

**PUBLIC WORKS**  
Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 in the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairman Bettelli, Councilmen Cronin and Loftus, Public Works Director Pitts, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

**1. Call to Order.** Councilman 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 Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2008 as presented; Councilman Bettelli seconded.**

Councilman Loftus asked that the paragraph following Item 7B be indicated as a separate agenda item. Director Pitts reported that a correction needed to be made to page 4, paragraph 3; he had stated that the drainage **should** go through the Post Office, rather than *cannot*.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin amended his motion to state approval of the minutes as corrected; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Citizens' Comments - None**

**4. Department Reports for January 2008 – Director Donnie Pitts**

Director Pitts reported that the emphasis for the month for the department had been with Eadies as they worked to restructure the ditches at 24<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Avenues and Wills Way; Eadies will return on Monday, February 17 to continue at 26<sup>th</sup>, the balance of 24<sup>th</sup> and Hartnett – the ditch there is four thousand (4,000) feet long. This is the third year of a five (5) year contract with Eadies. Another major concern for January was keeping the underground gasoline and fuel storage running at the marina and ensuring that the continuous monitoring was operational. Vehicle maintenance costs continue to be on target to this point in the budget year. The Director also reported that he has ordered the “Cardboard Only” signs for the recycling container, as well as the nine (9) inch street signs with reflectors; they should be in place by the end of the month.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Review of ordinance revisions related to beach debris/holes**

Councilman Cronin's question was what the violation would be when this ordinance is broken. Administrator Tucker said the citation would read a violation of Ordinance 2008-01 and would carry a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500), which turns into a \$1087 fine. He then asked how the officers were to know what belonged to whom once daylight is gone; Councilman Bettelli said that the officers would not know.

Councilman Bettelli stated that the Committee had been given the ordinance to review to make sure that everything was included, and that does appear to be the case. He recommended that the ordinance be passed along to the Public Safety Committee to determine enforceability.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to approve Ordinance 2008-01 and to forward it to the Public Safety Committee; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Review Bids for 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Beach Access (CDBG Grant)**

The bid opening was held at 1 p.m. today; there were three (3) bids submitted. Director Kerr has checked references of the lowest bidder and found the company to be qualified to do the work. The bids received were as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
C&C Enterprises of Charleston, Inc. Post Office Box 448 Isle of Palms, South Carolina	\$83,458.00	\$104,458.00
Henley's Construction Co., Inc. 2876 Highway 9 Cheraw, South Carolina 29520	68,800.00	86,900.00
The Noro Company 1102 Eleventh Street Port Royal, South Carolina	100,208.00	126,208.00

The difference between the two (2) bids submitted by each vendor is the type of wood; the lower bid is for pressure treated pine while the alternate is for an IPE hardwood for decking and handrail caps.

The Staff recommendation is to accept the alternate bid from Henley's Construction for \$86,900; this was the lowest bid and is within the budget for the project.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to accept the lowest alternate bid of \$86,900 from Henley's Construction for the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue Beach Access; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **B. Beach Management Plan Status**

Administrator Tucker reported that the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan is in its final editing stages. Once the work is completed, the Plan must be submitted to OCRM for their review to ensure that the City has incorporated everything OCRM has required. The City Council must also approve this revised version that is a beach management plan incorporating many of the same items that are in the City's Comprehensive Plan. This revision has required more documentation related to the City's codes and ancillary codes that affect the beach than the original one. The Administrator is hopeful that this version of the Plan will receive OCRM's approval since the grant deadline for beach renourishment funds is in April.

Although not on the Agenda, Administrator Tucker thought the Committee should begin discussions on Charleston County's plan to close the incinerator that serves the area in the next couple of years. The new location for Charleston County waste is to be in Adam's Run, that is south of Ravenel. This Committee needs to be studying how this closing is going to affect the City and what options are available to the City in terms of partnering with neighboring municipalities. The Administrator confirmed that Mount Pleasant is conducting a study at the present time on the feasibility of a transfer station, and both Sullivan's Island and Isle of Palms have indicated their interest in partnering with them. Director Pitts reported that 2½ hours of productivity are lost when crews take loads to the Bees Ferry location; to go to Adam's Run will add at least another 1½ hours. The Director reported that, in the summer months, City crews go to the incinerator three (3) times per week and to Bees Ferry twice; once the incinerator closes, there will be trips five (5) days per week to either Bees Ferry or Adam's Run. In response to Councilman Loftus' question, Director Pitts stated that it was his understanding that the incinerator was being shut down due to the high levels of mercury it was emitting into the air.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Capital Budget for FY 2008-2009 – Public Works Department**

The budget for FY 2008-2009, as presented, is as follows:

Existing lease pymt on 2003 Mack truck	19,580
Existing lease pymt on 2006 Mack truck	15,720
Existing lease pymt on Caterpillar trash loader	16,559
Replace '94 Ford LNT8000 w/Mack & 30yd packer	22,996

Drainage Contingency	50,000
Initiation of underground wiring using SCE&G Non-standard service fund	75,000
54-57 <sup>th</sup> drainage – add to savings reserve (current reserve = \$495,000)	80,000
Drainage initiatives based on Eadie's study (FY 09 = Year 4 of 5)	91,425
Replace cantilever gate system	5,000
Replace privacy fence along 13 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	5,000
Replace air compressor (for heavy equipment tires)	<u>5,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$386,280</b>

Administrator Tucker began her explanation of the budget items noting that the first three (3) were existing lease obligations that the City has. The fourth item represents a new lease for a Mack truck with packer. There have been additions to the Drainage Contingency for several years at the same level. Administrator Tucker recalled that, beginning last year, the City began to set aside seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to match with the non-standard service funds for underground wiring from SCE&G. The City has also been putting the same amount towards that project each year. The drainage initiative with Eadie's is for drainage maintenance activities the City needed to do. The final three (3) items are requests from the Director for items he believes are worthy of consideration for this year, i.e. the gate malfunctions more times than not; there have been complaints from the neighbors about the fence's unsightly appearance; and the air compressor is used by both Public Works and the Fire Department.

Councilman Bettelli recounted the Mayor's comments from the Public Safety Committee asking for a budget that includes no new capital expenditures, so Councilman Bettelli said the Public Works budget should contain only those things that are absolutely necessary. With that said, he suggested that the budget be forwarded as presented to the Ways and Means Committee.

There was some discussion that a lease payment could be missing from the FY 2008-2009 budget; the Administrator stated that she would confer with the Treasurer to confirm that all of the lease payments for the Department were included.

Councilman Cronin recommended that the budget for FY 2008-2009 not include the fence replacement; if the FY 2007-2008 budget was under, the fence could be replaced at that time. Administrator Tucker expressed the necessity for replacing the gate system for security purposes.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to forward the FY 2008-2009 Capital Budget of \$381,280, which does not include the replacement of the fence and assuming all of the lease payments are included, to Ways and Means; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

On the subject of the budget, Councilman Cronin commented on the fact that no action has been taken to determine the cost of the 54-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue drainage. Administrator Tucker related that the Committee had approved going with Civil Site Environmental as a sole source contractor to perform the engineering design for the project; to date, no contract has been signed with them. Councilman Cronin agreed to contact the engineers. The Administrator confirmed that the funds for the engineering work are available.

**B. Livability Report**

Councilman Bettelli reported that Officer O'Donnell is attending training in Columbia; he therefore, is unable to attend today's meeting. Officer O'Donnell has submitted a memorandum on Section 3-2-8 of the City Code regarding roll-out carts. Based on the time he has spent on the job, he suggests amending the ordinance to allow roll-out carts to be placed on the street at 5:00 p.m. the evening before pickup – a change from the 7:00 p.m., which is in the ordinance presently.

**MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to amend the ordinance to allow placement of roll-out carts on the street at 5:00 p.m. on the day before trash pickup; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Although not listed on the Agenda as an item for discussion, Councilman Bettelli referred to last month's discussion of golf cart parking for island residents at the beach accesses. He related that he had spoken with Chief Buckhannon who had discussed the issue with Robert Clark of SC DOT. Chief Buckhannon was told that the 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue location is an SC DOT right-of-way and that they do not want to make it resident only golf cart parking; the parking spaces there are available for vehicle parking, and, under South Carolina law, a golf cart is a vehicle.

Councilman Loftus pointed out that there is insufficient parking on the north end of the island and the only golf cart parking is at the end of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He also stated that what parking exists is lost to "day trippers" leaving the residents without any space for their carts.

Having walked the beach accesses all over the island, Councilman Loftus described the access at the end of 45<sup>th</sup> that is paved, has plenty of space and is posted "NO PARKING." He suggested that it could be opened up to allow parking for four (4) or five (5) golf carts simply by lining it off. He also suggested that, at the end of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, there is a large open area on the public access that could easily park ten (10) or more carts for residents. Councilman Loftus stated that, to the left of the right-of-way, there is

a fence with a wide open space; he suggested that the City could take out the brush on the opposite side to create even more parking.

Councilman Bettelli said that he wanted to keep Isle of Palms as pristine as possible. He noted that the Public Works Committee does not handle parking issues; parking falls under the purview of the Public Safety Committee. He reported that people currently are parking their golf carts illegally at 37<sup>th</sup> in residents' back yards. Councilman Bettelli voiced his opinion that to allow additional golf cart parking at beach accesses would encourage illegal parking via beach access paths.

Councilman Loftus expressed his disagreement with Councilman Bettelli; Councilman Loftus felt that, through public education and enforcement, illegal golf cart parking would not be a problem. He commented that, as a City, the Council "should be looking at proactive ways to provide something that is going to improve the flow; it is going to take more parking off of Palm if we (the City) can provide more parking for golf carts."

Councilman Cronin asked the question – "What is the right-of-way?" He recounted the problems the City has encountered in its attempts to identify which rights-of-way belong to the State and which belong to the City.

Administrator Tucker noted, for clarification, that there are different things being discussed here. She stated that anything that is the SC DOT right-of-way means that the City must follow SC DOT rules; to do otherwise would mean the City taking that road or street out of the SC DOT system. Where the discussion is about beach access paths, the full width belongs to the City and, where there is adequate space, if it chooses to do so, the City can dedicate space to golf cart parking. She continued that the problem still exists about how to distinguish between those places where it is allowed, where it is not allowed, and where the City would run the risk of encouraging people to park on private property. The Administrator commented that, other than 25<sup>th</sup>, she did not know where the City has access paths that can be driven on to accommodate more parking. In addition, she stated that, if the area at 42<sup>nd</sup> were to be cleared as Councilman Loftus is suggesting, the actions would be contrary to everything City Council has endorsed.

At 25<sup>th</sup>, Councilman Loftus suggested that the twenty (20) feet on the left side of the access be reserved for golf cart parking and that the spaces nearest the access path be designated as handicapped parking only. Councilman Loftus was reminded that the 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue beach access improvements were an initiative to make it more handicapped accessible.

Councilman Bettelli agreed to discuss Councilman Loftus suggestions with Chief Buckhannon, and Councilman Loftus asked that Councilman Bettelli also speak with Chief Graham.

Councilman Cronin asked that work on the rights-of-way issues with SC DOT continue; Administrator Tucker stated that the work would have to be sub-contracted due to the workload on the staff at the present. Councilman Cronin added that he would simply like to have DOT define the width of a right-of-way.

**7. Miscellaneous**

Next meeting date: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

**8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: With no further business to come before the Committee, at 5:10 p.m., Councilman Cronin moved to adjourn; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Marie Copeland  
City Clerk**