

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, 2009 in the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Councilwoman Bergwerf and Councilman Duffy, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works 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 Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2 as submitted; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, informed the Committee of an email she had received from a friend noting the huge amounts of trash on the beach over the weekend; she included photographs she had taken to illustrate the conditions she had described. The friend had suggested (1) the need for more trash receptacles on the beach, (2) the use of blue cans for recycling and (3) a Beach Sweep on July 5th like the one held at Folly Beach. Ms. Ballow thought the Beach Sweep was a possibility.

4. Departmental Report for June – Director Pitts

Director Pitts reported that the Department had been quite busy prior to July 4th in preparations for the July 4th crowds; for instance, twenty-four (24) new trash barrels were placed on the beach on the Front Beach and the Grand Pavilion area of Wild Dunes and thirteen (13) beach sweeps were done during the month of June. He reported that there have been problems with the public showers on Front Beach; he changed the type of valve being used to a faucet-type valve in hopes of eliminating some of the vandalism taking place – guests are removing the one-armed valves; Director Pitts is hopeful that the change in valves will cure the problem.

Vehicle maintenance did end the year within budget projections.

On the subject of garbage consumption, the Director noted that the debris has been abnormally high for the month of June, and trash was slightly less than for the same period in 2008. He reported that he had put an extra truck into service today, and all five (5) trucks had returned full.

Administrator Tucker commented that the new system that has been implemented for abandoned tents, chairs and umbrellas was working much better than what has been done before; she noted that the change has put additional work on Director Pitts and the Beach Services Officers, but their efforts were getting positive results. Director Pitts stated that he has been going onto the beach twice on Mondays in an effort to communicate with new visitors about the beach debris regulations; if abandoned tents, chairs, etc. are found on the beach on

Tuesday morning, they are confiscated. Administrator Tucker and Director Pitts confirmed that the Beach Services Officers were also explaining the beach debris ordinance to visitors to the beach when time allowed.

Councilwoman Bergwerf asked what the situation was when the umbrellas, tents, etc. were tossed behind the dunes. Director Pitts explained that OCRM has controls for the first twenty (20) feet from the crest of the primary dune; otherwise, the area belongs to the property owner. If the beach equipment is thrown inside the twenty (20) feet, the Director stated that he would remove it. Councilwoman Bergwerf stated that there was a large tent that had been thrown into the dunes at 6A, which was doing damage to the dunes and, likely, breaking sea oats; the Administrator said the Beach Services Officers would be notified to tag it.

A resident had joined the meeting during the previous discussion, so Chairman Bettelli stated that he would re-open *Citizens' Comments* if she wanted to communicate with the Committee.

Angelica Thevos, 3006 Waterway Boulevard, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and stated that she had sent an email to the Mayor, City Council members and the City Clerk that had photos attached illustrating the terrible trash problem on the beach over the July 4th weekend. (This was the email to which Ms. Ballow had referred earlier in the meeting.) She stated that she had been amazed at the amount of trash on the beach over the weekend and how much trash could accumulate in a day. Ms. Thevos' email included several suggestions, including putting more trash barrels on the beach, maybe one at both ends of the beach access paths. She inquired about when the trash had been picked up over the weekend; Director Pitts stated that the trash was picked up Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. In addition, the Director noted that the dumpsters were full everyday, and there was nowhere to go with any more trash. He explained that there are three (3) dumpsters and that they were emptied by Carolina Waste on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Schupp Enterprises has been contracted by the City for eleven (11) years to remove trash from the beach, and Mr. Schupp stated that he has never seen as much trash as there was this July 4th weekend.

A second suggestion from Ms. Thevos was separating the recyclables since there were so many beer cans and bottles; the third was to have a beach sweep on July 5th by residents to clean up the beach debris. She also offered her assistance with whatever the Committee decided to support.

Councilman Duffy suggested that visitors be asked, via signage at the foot of the Connector, to packout their garbage as visitors are asked to do on hiking trails.

5. Old Business

Councilman Duffy asked Administrator Tucker if the ownership of 18th Avenue had been determined. The Administrator responded that Attorney Sottile had located an opinion from the question being asked in the past stating that 18th is a publicly dedicated street; she has, subsequently, put in a request with Charleston County for 18th Avenue to be paved.

6. New Business – None

7. Miscellaneous Business

Chairman Bettelli stated that the City has received the Beach Monitoring Results for May and June 2009 from DHEC and both months were satisfactory.

Director Pitts thanked the Recreation Department for their assistance in cleaning the beach paths from 27th Avenue through 57th Avenue. They did an excellent job.

Chairman Bettelli thanked the Turtle Team for their work to paint turtles on the trash barrels. He also stated that he was going to contact the Garden Club and offer to stage the remaining trash barrels to have palm trees painted on them, and offer his help as well.

Director Pitts indicated that some thirty-six (36) barrels were going to be placed on the beach on Wednesday, July 8 primarily north of Grand Pavilion; some were due to be replaced, and the bottoms have rusted out of others.

Next Meeting: 4 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk