

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2008

The Public Works Committee held its regular meeting at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 11, 2008 in the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Councilman Cronin, Public Works Director Pitts, Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Councilman Loftus' absence was excused.

1. Chairman Bettelli called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified 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 August 12, 2008 as submitted; Chairman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments**

Bev Ballow, 3009 Waterway Boulevard, stated that she was an unofficial member of the Marine Mammal Stranding Team; this team is composed of people who were a part of the same team that had existed as a part of state government prior to budget cuts. She reported that, two (2) Saturdays ago, Mary Pringle had found a dwarf pigmy whale, weighing approximately nine hundred (900) pounds and some eleven and a half (11½) feet long on the beach; Ms. Pringle called Director Pitts, NOAA and the Stranding Team. A while later, the NOAA truck carrying a NOAA representative Michelle Pate, who was the NOAA observer for the City's restoration project, and a volunteer. Joseph Washington arrived with the heavy equipment to pick up the whale, placed it in the truck to be taken from the beach for necropsy. Ms. Ballow reported that she had received an e-mail from Ms. Pate commenting that the IOP personnel had been the nicest, most pleasant, best people she had worked with anywhere in the state when picking up marine mammals of any size. Ms. Ballow stated that later she had received communication from Wayne McFee, who performed the necropsy, thanking the IOP folks for doing such an amazingly expert job. She expressed her personal thanks for the Public Works Department going "above and beyond."

4. **Departmental Report for August 2008 – Director Pitts**

For Director Pitts, the highlight of the month had been the cutback on beach sweeps to increase debris pickups by working on Saturdays. He noted that he has been operating short one (1) man, but that he is now two (2) short. He did report that he has been receiving good response to an advertisement for fill the vacant position and hope to fill it next week. The Director stated that August had been a slow month on equipment

maintenance, but that the Department would likely be on target with the budget by the end of September. He noted that tonnage had been in line with the previous four years.

5. Old Business

A, Status of 31st Avenue Ditch

Director Pitts reported that the 31st Avenue ditch has been cleared of debris.

Administrator Tucker commented that Director Pitts had asked Charleston County to provide the City with documentation of the ditches they own on the island, they own on the island in an effort to clarify which governmental entity was responsible for which ditches.

On the subject of ditches, Councilman Cronin asked why the ditches had not been cleaned the entire length of the street. Director Pitts replied that Eadie's could only go to Waterway Boulevard because the vegetation in the remaining portion of that ditch cannot be cut without getting a permit from OCRM. The permit would require that wetlands mitigation, meaning that the City would have to create a new wetland somewhere for disturbing these ditches.

B. Status of Debris Removal RFP

Assistant Dziuban reported that, in order to protect the City as it prepared for Tropical Storm/Hurricane Hanna, a temporary contract was executed with Phillips & Jordan, Inc., a company that provides disaster recovery services. Since the City is protected, an advertisement of the RFP, meeting FEMA requirements, will appear in this weekend's paper. In answer to Councilman Bettelli's question about the term, Assistant Dziuban stated there would be conditions for renewal included.

C. Update on Household Hazardous Materials Neighborhood Collection

The Committee agreed to hold the collection from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 18, 2008 in the Front Beach parking lot. Director Pitts confirmed that the County would provide labor and transportation and that the City was responsible for providing advertising to garner wide support for the effort. Chairman Bettelli asked the Director to obtain a listing of the items that will be accepted for Assistant Dziuban to post to the City's website. Advertisements will also be printed in "The Island Eye" and "The Moultrie News."

6. New Business

A. Consideration of Timing Change to Once per Week Garbage Collection

Chairman Bettelli recalled that, in two (2) of the last three (3) years, the City has experienced a storm or other event immediately after Labor Day forcing the City to go to once per week garbage pickup, and, according to the trends, tonnage drops dramatically in September. Director Pitts stated that the week after Labor Day week, the City should go to once per week collection; he remarked that to do otherwise would be a waste of manpower and fuel.

MOTION: Councilman Cronin moved to go to once per week garbage collection following Labor Day; Chairman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Consideration of Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None

7. Miscellaneous

Councilman Cronin related that he had spoken with a Civil Engineering professor at the Citadel about a parking plan for the marina when the issues of the roads and rights-of-way on the island came up. Councilman Cronin would be willing to pursue involving the professor and certain of his Civil Engineering students to coordinate with the state on the project assuming the members of the Committee were in agreement. Administrator Tucker remarked that, if the entire island was too much to tackle at one time, the scope could certainly be reduced. The Administrator stated that, in her mind, the ultimate goal would be to have a new document that identified all of the rights-of-way that were SC DOT rights-of-way that the City could then use to re-adopt in today's standards for right-of-way maintenance. Councilman Cronin will proceed with discussions.

Beach monitoring results for August were very good.

Director Pitts announced that Charleston County has changed its process in making street signs for municipalities; signs must now be ordered in bulk with the municipalities providing their own materials. This will mean that Public Works must purchase and maintain an inventory of the blanks and overlays, which it does not have the space to store. There is also the issue that the Public Works Building is not the place to store inventory, because there will be degradation to that inventory. In addition, there will be two (2) round trips to the County sign shop – one to deliver the materials to have the signs made and the second to pickup up the signs once completed. Director Pitts is

going to investigate if the Town of Mount Pleasant produces its own signs and could do the same for IOP.

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, October 2, 2008

8. Adjourn

MOTION: With the business of the Public Works Committee completed, Councilman Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.; Chairman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk