Ward 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 August 6, 2014 as submitted; Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

MOTION: Chair Ward moved to re-order the *Agenda* to next address item 5.A. Old Business – Update on Front Beach Lighting; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Front Beach Lighting – Westy Westmoreland, SCE&G

Westy Westmoreland, Manager of Lighting for SCE&G, and Sam Loggins, design engineer, attended the meeting to present the proposed locations for the lights and the related costs; Mr. Westmoreland indicated that Mr. Loggins has done the layout, the design and photometrics of the Front Beach project. A map of the light placements was opened for the Committee members to study; Mr. Westmoreland stated that they had looked at how the lighting pattern lays out and, from that, deduced that a total of forty-one (41) lights would be needed to meet the goals of the project. He assured the Committee that the proposed lights would not interfere with turtle nesting. He stated that each pole will have a receptacle at a height of approximately eleven feet (11 ft.); the actual light poles are eighteen feet (18 ft.) tall with the light fixtures mounted at fifteen feet (15 ft.). Mr. Westmoreland explained that the height is dictated by code to ensure that they are "out of the public space." Although the poles are EPA rated for withstanding strong winds, Mr. Westmoreland noted that, if these poles are damaged, the responsibility for the repair or replacement would belong to SCE&G.

Chair Ward asked to have the "monthly facility fee" explained. Mr. Westmoreland stated that, because the lights will be LED, SCE&G has a different program rather than having a rate per pole and a rate per fixture. In this program, SCE&G takes the total cost of the job to determine the facility fee, which is one point nine percent (1.9%) of the total cost per month. In addition, the City will have an energy charge which is the actual energy usage of the lights. These charges are part of a fifteen (15) year contract between the City and SCE&G; the contract covers replacements, failures and any type of maintenance. He commented that this contract is like the one (1) covering the Palm Boulevard lights.

Chair Ward asked when the project could be completed once Council approves it; Mr. Westmoreland indicated that SCE&G was planning to do the project over the coming winter beginning in January with completion early in February. The Chair inquired whether they could start earlier for the City's use at Christmas. Mr. Westmoreland stated that the materials have about an eight (8) week lead-time, but they could start before the materials arrive since the project requires a considerable amount of boring.

Following Councilmember Loftus' comment about the costs, Administrator Tucker stated that the Committee had been presented two (2) options for fixtures despite the fact that the Committee selected the Prague fixture in an earlier meeting; the Shepherd fixture has a lower monthly cost.

Mr. Westmoreland stated that there is little difference in appearance between the two (2) fixtures, but the monthly facility fee for the Shepherd fixture is approximately three hundred dollars (\$300) less than the Prague fixture. He added that SCE&G installs more Shepherd fixtures than Prague, so, if one (1) had to be replaced, it is likely that a new fixture would be readily available.

The Administrator noted that the City was in good shape for the up-front costs of fifty-three thousand twenty-five dollars (\$53,025) according to the FY15 budget that includes one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) for undergrounding lines and decorative lighting. Depending on when the project is completed and goes on-line, an additional four thousand dollars (\$4,000) was added to the Municipal Accommodations budget for electricity expense. The electric usage will be covered through the Municipal Accommodations Fee Front Beach electricity and gas line item, and the up-front costs are also being paid from Municipal Accommodations Fee.

Administrator Tucker asked Mr. Westmoreland to tell the Committee what SCE&G is adding at no expense to the City. He reported that they will be adding six (6) outlet (pedestal) locations for the holiday displays.

MOTION: Chair Ward moved to approve the SCE&G proposal for the Shepherd light fixtures and changing to 200 amps per outlet; Councilmember Loftus seconded.

Councilmember Loftus understood that the City will be adding to the holiday light displays in the coming years and suggested that the City get as many pedestals as considered necessary. Installing them when the other work was taking place would be much less expensive than adding them later.

Councilmember Loftus asked whether there was hardware available for the poles to add other decorative features in the future, and Mr. Westmoreland said that banner poles could be added to the light poles. Two (2) banner poles would be added to each light pole at a cost of two hundred dollars (\$200) each and add two (2) to each light pole for a total of four hundred dollars (\$400), half of which can be paid for through the Non-standard Service Clause. The Councilmember stated that he wanted some kind of hardware that would support a metal wire for swag decorative lights. Mr. Loggins said the banners hold fifty pounds (50 lbs.).

Chair Ward inquired about the locations for the pedestals, and the Administrator responded that they were to be where the light displays were placed last year. The Chair asked whether the pedestals would be located close to the area where bands set up for outdoor festivals; Administrator Tucker commented that the locations had been marked on a map that Mr. Loggins and Mr. Westmoreland took with them. The Committee was told that the pedestals would be installed and available for use for Christmas.

Director Pitts stated that there are ten (10) 110 amp outlets where the bands have set up in the past; in addition, there is an outlet at every palm tree on the center island.

Mr. Westmoreland noted that every pedestal will have a meter, and each would be a separate metered account.

AMENDMENT: Councilmember Loftus moved to amend the motion to double the number of pedestals; Chair Ward seconded and the amendment PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VOTE on AMENDED MOTION: The amended motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Administrator explained that the new lights will have remote monitoring by SCE&G's master control, allowing them to dim the lights, shut them off for an approaching storm or other occasion. With the remote monitoring, the lights will signal the control if there is a problem.

Chair Ward thanked Mr. Westmoreland and Mr. Loggins for working with the City on this project and for expediting the process; Mr. Westmoreland expressed his opinion that the lights will make "a tremendous difference after dark."

4. Department Reports for August 2014 – Director Pitts

With the end of the beach season, personnel are cleaning the beach on Mondays and Fridays, as well as mowing some beach paths. Water had to be pumped after heavy rains on August 4th and 5th on 46th, 49th, 51st, and 52nd Avenues.

Director Pitts reported that he had had major problems with the compactor; in his opinion, it is "on its last leg." Despite multiple problems, the compactor is working now.

Administrator Tucker advised the Committee that the compactor was included in the FY15 budget for replacement. The Director noted that a compactor is not on state contract; therefore, it will go out for bid.

Councilmember Loftus asked whether the bush-hog would be used again to clear beach accesses; the Director assured him that the beach paths will be cleared by the end of Friday.

Director Pitts stated that SCDOT is scheduled to be on the island to mow the 41st Avenue ditch tomorrow and deploy heavy equipment the water-side/the bike path side of Palm Boulevard between 4th and 8th Avenues.

Chair Ward suggested that, when the compactor is replaced, the fence around it should also be replaced because it is in poor condition; he thought that a concrete block fence. The Chair noted that there is a restaurant below the compactor presently, and the smell is terrible. He also asked that the City also consider enclosing the top.

Administrator Tucker asked the Director if he thought a new compactor would have better odor control. Director Pitts noted that the compactor is seventeen (17) years old and, with no boxing in areas at the bottom, leaching is occurring. When Carolina Waste takes it to the Bees Ferry Landfill and before personnel begin the Ocean Boulevard route, they clean the area under and around the compactor.

Being only two (2) months into the fiscal year, vehicle maintenance will be well under budget; he stated that he continues to have issues with the Caterpillar, but it must fail before it can be fixed.

Trash Collection Tracking Reports

Garbage was up for the month of August in comparison with previous years' collections, and yard debris was down. He explained that one (1) reason debris was down due in part to issues with the flatbed and the Caterpillar.

5. Old Business

- A. Update on Front Beach Lighting** – earlier in the meeting
- B. Update on Seahorse Court and Intergovernmental Agreement**

Having not received an intergovernmental agreement from Charleston County, there is no progress to report on this matter.

- C. Update on Eliminating Twice a Week Garbage Collection for the Summer of 2015**

Director Pitts directed attention to the final two (2) pages of his reports; the first page is a comparison based on the next page's information that reports on the tonnage picked up by each truck for the dates noted. The Director stated that, from this page, he can determine where the greatest amount of garbage is being picked up by the route the truck follows. Through the summer, the Director said that he did not send any truck to the landfill on Thursday; he pointed out that Friday collections went from sixty plus tons (60+ T) before school started to nearly twenty-seven tons (27 T) after school started. Based on the numbers, he concluded that there was a fair amount of empty space in the trucks after the Thursday collections; therefore, he thought that the Public Works Department could follow the school calendar which would afford personnel two (2) more weeks to clean the island of debris. Director Pitts commented that he would not want to have once-a-week collections in the summer when the Department has five (5) trucks four (4) days a week. If the City was to decide to have once-a-week garbage pickup in the summer, the Director thought the City would need a sixth (6th) truck and run shorter routes

to get around the island which could be done without incorporating additional labor, but debris removal operations would be shut down.

Councilmember Loftus asked the Director if he had ever considered that would focus on areas with many rental properties toward the end of the week and have this route be the second pickup of the week. The Councilmember considered the concentration of rental properties to be on Ocean and Palm Boulevards, the avenues, and part of Wild Dunes, producing a modified second pickup in the summer. In his opinion, doing this would be more efficient.

Director Pitts responded that such a modified schedule would be difficult to service some and not service others, noting that there are rental houses in Forest Trail and on Waterway Boulevard; he preferred to be fair to everybody on the island.

Councilmember Loftus countered that "all rental houses are not equal" based on the people-capacity of the house.

According to Director Pitts, there are properties on the island that are still very busy in the two (2) weeks leading up to the start of school, and they will have to purchase additional cans. In his opinion, the issue becomes Grand Pavilion which is "still hammered" and has no place for additional cans; he reported that Sea Grove has sixteen (16) cans in a corral; and he noted that Pelican Bay has a place for four (4) bins and no room for additional cans.

Administrator Tucker believed Director Pitts to be advocating for ending twice-a-week garbage collections the same week that the Charleston County Schools start in August and beginning twice-a-week collections with Memorial Day.

Director Pitts reported that garbage collections begin to pickup with the Southeastern Wildlife Show in February and increase weekly to the peak at the end of June.

Councilmember Loftus suggested that the City implement the Director's plan, continue to evaluate and make changes as needed.

Administrator Tucker commented that she would check the City Code to ensure that the dates for twice-a-week garbage collections are not defined there.

D. Report on Phase II Drainage Project

Administrator Tucker reported that staff is anxious to get started on the drainage project from 46th to 52nd Avenues and reminded the Committee that the engineer's plan for the project is to begin at the outfall. This is an existing outfall that will be improved with the funds included in the FY15 budget; since water will continue to run through it, there will be no problems with improving it first and letting it sit. Staff is trying to decide whether to proceed with that component of the project solely with City funds or to utilize a portion of the grant funds from Charleston County.

The Administrator reported that she is in communication with members of the Charleston County Transportation people to learn whether they would allow the City to use grant funds for this part of the project. While one hundred percent (100%) of the project is public and for public benefit, it must travel through private property to get to the outfall and the City must work with two (2) private entities to accomplish the project. One (1) reason the engineer advocates for beginning with the outfall is that the same people are in place with the private entities, the resort and the Wild Dunes Community Association, that were in place when the City did Phase I of the project; the City and engineer have a good track record with them, and they will not have to be convinced of the City's success with the project.

When speaking with the Charleston County Transportation personnel, the Administrator was asked what the City's decision had been regarding the Palm Boulevard crossings at 46th and 56th Avenues; they will be re-surfacing Palm Boulevard shortly from 41st to 57th Avenues. When these crossing were originally discussed several months ago, the estimates had been quite high, and the decision was not to do the project. Charleston County personnel asked whether the City would change its mind if their contractor were to give a more reasonable estimate; the Administrator said she would have to see the estimate before committing.

Councilmember Loftus asked whether the City would know when the re-surfacing was to occur, and the Administrator said that the City might be informed of the week.

6. New Business

Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 8th in the Conference Room

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.; Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk