

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2015 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Ferencz, Loftus and Ward, Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant Administrator Dziuban and Clerk Copeland; a quorum as present to conduct business.

1. Administrator Tucker 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. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Councilmember Loftus nominated Councilmember Ward to serve as Chair, and Councilmember Ferencz seconded. The vote was unanimous to elect Councilmember Ward as Chair.

Councilmember Ferencz nominated Councilmember Loftus to serve as Vice-Chair; Chair Ward seconded and the Committee unanimously elected Councilmember Loftus as Vice Chair.

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

**MOTION: Councilmember Ferencz moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 5, 2014 as submitted; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Citizens' Comments**

**5. Departmental Reports for November/December 2014 – Director Pitts**

**A. Maintenance and Trash Collection Tracking Reports**

Personnel performed normal activities for the months of November and December 2014; the Director noted that Eadie's continues to clean the stormwater collections boxes on the island.

Vehicle maintenance costs were nominal in November, but were high for December with a partial invoice received for the work on one (1) of the flatbeds for brakes and seals.

Councilmember Loftus asked whether either of the flatbeds with Renault engines were on the Capital Plan for replacement in the near future; Director Pitts said that he would defer replacement until the time that the trucks have twelve (12) years' use, or six to eight (6-8) more years.

**B. Report on Concerns over Drainage Ditches on Forest Trail**

Director Pitts reported that Charleston County was called to repair the ditch at 107 Forest Trail and Eadie's was correcting the problem ditch at 205 Forest Trail

In November, yard debris was down, but it was up again in December.

**MOTION: Chair Ward moved to re-order the Agenda to discuss item B under Old Business at this time; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Old Business**

**C. Update on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Handicap Access**

Director Kerr explained that a citizen's request to the Real Property Committee for flat wooden handicap beach accesses on the island had been the impetus behind the work at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Director Kerr reported that he and Director Pitts had studied every beach access on the island, and recommended two (2) accesses to the Real Property Committee for consideration, i.e. 9<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. In Director Kerr's investigation into making these beach accesses more handicap-friendly, he learned from OCRM that a primary dune could not be disturbed for a boardwalk and that any boardwalk constructed over a primary dune must be two feet (2 ft.) above the dune. If the access path were to be ADA compliant and meet OCRM's regulations, it would have to be very long. Per the Director, Mobi-mat has been on the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue access for ten to fifteen (10-15) years as a means to assist the physically-challenged in accessing the beach. When the access path was surveyed, it was found to have meandered onto private property.

When the two (2) options were presented to the Real Property Committee, they approved funds for a compacted sand-shell pathway and the corrected placement of the path at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and to consider 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue improvements in the future. The goal was for the access path to be as flat as possible.

Chair Ward asked why the dune had been "mowed down." Director Kerr reported that OCRM had originally allowed the City to lower the dune for emergency access; a survey done after the work was completed showed that the dune was lowered by twelve (12) inches. The Director noted that the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue handicap access is not ADA compliant, but it is flat and people can get to the beach.

After the work was completed, nearby residents voiced concern that they had lost the protection from tidal surges that they had enjoyed before the dune was lowered. As a result, the Real Property Committee has approved eleven hundred dollars (\$1,100) to raise the elevation to match what was there before any work was done.

Councilmember Ferencz said that the dunes appear to be chopped off; the appearance is due to widening the path.

Councilmember Loftus indicated that there was another problem – people are using 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to drive their vehicles onto the beach. He commented that he has been told that vehicles on the beach have been a problem for some length of time; beach paths all over the island have been used to access the beach.

Regarding why Isle of Palms' handicap accesses cannot be like those at Sullivan's Island, it is the difference in the two (2) islands' topography; at the Isle of Palms, dunes are at the end of many access paths, eliminating the possibility for flat, handicap beach accesses.

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The idea of designating more beach accesses as emergency accesses to construct flat handicap beach accesses was suggested, but Administrator Tucker reported that OCRM limits the distance between emergency vehicle accesses.

For the record, Chair Ward stated that he agrees with the action of the Real Property Committee to rebuild the dune.

#### **A. Update on Front Beach Lights**

Assistant Dziuban reported that SCE&G is currently doing preparatory work and twenty-two of forty-one (22-41) light poles have arrived. The placement of the new lights will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and the goal is to complete the installation before the start of the season.

### **7. New Business**

#### **A. Discussion of City-owned Christmas Decorations**

Chair Ward indicated that he had requested that this item be put on the Agenda because residents are saying that they should be down by the early days of January.

Administrator Tucker responded that the City has problems getting the necessary equipment and the personnel to remove them; with the recent rains, each display must be cleaned off before going into storage. The Administrator commented that City staff would be more efficient in the future.

Administrator Tucker noted that the pedestals have been installed at Front Beach, but Assistant Dziuban clarified that only the pedestals that were needed for Christmas light displays have been installed.

Councilmember Loftus stated that the pedestals that have been installed look nothing like what was described to Committee; he asked if they could be temporary.

Assistant Dziuban indicated that these were to be permanent; they had been built by a sub-contractor especially for the Isle of Palms.

Both Chair Ward and Councilmember Loftus commented that the pedestals look ugly and are unattractive to the Front Beach area. Administrator Tucker said that she would contact SCE&G to find out what has happened.

Councilmember Ferencz stated that, if the pedestals were made especially for the Isle of Palms, the City should have some input to their appearance.

#### **B. Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None**

**8. Miscellaneous Business**

**2014 TST Rehabilitation Plan – Resurface 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues**

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Administrator Tucker added that 21<sup>st</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenues will also be resurfaced through Transportation Sales Taxes (TST) through Charleston County.

The Administrator reported that the City has received the most recent annual report from Charleston County on Stormwater activities; this is one of the educational materials produced by the County. As stated before, Charleston County collects the stormwater fees for the City and assists the City with stormwater compliance issues.

Administrator Tucker explained that she had asked for an accounting of the stormwater fees collected for the City and learned that the City actually has a negative balance; the Administrator has requested an accounting of these funds since the program's inception.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2015**

**9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Chair Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m.; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:  
Marie Copeland