

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009 in the Public Works Building at 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Committee members Cronin and Duffy, Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Chairman Bettelli called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2009 as submitted; Councilman Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. Departmental Report for January 2009

Director Pitts reported that personnel were continuing to prune around the island. He noted that January had been the first month that he had seen a significant reduction in garbage picked up; the change was indicated in the Tonnage Report and accompanying graph. The Director related that the Department was over the budget for Vehicle Maintenance through January, but he anticipated that it would be on target for the year.

Councilman Duffy commented that he had done some calculations on the Tonnage Report that the Director provides, had concluded that the low months were October to March and the high months were April through September, and had computed a fifty-six percent (56%) increase between the high and low months. Based on that information, he asked if the Public Works Department received one-third of its budget from Accommodations Taxes. Councilman Cronin stated that fifty percent (50%) of the equipment lease payments were paid by Accommodations Taxes. Councilman Duffy asked if there was increased temporary labor in conjunction with the increased tonnage and if the cost of that labor was paid by Accommodations Taxes. Director Pitts stated that the budget was based on maintaining five (5) temporary workers throughout the year, but in certain weeks, for example, 4th of July week, he might require eight (8) additional workers. Councilman Cronin stated that the temporary labor was paid through Accommodations Taxes. Councilman Duffy agreed that twenty-five percent (25%) of the labor cost was paid by both municipal and state accommodations taxes; he questioned that these Accommodations Taxes should each be paying thirty-three percent (33%) of the cost.

Councilman Bettelli responded that the question would better be posed to City Treasurer Suggs.

5. Old Business

Update on Debris Removal RFP

Assistant Dziuban reported that the bid opening would be Wednesday, March 4 and that she anticipated having a vendor and cost recommendation for the March Public Works meeting. She indicated that six to eight (6-8) vendors had asked for the RFP, but that none of them had submitted questions.

6. New Business

A. Review of Capital Budget for FY 2009-2010

Assistant Dziuban explained that the extension of the Capital Budget through year 2019 was to provide a capital plan for the Council to review; as stated in other Committee meetings, the ten-year projection was meant to be a planning tool only, not a requirement to spend. She encouraged the members of the Committee to review the budget carefully and to communicate with the Treasurer if they thought something had been overlooked.

The first items on the budget were the truck leases. Director Pitts referred the Committee to line item 187, the replacement of the '97 International with Mack with a lease payment of twenty-three thousand dollars (\$23,000) per year. He explained that his long-range plan was to eliminate three (3) trucks – the '97 International, the '98 Mack and the '99 Mack – with a second Loadmaster. The Loadmaster is a thirty-one (31) yarder with an extra yard hopper and hydraulics that pack twelve to thirteen (12-13) tons on garbage; a regular thirty (30) yarder can pack only seven to nine (7-9) tons. After conferring with the City Administrator, the plan is to keep the '97 International through the end of this fiscal year and sell at auction after July 1; the decision to buy another truck would be made by City Council for FY 2010-2011 or FY 2011-2012.

In addition to the truck leases, the following items were the requests for the Public Works Department Capital Budget:

4 inch flood water pumps	3 @ \$12,000/ea	\$36,000
Replace Ford F150 with 4 WH F150		\$28,000

Director Pitts recounted that the City had spent eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) to rent pumps during the last flooding event; the purchase of additional pumps had been discussed at that time. A total of nine (9) pumps were deployed then.

Director Pitts explained that the Ford F150 must be on the beach a great deal of the time picking up debris, and, for that reason, there was a need for a four wheel drive vehicle. He estimated that the existing Ford F150 would draw three to four thousand dollars (\$3,000-4,000) at auction; he added that the truck was not at the end of its useful life, but it was not useful for the way in which it was being used.

Special projects included in this budget were

Drainage Contingency	\$25,000
Drainage initiative based on Eadie's Study (FY10 = Year 5 of 5)	\$102,000

In discussing the Special Projects, Director Pitts reminded the Committee members that the contribution to the Short-term Drainage Contingency had been fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the past; the reduction could be attributed to the work that Eadie's has already completed. The Director explained that he anticipated a reduction to a new contract because all of the ditches would have been sculpted to prevent silting before a new contract started.

The Committee agreed to recommend the budget as presented to Ways and Means for approval.

B. Discussion of Requested Use of Non-standard Service Funds by Water and Sewer Commission to Provide Three Phase Underground Service to Pump Station at Ocean Boulevard and 9th Avenue

Chairman Bettelli expressed his opinion that this was a win-win proposition for the City in that it accomplished a goal of the City, putting utility lines underground, and it would be paid for by a third party, not the City.

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the use \$14,249.50 of the City's Non-standard Service Funds by the Isle of Palms Water and Sewer Commission; Councilman Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 - None

7. Miscellaneous

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2009

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m.; Councilman Duffy seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk