

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Ferencz, Kinghorn and Ward, Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was 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 Ward nominated Councilmember Ferencz as Chair; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the nomination was unanimous.

Councilmember Ferencz nominated Councilmember Ward as Vice Chair; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the nomination was unanimous.

3. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2016 and the Special Meeting of November 28, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens' Comments – None

5. Departmental Reports for November and December 2016 – Director Pitts

Vehicle Maintenance and Trash Collection Tracking Reports

The Director reported that nearly thirty tons (30 T.) of miscellaneous debris were taken to the Bees Ferry Landfill in November and approximately twenty-seven tons (27 T.) in December. In November, two hundred nine tons (209 T.) of yard debris was removed from the island; this number does not include any debris related to Hurricane Matthew. In December, yard debris totaled one hundred seventy-six and a half tons (176.5 T.); for 2016, Public Works personnel collected twenty-five thousand seven hundred tons (25,700 T.) of yard debris from the island.

After draining and vacuuming the pipes at Sand Dollar Drive, they were videoed to diagnose the drainage problems brought to the Committee's attention at the last meeting.

The high ticket item in vehicle maintenance in November was a complete brake job on one of the trucks; Director Pitts indicated that he was comfortable that the Department was well within budget. In December one truck had a PM, which is always expensive.

6. Old Business

A. Update on Drainage on Sand Dollar Drive

David Stevens of Civil Site Environmental was present for the meeting because he has evaluated the issue on Sand Dollar Drive; he has also worked with Director Pitts to have Eadie's clean the pipes to determine the source of the situation.

Mr. Stevens reported that, on the day the Administrator received the email from Mr. Klemm, he went to the site. Referring to Exhibit 1, the roadside water is easily visible, but, in addition to that, there is a six to eight inch (6 in. to 8 in.) drop toward the palmetto trees as well as the drip from the road. When it fills with water, it bypasses around. He was told there was damage to the pipe that he, personally, has not seen. The standing water observed on the first visit dried up by the end of the day as one would expect. He did not detect any undermining of the driveway that could be attributed to the pipe leak; to Mr. Stevens, the driveway appeared to have been cracked for a long time. He offered two (2) possible solutions to eliminate the puddle, and they are as follows:

1. Install drainage and grate inlet to tie into existing fifteen inch (15 in.) storm drain line;
2. Fill puddle area to drain into the road.

He recommended that the City take no action. In his opinion, the situation at 3 Sand Dollar Court does not constitute flooding, but a shallow puddling of water that has nothing to do with the pipe underneath it.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved for Mr. Stevens to write a letter to the City Administrator outlining his facts and findings and for the Administrator to send the letter to the homeowner.

Councilmember Kinghorn stated that the letter should also indicate that there is no cause of action for the City to take other than monitoring it.

Councilmember Ferencz seconded the motion.

Administrator Tucker asked if a benefit could be derived from fixing the cracks/breaks in the pipes, and Director Pitts said that they were repaired at some point.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Update on Drainage on Sea Horse Court

The Administrator was not aware of a drainage problem on Sea Horse Court and that Councilmember Ward was actually referring to a problem on Tabby Lane. The issue at Tabby Lane appears to be a tidal problem, making the area a good candidate for a backflow or flapper valve.

Mr. Stevens said that a new valve is available that is very efficient with much less head loss; he recommended that the City install another box at the right-of-way to prevent the water from backing up into the road. When it rains, the valve would let the water out when the tide goes out; as long as there is pressure from the tide, the valve will not open up. Mr. Stevens added that

he did not think that this work would require a permit. Mr. Stevens said he would prepare a cost estimate for the City and make sure the City has a drainage easement there.

After conferring with the Committee members, Chair Ferencz noted that the consensus was for Mr. Stevens to move forward to prepare a proposal.

C. Update on NPDES Project

Administrator Tucker reported that the contract has been awarded and executed, and the contractor has one hundred eighty (180) days to complete the project.

Chair Ferencz asked Director Pitts how obtrusive the work was going to be on the day-to-day operations of the Department; based on the location of the work, the Director thought the routine operations would be impacted very little.

7. New Business

Consideration of 2018 Transportation Sales Tax (TST) Requests

The Administrator noted that the City is in a new position as it considers TST requests for 2018 because the project that has been the City's top priority for several years, i.e. the Phase II Drainage Project, has been funded with the receipt of the five hundred thousand dollar (\$500,000) grant from the S. C. Rural Infrastructure Authority, assuming the City receives favorable bids. Bike lanes on both sides of Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue has been in the Number 2 position, and SCDOT will accomplish the portion of the task from Breach Inlet and 21st Avenue. In association with that request, the City has included the request for improvement at the end of the Connector where the bike path becomes a "share the road" as it approaches Palm Boulevard. Since the City owns the Memory Park property, it has agreed for the path to move into the park and make the bike lane come onto the island easily and more safely.

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that TST funds can be used for paving an existing dirt road, drainage improvements, bicycle and pedestrian improvements and intersection improvements; staff has suggested separating the bicycle path from the path onto the island and call it an intersection improvement. The Administrator also thought that having sidewalks on both sides of the road, or at least one (1) side, between Hartnett and Palm Boulevard, would be another significant improvement, meaning that one could be on sidewalks from Palm Boulevard to the Recreation Center. The Administrator indicated that she had not looked at the impact sidewalks would have on right-of-way parking for the houses there; this request could be submitted as a low priority thus giving the City time to investigate the feasibility.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked what the dollar range was for TST awards to the City in the past, and the Administrator responded that, historically, the City has received approximately four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) in one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000) increments, for drainage over a number of years. The City has also sought funding for improvements to the handicap parking spaces on 21st Avenue.

As long as the requests are prioritized, the City can submit as many as it chooses.

Councilmember Kinghorn asked whether pedestrian access to the marina has been considered.

Administrator Tucker commented that she had not considered it because the plans for the marina continue to be refined, and the City will have other years to make such a request.

Councilmember Kinghorn thought that the best location for pedestrian access was the ditch that runs along the southwest side of the property, possibly, constructing a boardwalk over the ditch, not impeding the flow. The boardwalk could possibly be wide enough for two (2) golf carts; in addition, the Councilmember thought it would encourage local, non-vehicular resident use of the marina. He also thought that pedestrian access would be "a huge benefit" to the marina when it was established.

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved that the TST requests be submitted in the following priority: bike lanes from 21st to 57th Avenues, sidewalks on 28th Avenue to the Recreation Center, and a study on pedestrian access to the marina; the motion DIED for lack of a second.

The Administrator suggested that the priority should be the bike lanes from 21st to 57th Avenues first, intersection improvements at the Connector and Palm Boulevard second, the sidewalks on 28th Avenue between Palm Boulevard and the Recreation Center third, and the marina pedestrian access fourth.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to submit TST funding requests in the priority suggested above by the Administrator; Councilmember Kinghorn seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Miscellaneous Business – None

Next Meeting Date: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 1, 2017

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Kinghorn moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.; Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk