

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 3, 2017

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 3, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Ward and Chair Ferencz, Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland. Councilmember Kinghorn was absent, but a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Ferencz 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 Ward moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2017 as submitted; Chair Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Ann Mahon of 7 Wills Way thanked the Committee for the progress made on clearing the vacant lots at the corner of 30th and Wills Way; she reported that the property at #8 had not been cleared and asked about the status since the original letter had been returned to the City.

Administrator Tucker was unsure of the status; she stated that she would check with the Livability Officer and respond to her via email.

4. Departmental Reports for April 2017 Vehicle Maintenance and Trash Collection Tracking Reports

Director Pitts reported that the highlights for the month were that Eadie's had completed the cleaning of the scheduled ditches/drop inlets in accordance with the maintenance plan and that the City's annual Hazardous Waste/Shred Day was successfully held on April 22nd. Vehicle maintenance was up as expected due to the purchase of tires for the IT14G, but the Director was confident that the Department would end the year at or below budget. Although both garbage and debris collections were up and the Department was down two (2) drivers, the Director stated that he has been able to avoid Saturday work.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to add to the Agenda the discussion of the purchase of a truck for the Department; Chair Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In preparing the FY17 budget, Director Pitts explained that, when he checked the cost of the truck on state contract, he looked at the Ford F150 rather than the Ford F250. Despite the fact that he plans to reuse the hopper on the front, the purchase will be over-budget, which is twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000).

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve an additional \$3,000 for the purchase of 1 F250 Ford pickup truck for the Public Works Department; Chair Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Old Business

A. Update on NPDES Project

Administrator Tucker reported that the project is underway, but Hitt Construction is behind schedule. The City anticipates getting a Change Order in the amount of approximately ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) because the contractor has found that they cannot re-use some of the existing materials as they had planned.

Responding to Councilmember Ward's concerns about cost overruns, the Administrator reminded him that Treasurer Suggs will have a project schedule for Council at the next Ways and Means Committee meeting.

After confirming that this was the only change order to-date, Councilmember Ward asked if the City could anticipate a project overage of ten percent (10%), and the Administrator agreed that to be a reasonable amount.

Director Pitts explained that they had planned to re-use some of the soil at the site, but, once they excavated, they found that the site had, at one time, been a dump site; therefore the material was unsuitable for re-use.

B. Update on weekly recycling service during the tourist season

Administrator Tucker announced that the City had been notified that weekly recycling would begin the week after Memorial Day, the week of May 28th, and the recycling day will continue to be Wednesdays.

C. Update on drainage issues

1. Intracoastal Court and Waterway Boulevard

The Committee was told that the County was notified of the problem and that they expected to find a separation of the pipes at Intracoastal Court.

Director Pitts reported that the City has received authorization to install a drop inlet between #3 and #5 Sand Dollar Court. Before that work begins, the County, at their expense, wants to clear the swail ditch across the street that has filled in; the drop inlet will then be installed and sod added in hopes of pushing the water to the collection box across the street.

2. Update on Phase II Drainage

According to the Administrator, the engineer continues to work on the bid specifications, and staff is expecting a change order to the engineering costs. Funds for any overage on the engineering are included in the FY18 budget.

D. Update on Public Works Department staffing and vacancies

With no time sensitive issues, the Personnel Committee was not going to meet in May, but the Public Works Committee wanted to know the status of the manpower in the Department.

Director Pitts said that the Department is still down two (2) CDL drivers, but one (1) candidate is in the queue to be hired, and a conditional offer is going to be made to a second applicant.

Chair Ferencz commented that these two (2) accidents have put attention on the fact that the Public Works' personnel are an aging group; she asked the Director if he had made preparations for the future.

Assistant Fragoso stated that she had recently attended a seminar where this topic was discussed; an insurance study from across the state indicated that PW Departments may well face a hiring crisis in five (5) years. CDL drivers are in high demand, but no one wants to get into driving garbage trucks; seminar attendees were told that municipalities may be required to turn to hiring incentives in the future.

E. Update on SCDOT resurfacing and widening project on Palm Boulevard

Once painting around the raised islands has been completed, the project will be complete; SCDOT also needs to re-locate some signs.

Chair Ferencz asked if the painting would be done after hours; she also questions how they would install a bike lane through the intersection of 14th and Palm Boulevard.

Administrator Tucker said that the bike paths from 10th to 21st Avenues on Palm were part of the "Share the Road" program, and they would be responsible for the intersection. She also told the Committee that police officers do stop cyclists who run through stoplights. She stated that she had not yet been notified by SCDOT about the schedule for the remaining painting.

F. Discussion of expectations for the multi-use path on Waterway Boulevard from 21st to 41st Avenue

Chair Ferencz stated that she has noticed that the path has been mowed, but added that it needs more.

Knowing what the Chair expects, Director Pitts indicated that, if possible, Public Works personnel would address the vegetative encroachments at the end of the week and that the area of concern was between 25th and 33rd Avenue.

The Chair thought that Councilmember Ward had a good idea at the last meeting when he suggested getting the residents involved in maintaining the path; she thought that, if residents of one (1) block saw residents of another block working on the path, they might do so as well.

Since Council meetings are taped for later broadcast, Councilmember Ward suggested that the Chair mention this in her report at the May meeting.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of FY18 Charleston County Transportation Committee (CTC) funding requests

The Administrator reminded the Committee that this fund was not for general re-surfacing, but could be used to pave a dirt road. Last year, the City's top priority was Phase II drainage, and the City was awarded one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). With that money infusion, the City has sufficient funds for the project prior to bidding. The second priority submitted was bike paths from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue; this request could be modified to be from 22nd Avenue to 57th Avenue.

Assistant Fragoso noted that the City has discussed having a pedestrian path from the end of the Connector through Hanbury Park that could be its second request; Stantec has already generated a detailed drawing and a preliminary cost estimate.

The Administrator recalled that one (1) request submitted to the Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Committee was for sidewalks on 28th Avenue, but the residents objected to having it on their side of the street. They also voiced the opinion that people walking in the street kept the speed down.

Chair Ferencz asked if cyclists would also be allowed to traverse the path through Hanbury Park.

Administrator Tucker thought that the park would serve cyclists as a rest area once the water fountain was replaced.

Chair Ferencz thought that allowing cyclists through the park would mean the loss of its integrity.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to submit to the CTC for regulation bike paths between 21st and 57th Avenues and a pedestrian path through Hanbury Park; Chair Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Administrator reminded the Public Works Committee that the CTC requests would also be presented to the Public Safety Committee before going to Council for a final decision.

B. Clarification of recycle debris and where it goes

Administrator Tucker reported that the island's recycle collections go to the Horry County Landfill where there is a recycling plant; Charleston County will not have its facility up and running for another year. She added that Charleston County announced that it had revenue of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from recycling last month.

7. Miscellaneous Business – none

Next Meeting Date: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 7th in the Conference Room

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m.; Chair Ferencz seconded, and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk