

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 3, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the Public Works Building, 1301 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Chairman Bettelli, Council members Bergwerf and 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 August 11, 2009 as submitted; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Department Report for August 2009 – Director Pitts**

According to Director Pitts, the highlights of the month were the reduced number of beach sweeps due to the high tides and the decreased amount of debris; vehicle maintenance was also of note due to tire replacement that accounts for one-half of the total expense. The Director reported that the SC DOT has been on the island repaving; streets that have been resurfaced are 21st, 34th and 31st to 41st Avenues on Cameron Blvd. Chairman Bettelli commented that he had talked to the job supervisor at the CTC meeting who told the Chairman that there would be a crew returning to the island to clean up the black lines left in the crosswalks.

Administrator Tucker related a conversation she had with Jim Armstrong of the County Transportation Committee about the cleanup that was needed; he explained to the Administrator that the paving crew was significantly ahead of the cleanup crew. He also told her that the drop-offs where the repaving crosses over the avenues would be feathered out, and the crosswalks would be re-striped. Administrator Tucker suggested to Mr. Armstrong that, perhaps, the reason that the paving crew was ahead was due to sloppy work, and she invited him to the island to see for himself.

Director Pitts reported that both debris and garbage were more in line with historic trends in August.

In conclusion, Director Pitts indicated that there are a couple of maintenance issues at the Public Works Building, for instance the water cooler and the refrigerator are broken, and there is mold in and around the ceiling vents for the air conditioning – the vents and the ceiling tiles will be replaced.

5. Old Business

A. Update on 54th through 57th Avenue Drainage Project

Administrator Tucker informed the members of the Committee that there had been a meeting with the attorneys for Lowe Wild Dunes Investors from California and Dave Stevens that had been very productive. She indicated that, as Councilman Duffy had suggested, Mr. Stevens had made every effort to route the lines in such a way as to avoid relocating lines when additional construction takes place with the Village. Mr. Stevens' design has been based on information from Lowes' that the only plan currently is to proceed with Phase 3 of the Village at some point in the future. The Lowe Wild Dunes Investors who were present had requested that Mr. Stevens relocate particular line should they have to adjust the planned location of a pool; there was one (1) area of concern to Mr. Stevens – an area where 3-phase power has been located; Mr. Stevens is going to study the site to determine the best way to move the City's line. The change could mean additional expense in the initial construction, but a reduced expense later in that the line would not have to be relocated. The Administrator reported that there had been problems relative to the outfall area. She added that the Lowe representatives had been very complimentary of the City, in general, and the long relationship the development has had with the City; they were grateful for everything the City did regarding the beach restoration.

Administrator Tucker had indicated to the Lowe investors that she envisioned the off-season of 2011 as the earliest time for the City to begin construction. Mr. Stevens is confident that he will be able to give the City a good cost estimate as he nears the final design. The Administrator stated that the City has slightly less than one million dollars (< \$1,000,000) available for the project.

B. Status of Eadies' Project

Director Pitts reported that Eadies was of the island until after Labor Day.

C. Discussion of Palmetto Pride Tree Grant Donation Program

The Administrator stated that no one had contacted the staff about any locations that needed trees; therefore, she gathered that the City did not need to apply for this grant, especially since the tree selection was so narrow.

6. New Business

A. Front Beach Access Path

Chairman Bettelli noted that Councilwoman Bergwerf had sent the Committee members photos of the area illustrating the problems there.

Councilwoman Bergwerf asked who was responsible for upkeep for the area around the public restrooms, including the area with the picnic tables. Administrator Tucker responded that the City was responsible and that the duties are shared by the landscaping contractor, Mr. Schupp's company and the restroom cleaning contractor. The Administrator commented that the area

has such high traffic that it was difficult to stay ahead of the trash issues; another area that gets a lot of complaints is the corner where *Ben and Jerry's* is located. Chairman Bettelli suggested that cleanup of that area be included in the renegotiation of the restroom-cleaning contract. The Committee agreed that the cigarette disposals needed to be emptied more frequently and more of them needed to be placed in the area of the public restrooms.

Administrator Tucker said that there was no formal, written contract with the group that cleans the Front Beach restrooms; the same person has been cleaning them for a long time with no contract. The Committee asked the Administrator to expand their services to include emptying the "smokers" on a regular basis and general cleanup of the area surrounding the public restrooms. If the present contractor wants to increase their rates significantly to add these tasks, the cleaning service can go out for bid; Administrator Tucker was asked to report on the results at the next meeting.

Administrator Tucker expressed her opinion that the Front Beach area has begun to show some "wear and tear" when one looks closely. Assistant Dziuban reported that the City submitted to the Council of Governments (COG) an energy grant that was part of the federal stimulus package, which, once vetted, would be recommended to the federal government, to improve the lighting at Front Beach. The new lighting would be more durable, require less maintenance and be more energy-efficient; in addition, they will be installed flush with the paving, rather than aboveground. The COG ranked the applications, and the first three (3) places were from county governments who had put in matching funds, which the Isle of Palms did not do initially; despite that fact, the City came on fourth (4th). The grant application was for approximately fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000), and the grant offer was for approximately thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000) leaving the project short by nearly twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). When discussing ways to make up the shortfall, Treasurer Suggs informed Assistant Dziuban that the City has a fund called the "Aisle of Palms." This fund was created from the sale of bricks, trees and benches on Front Beach. Its current balance is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) and the money would appropriately fund capital purchases. This plan for funding the entire project is assuming that COG's recommendations are approved, and the "Aisle of Palms" fund has a remaining balance of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be used for other Front Beach projects. The City anticipates it will hear whether the grant has been awarded in mid-September.

B. Beach Monitoring Results for August

The Administrator reported that they had all been good.

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

7. Miscellaneous Business

Chairman Bettelli referred to the photographs provided by Director Pitts of the trees overhanging 32nd Avenue that need to be trimmed back to eliminate the possibility of damage to a City vehicle. The Director has gotten a quote for seventeen hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750) to trim the trees and to haul off the debris from B&G Tree Service.

MOTION: Chairman Bettelli moved to approve \$1,750 to B&G Tree Service to trim the trees overhanging 32nd Avenue; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded.

Director Pitts reported that there had been a complaint from a resident on 32nd Avenue. Councilman Duffy was concerned about the extent of the trimming; the Director assured him that there were no major limbs involved, only sucker growth.

Administrator Tucker explained that anytime the City pruned trees, as they were planning for 32nd Avenue, there were calls from citizens – citizens tend to be very protective of their trees. She wanted the Committee members to see the problem and to be knowledgeable of the reasons behind the trimming before their phones began to ring.

Sources of funds that were discussed include the Tree Fund, the Plant-a-Palm Fund and the line item in Public Works for Landscape Maintenance, which the Director indicated that he typically has a reasonable balance at year-end. Chairman Bettelli thought the expense should be paid from the Tree Fund for the sake of consistency.

Call for the Question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Bettelli noted that a memo regarding hours at the incinerator had been included in meeting packets at the request of Director Pitts because he wanted the Committee to be aware of the reduced hours within which he must operate. Director Pitts stated that it appears to him that there are a reduced number of personnel at the incinerator; he surmises that, when incinerator personnel find other employment, they are not being replaced.

The Director reported that, historically, the Isle of Palms trucks went to the incinerator on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; some three (3) years ago, the personnel at the incinerator voluntarily began to bypass on Thursdays, so municipalities went to Bees Ferry on Thursdays. Based on these actions, Director Pitts began to hold Thursday's garbage in the truck, depending on the weather and the volume, to save on gas and staff time; the truck would then go to the incinerator on Friday. The schedule became the incinerator on Monday and Friday and Bees Ferry on Tuesday and Thursday. With the new schedule, if garbage pickup in Wild Dunes is not completed by noon in the summer months, the truck must go to Bees Ferry; the result is a reversal in the number of times trucks go to Bees Ferry versus the incinerator thereby reducing the number of other jobs Public Works personnel can perform in the summer.

Director Pitts confirmed that the incinerator was scheduled to close at the end of 2009. In the past, there have been four (4) bays operating where four (4) different trucks could off load simultaneously with four (4) bulldozers moving the garbage. Today there is only one (1) bulldozer operating so only one (1) truck can offload at a time.

Having seen the blue, rollout recycle bins at Folly Beach, Chairman Bettelli had suggested to Director Pitts that he obtain a couple and place them in the area of the Public Restrooms just to see citizens would respond. The Fire Department contacted the Director for recycle bins and he agreed to contact the Highway Department to get them and to get the rollout recycle bins the Chairman had suggested. Director Pitts was informed that the Highway Department does not have any residential containers or rollouts, and they do not anticipate having any for, at least,

two (2) weeks. Chairman Bettelli and Director Pitts continue to plan for a trial placement of a rollout recycle bin on Front Beach.

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Duffy moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.; Councilwoman Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk