

## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2016 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Ferencz and Kinghorn, Chair Ward, Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Also present was Mark Yodice of Thomas and Hutton.

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 Kinghorn moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 11, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Citizens' Comments – None

### 4. Departmental Reports for October 2016 – Director Pitts

The Director noted that the miscellaneous garbage collections were approximately fifty (50) tons due primarily to the large amount removed from Beachwood East after Matthew. The City's three (3) pumps were deployed to 46<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues following Matthew; they ran for several days. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Charleston County deployed the disaster debris removal contractor, and they deployed additional resources on October 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Due to the volume of debris generated by Matthew, a debris transfer station was set up in the municipal parking lot to expedite the debris removal from residential streets. In addition, Charleston County cleaned the ditches on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenues as well as Forest Trail. During the month, Public Works personnel also straightened and installed sundry street signs through the island.

Staff held the bid opening for the NPDES wash-down project; the City received two (2) bids; they are currently under review and were as follows:

		<u>Addendum 1</u>	<u>Addendum 2</u>
IPW Construction	\$793,705.00	(\$9,500)	\$8,600
Hitt Contracting, Inc.	\$756,000.00	(\$1,989)	\$5,885

As Mr. Yodice had warned staff, pricing on everything related to construction is extremely high, but, due to the urgency of the project, the City chose to proceed with the bidding process. The bid went out with two (2) addenda, i.e. construction of a driveway with asphalt rather than concrete and replacement of the wood fence along 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Administrator Tucker stated that staff was not asking the Committee to make a recommendation to Ways & Means at this meeting; she reported that staff is pleased with the qualifications of the low bidder Hitt Construction and Thomas and Hutton has had good experience with them in the past. Based on those past experiences, Mr. Yodice is going back to Hitt in an effort to negotiate lower pricing.

Mr. Yodice reported that he has spoken with Hitt, but they have not yet met across the negotiation table. They voiced willingness to work with the City to find some alternate ways to reduce costs. Hitt indicated that they were going to brainstorm within their company and with suppliers; Thomas and Hutton has a couple of items they have identified that would change the finished product to some degree. Thomas and Hutton will present the options to the City for consideration after the meeting.

If that can be done between now and Ways & Means, the project can be discussed further at that meeting; otherwise it will come back to the Committee for more discussion and an analysis of the funding. When reviewing the FY17 budget, it was clear that the kind of numbers the low bidder put forth were not there; therefore, staff and the Committee must carefully examine the affordability of moving forward in this fiscal year, what the participation would be on the part of Charleston County NPDES (originally the expected participation was \$190,000) and the fact that some components would not qualify as NPDES qualifying activities. The Administrator noted that the City has more NPDES funds available that are being held by the County, but the City might need to exhaust all but twenty percent (20%) of those funds.

When Councilmember Ferencz questioned that the City should give both bidders the opportunity to lower their bids, the Administrator reported that questions on the qualifications of the other bidder have come up. Mr. Yodice commented that the City would be well within the contract language to negotiate with only one (1) bidder; in addition, he noted that the bid had not drawn a lot of interest among prospective bidders because they are so busy at this time with routine, money-making projects.

Chair Ward thanked Mr. Yodice for his work on the City's behalf.

Returning to the Public Works monthly report, Director Pitts reported that garbage was up a little bit for the month, but was probably on average for the current five (5) year period. Although yard debris was up, the report only covers through the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month; on that date, the City took debris to the transfer station in the municipal parking lot. The County's debris removal contractor has two (2) large trucks in the parking lot loading at 6:00 a.m. each day; Director Pitts estimated that six or eight (6 or 8) truckloads remain to be removed. Vehicle maintenance for the month was average despite tire purchases.

Chair Ward congratulated Director Pitts and his personnel on the excellent job they have done to get the island cleaned up after Matthew; he indicated that he has heard many compliments on the job done. The Director said that the first pass of the island has been completed, and personnel have halfway completed the second pass.

**MOTION: Chair Ward moved to re-order the Agenda to address Item 6B at this point in the meeting; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. New Business**

## **B. Discussion of drainage problems at 3 Sand Dollar Court**

Chait Ward introduced the owner of the property Kevin Klemm, and he offered pictures of the problem that occurs as the result of rain. (The pictures are attached to the historical record of the meeting.) He reported that the problem was discovered shortly after his family moved in July of 2015, and he first tried to figure out the source of the problem in order to figure out a solution. From the storms, he learned that most all of the water from Sand Dollar sheet flows down the street because the street is slanted because there is no storm drain on the street. He said that an underground pipe was at the end of the street that was intended for the water to run into. He has concluded that the problem goes back to the original design and the compaction of the street. In his opinion, what has happened over the years is that a depression has developed; therefore, when the water runs down the street, it collects and pools in the low spot rather than continuing down the street. The result is that his driveway has been undermined and has buckled; the separation is visible in one (1) of the photos. The weight of the water and the erosion have, over time, created a large pond, and the palm trees in the parkway are also being pulled over due to the weight. Mr. Klemm stated that he was open to suggestions on the solution, but, in his opinion, the viable pipe between the two (2) properties could be extended to his property with an inlet drain; the depression also must be raised with fill, and, with the installation of an inlet drain, a new pipe could extend and connect to the pipe next door.

Director Pitts stated that there was stormwater infrastructure in Wildwood and that a drain inlet exists between #6 and #8 Sand Dollar on the other side of the street. He reported that all of that water is underground and that is where the upgrade would flow to exit into the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue ditch.

Administrator Tucker stated that she sees two (1) options; first, the City could report the problem to Charleston County, as it has in the past, and wait for them to respond, or second, the City could contact Dave Stevens of Civil Site Environmental to get a prompt response. She explained that Charleston County had understood that the City wanted the crown of the road raised, but that does not appear to solve the problem; she agreed that the solution lay with the addition of some infrastructure.

Responding to Councilmember Kinghorn's question about who was actually responsible for this road, the Administrator was clear that it was not the City's, but she added that the County would be slow and DOT even slower still.

Councilmember Kinghorn indicated that his preference would be to continue to advocate to the County on Mr. Klemm's behalf and simultaneously contact Dave Stevens for his assistance.

Chair Ward asked the Administrator to get pricing from Mr. Stevens for the Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Councilmember Kinghorn assured Mr. Klemm that the City would investigate and address the problem.

Chair Ward encouraged him to stay in touch with members of the Committee.

## **5. Old Business**

**A. Update on golf cart path on Palm Boulevard between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenues**

Director Kerr reported that the only outstanding issue was that a curb is still in place where the path intersects 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue blocking access to the path; he was told yesterday that the contractor plans to remove the curb and pave a connecting section of asphalt today. Assuming the work gets done today, the project would be substantially complete; Administrator Tucker added that DOT must inspect the completed project as well.

The Chair noted that not having the path usable presented a safety issue.

Administrator Tucker indicated that the path could be opened before the SCDOT inspection.

The Administrator stated that she believes two (2) oak trees have died in Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park and might need to be removed.

**B. Update on the status of debris removal operations after Hurricane Matthew**

The Chair commented that this item had been covered under Director Pitt's report.

**C. Update on the electronic leak detection system for the underground storage tank at the Public Safety Building**

Administrator Tucker reported that the contract has been awarded, but the system has not yet been installed. She also noted that this item has been included as a proposed expense in the mediation of the building.

**D. Update on bike path improvements on Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to the IOP Connector**

The Administrator said that Councilmember Kinghorn has a video showing the problem as he perceives it as being both a maintenance problem for the bike path there now and the lack of regulation bike paths on both sides of the road.

After the video was shown, Councilmember Kinghorn stated that he was in the north side bike lane heading north and pointed out that the bikers shown were the run-of-the-mill, ordinary cyclists. He pointed out that the cyclists were riding on the wrong side of the road – driving against the traffic rather than with it; as a car comes along travelling south, the car cannot move over to give the required three feet (3 ft.) of clearance between it and the cyclists, creating a safety issue. He then asked the Committee to envision cyclists riding on the opposite side in that bike path, they would have to veer out into the street while the other cyclists were going by; compound that by pedestrians walking in the bike path. He reiterated his advocacy for a bike lane on both sides of the road and improvements to the quality of the road and existing bike path. He offered to accompany other Committee members on cycles to travel from Breach Inlet to the Connector, and he asked for the Committee's continued efforts to get these things accomplished.

Administrator Tucker reported that she has forwarded the video to SCDOT.

Assistant Administrator Fragoso stated that she had received a phone call about the COG's program for the three (3) counties where three (3) scopes of work were identified for inclusion; they explained that the plan was looking at a regional connection between the three (3) counties. It is more of a global look at how they can connect existing bike paths and trails together; they are not focusing on local paths; however they will select six (6) local projects, three (3) pedestrian and three (3) bicycle, for study and analysis. The City will not know until their work product is complete, so the possibility exists that the City's paths could be reviewed by the COG. They noted that the paths they are likely to choose are those that connect to existing trails.

Chair Ward said that he keeps items on the agendas that could be completed successfully in the foreseeable future, in the next year or eighteen (12-18) months; therefore, this item will be on recurring agendas for an update.

**6. New Business**

**A. Report on emergency purchase of a grapple attachment for the skid steer in the amount of \$4,014.50**

On the day that the Administrator and Public Works Director realized that the debris collection was not working and something must be done differently, they isolated two (2) things, i.e. to collect all of the debris at the large parking lot and to identify more ways that the City could get debris into trucks. The attachment for the skid steer, which was budgeted for purchase, was one (1) thing the City needed to deploy; the Administrator decided to purchase the grapple attachment under an emergency purchase. The grapple purchase exceeded the amount budgeted because Director Pitts had intended to purchase a used attachment from the rental fleet of the local vendor, but, based on the immediate need, a new one (1) was purchased.

The Administrator stated that the City could not have made the progress in debris removal that it has without the grapple attachment.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Next Meeting Date: 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 5, 2017 in the Conference Room.

**8. Executive Session – Not necessary**

**9. Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk