

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 7, 2016

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 7, 2016 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Kinghorn and Ward, Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. The absence of Councilmember Ferencz was excused.

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 Kinghorn nominated Councilmember Ward to serve as Chair of the Committee; Councilmember Ward seconded and the nomination was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Ward nominated Councilmember Kinghorn as Vice Chair; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded the nomination and it was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 9, 2015 as submitted; Chair Ward seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

4. **Citizens' Comments – None**

5. **Departmental Reports for November and December 2015 – Director Pitts**

Vehicle Maintenance and Trash Collection Reports

Director Pitts reported that pumps had been deployed for ten (10) days in early November to pump water at 32nd Avenue/Palm Boulevard intersection, 46th, 50th, and 51st Avenues. In addition, personnel cleaned the center median in Forest Trails at Cross Lane and cleaned and edged the bike lane on Palm Boulevard from 5th to 9th Avenues. The Director opined that the stormwater infrastructure was inadequate at 41st and Palm Boulevard, and he arranged to have SCDOT video the line; they reported no obstructions in the line. In November, a major PM was done on one (1) of the trucks and tires were purchased; although there were some big ticket items in December, the Director is confident that the equipment is in good shape to start the year.

Annual yard debris was up about forty tons (40 T) in 2015 over 2014; the report will start a new year in January and figures for 2011 will fall off. Garbage collection for 2015 was up only seventeen tons (17 T) over 2014; the reduction in tonnage shows the amount of recycling the County removes from the island.

6. Old Business

A. Further discussion of extending sewer to replace septic systems

In the November meeting, the Committee discussed a proposal that would allow residents living in their IOP home to decide to tie-in to sewer or not, but once the residence was sold to a third party, the new owner must tie-in to the sewer system. The proposal was sent to the City Attorney to research whether the City could impose such a requirement; the City has not yet received her information.

Councilmember Kinghorn agreed that the goal of the City should be to sewer the entire island; he suggested requesting that the Water and Sewer Commission come forth with a plan to accomplish this goal and to bring it to City Council for consideration.

Administrator Tucker stated that she had been pleased to see Kristin Champagne at the Inauguration earlier in the week and that the two (2) of them had some informal dialogue on this subject.

In order to get clarification for the City Attorney, the Administrator asked whether the third party tie-in would be required only if service was available on the street or when capacity was available. In the Administrator's understanding, the Water and Sewer Commission has been saying that they do not have a mechanism to extend service to be available without some sort of financial commitment from an entire street; therefore, if it was not mandatory to tie-in for everyone, they do not have the ability to fund the extension of service. The Administrator said that she could foresee, in a third party transfer, the City going for a long period of time and not seeing any significant progress in getting individual homes on sewer if the infrastructure were not already in place.

In Councilmember Kinghorn's opinion, expanding the system and getting more users was in the best interest of the Commission; therefore, they should take the time to show the City how it would be financed, with City collaboration, how to incentivize citizens, etc. to be studied by the City and go forward from there.

B. Update on golf cart path between 20th Avenue and the Island Center

Administrator Tucker reported that staff has ordered the survey and the design in order to submit them to SCDOT with the permit request; when SCDOT visited the site, the City got a favorable opinion.

When asked about a timeline, the Administrator replied that the design would take a couple of weeks. When Councilmember Kinghorn asked whether the path would be completed this year, the Administrator indicated that she was hopeful that it would.

C. Update on request to clean ditch along 45th Avenue

Director Pitts reported that the owner who made the request was not on the island over the holidays, and, since then, he has not called her.

The Administrator stated that she wanted Director Pitts to visit the site with the homeowner to get a clear picture of what she wants done.

Chair Ward asked for an update next month.

D. Discussion of public restrooms

Administrator Tucker reported that the off-season maintenance was going to be done and that she and the Mayor have had their second meeting with Charleston County to request funding in their FY17 budget for construction. The Mayor has a meeting later in the month with the state Parks, Recreation and Tourism Committee to discuss financial assistance.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked if the City had gone to the surrounding jurisdictions for funding, and the Administrator said that had not been done. He recommended going to them to get part of their accommodations funds toward the project.

E. Discussion of improvements to the Public Works site

Director Pitts reported that the Thomas and Hutton engineer has been volleying emails back and forth with him and Director Kerr; he is into the details of the "white" goods storage. He anticipates having the design ready to go to bid very soon.

The Administrator noted that these improvements are limited by what can be done in the space available and what needs to be done to come into compliance with NPDES regulations.

F. Discussion of Sign for Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park

The Administrator reported that the City is in the process of getting pricing for the sign; currently Assistant Fragoso is working with two (2) vendors. The sign construction takes an average of twenty or twenty-five (20-25) days.

7. New Business

A. Consideration of purchase of F350 Ford 4x4 truck with 6-yard garbage hopper in the amount of \$44,206, state contract pricing from Vic Bailey Ford (Public Works Capital Purchases, MUNI ATAX, page 2, \$44,000)

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to recommend the contract award to the Ways and Means Committee as detailed above; Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Pitts explained that the truck is slightly more than budget because the F350 has a higher suspension, and he thought the side steps were to the City's advantage to reduce the wear and tear on the vinyl seat.

B. Discussion of relationship with Staff Zone employees (temp labor)

In late fall, Council decided that, since the City had such a good year, employees should share in it, and a bonus was given. Included in the Council motion were specific instructions on which employees were to receive the bonuses; staff followed the actions from the motion.

The City has a contractual agreement with Staff Zone for temporary labor, and this is the only contract labor working for the City. These Staff Zone employees primarily ride on the back of the garbage trucks picking up garbage and debris; a majority of these men have been assigned by Staff Zone to work on the island for a long time – as a result people know their faces and know them. They do a good job for the City, but they are not City employees and did not fall within the parameters set for the employee bonus. Over the holiday, people became aware of this. Others who were not included in the bonus were part-time employees and Recreation instructors who have been with the City for a long time. As a result of exclusion of the contracted labor and people's desire to reward the Staff Zone employees, a lengthy discussion took place in the Personnel Committee about possibilities and ramifications to rewarding them in some way; first was that the City has no mechanism to reward them, so it would have to be done through Staff Zone. Concerns voiced by other department managers were that, if people got bonuses who were not City employees, Rec instructors who have been with the City for a long time or long-term part-time employees of the City would feel they had been left out. The consensus of the Personnel Committee was that, if the City wanted to do something above what it has done already for everyone, the City should leave things as they are. There were some who were thinking in the future that the City should have a mechanism to include some of those people in the Christmas grocery gift card distributed every year; the recipients would be selected by the individual department managers.

In conclusion, Administrator Tucker reported that, in doing research on a different matter subsequent to employee bonuses being paid, the City Attorney learned that the Attorney General had handed down an opinion that bonuses should not be given to public employees. The Administrator noted that someone only has to read the newspaper to know that, contrary to the Attorney General's opinion, many local governments do give their employees bonuses.

C. Discussion of beach restoration

The Administrator informed the Committee that one (1) citizen on the island has opined that the City has used one (1) qualified source too often relative to beach restoration; he did not suggest that Coastal Science and Engineering (CSE) was unqualified. He asked how the City could know whether they are doing the best job for the City or whether the City was getting "the best bang for its buck;" he advocated the City to bid these projects in the future. Since the City is currently under some significant contracts with CSE, bidding will not be required for some time. This citizen also asked to be kept informed about everything happening with the beach.

The existing situation with the beach is that the City planned and budgeted for a shoal management project in the FY16 budget, meaning that the City would be reaching out to the stakeholders for their share of the expense. In addition, the City filed for a permit modification that would increase the total amount of sand to be harvested over the life of the permit allowing the City to harvest the maximum amount sand for each shoal management project. The motivation for the permit modification was that the stakeholders are becoming more reluctant to contribute to projects that move a small amount of sand. In addition, many of the stakeholders have contributed to the cost of large sandbags and/or wave dissipation devices to protect their property because the sand that was placed there last year has washed away. OCRM has taken the position that no sand can be placed near or behind the sandbags or wave dissipation devices; if they are to receive sand, the sandbags and wave dissipation devices would have to be removed, which

makes the stakeholders very nervous and weakens the City's position in seeking their financial participation in a shoal management project.

Councilmember Kinghorn opined that the stakeholders either participate with the City or be on their own. Indicating that he had read all of the packet materials on the subject, he asked the Administrator for her recommendation.

The Administrator responded that the City should devote its efforts, energy and money toward a long-term project, namely an off-shore dredging project.

After Joaquin, the question is whether the City would be fortunate enough to have some portion of the project cost as well as mobilization and demobilization covered by FEMA and additional hazard mitigation funds, assuming the City can accumulate the funds it would need to contribute. The Administrator said that the City could make the appeal that extra sand is needed to mitigate the additional damage done to the beach by Joaquin.

Administrator Tucker opined that the stakeholders would not be willing to remove the sandbags and/or wave dissipation devices unless they were confident that a significant amount of sand was going to be moved.

Chair Ward asked for the status of the current contract with CSE. The Administrator said that the City currently has two (2) contracts with CSE; one is to monitor the beach for the next three (3) years and a second to pursue a permit for the next off-shore dredging project.

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to put all of the City's efforts into another off-shore project and for the City to seek out all non-island sources of funding; Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Discussion of sign budget for beach parking management program

Chair Ward stated that this item was on the *Agenda* after he experienced "sticker shock" from his viewing of the drawings and schematics for the locations of the signs for the parking management plan; he noted that, in his neighborhood around Hartnett, a sign would be placed on every corner.

The original bid, that was discarded, was for one hundred twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$128,000) for the fabrication and installation of the signs, and the revised budget was for ninety-four thousand dollars (\$94,000). The job was re-bid and the bids are due to be opened at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12th.

Chair Ward said that he does not want to exceed the budget and that the City should install only the number of signs that the budget will allow and install the balance in the next budget year.

Administrator Tucker explained that the City would be operating under a SCDOT permit so they are not going to let the City be out of compliance; basically, SCDOT is saying that, if the City is going to do this parking management program that they approved, the City must meet the requirements of the permit. She stated that, in conversations with the sign consultant, she had expressed the opinion that "he had grossly underestimated the number of signs."

The Chair then asked who and when the decision was made to have a sign on every single corner, and the Administrator responded that it was a matter of what DOT required.

8. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Monday, February 1, 2016 in the Conference Room

9. Adjourn

**MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.;
Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk