

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 2, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Loftus and Ward, Chair Buckhannon, City Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Since Chair Buckhannon was delayed in traffic, Vice Chair Ward called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2013 as submitted; Vice Chair Ward seconded and the minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Department Reports for September 2013 – Director Pitts**

In September, the island returned to once-a-week garbage collections, and the focus for the month was the beginning of the fall beach-path maintenance. Four (4) beach sweeps took place in the month, and 46<sup>th</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues had to be pumped following rains over Labor Day. Repairs to equipment were costly, i.e. the hydrostat replacement on the IT14G that broke down on Palm Boulevard and the housing, bearings and pulleys on the John Deere tractor mower deck.

Vice Chair Ward interrupted the report to note for the record that Chair Buckhannon had arrived and the meeting was turned over to him.

Again in September, yard debris saw an increase of twenty to twenty-five (20-25) tons; garbage collections were flat.

Chair Buckhannon recalled that some discussions have occurred in the past about crafting an ordinance that would require landscape companies to remove the yard debris they create, rather than leaving it for the City's Public Works Department. He stated that he was interested in knowing what other municipalities are doing along this line.

Administrator Tucker stated that Sullivan's Island has an ordinance that requires contractors to haul away debris they create, but, when a property owner works to clean up his property, the town picks up the debris. The Administrator said that she would bring ordinances from other local governments to the meeting next month for the Committee to review.

Councilmember Loftus expressed the opinion that the Committee should move forward with this issue, but he also said that he thought the excessively wet spring and summer have contributed to the volume of debris on the island this year.

Councilmember Ward agreed that it was a good idea to enact such an ordinance, but he recalled from an earlier meeting that enforcement was going to be an issue since the culprit must be caught in the act.

Councilmember Loftus commented that the overhang on the Waterway Boulevard bike path needs to be cut back; the Director said it would be completed before Thanksgiving after the beach paths are cleaned.

## **5. Old Business**

### **Update on Public Restrooms**

Administrator Tucker reported that the City anticipates getting the appraisal documents this week and a contractor has looked at the building and compiled a list of tasks that need to be done to renovate it. After looking at the list, staff has decided that the elements need to be prioritized before any pricing is attached to it. Once the City gets the appraisal and deducts from it the work that has been done that would count against the fifty percent (50%) rule, staff will know the amount of available funds for a project and make the determination about rehabilitating the existing structure or replacing it.

Councilmember Ward asked what were the capitalized costs that would go against the fifty percent (50%) rule versus ordinary repairs and maintenance. The Administrator said that the specific regulations were set by FEMA for the City to administer, and Director Kerr is most familiar with what goes against the fifty percent (50%) rule.

On the subject of building maintenance, Administrator Tucker reported that Public Works personnel had done a good bit of work on the building and two (2) pressure-washes are scheduled, i.e. the first one October 14<sup>th</sup> and a second on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Administrator indicated that Director Pitts would like to see the building pressure-washed daily and said that the City needs to consider a different process for building maintenance and management in the future.

Director Pitts described his vision for the public restrooms as one where the ocean-side is sodded with six pedestals for showers and outdoor changing closets that double the space for visitors. He said the indoor showers should be eliminated because their plumbing is inside the walls and the inside converted to toilets only.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Discussion of sink holes on Seahorse Court**

Chair Buckhannon stated that he had requested that this be placed on the *Agenda* pursuant to a request from residents.

Administrator Tucker indicated that this is not the first time the City has investigated this sink hole; there was another complaint several months back. The Administrator agreed with the Chair that the sink hole appears to be escalating; at issue is the fact that no one knows what is

causing it. Water lines run on the right side of the road looking toward the end of the cul-de-sac and sewer is on the left side of the road.

The City has reached out to Charleston County concerning re-surfacing and learned it is not in the plan any time soon. Re-surfacing is not what is needed; the infrastructure must be improved underneath the road. The City is waiting to hear from Chuck Jarmin who is involved with drainage issues for Charleston County.

Administrator Tucker distributed a couple of photographs that show the sink hole particularly in a photo where the incline of her vehicle versus the level of the house are quite obvious.

Dave Stevens also gave the City an opinion on the problem, and he believes that it is a water or sewer issue; the Administrator noted that the IOP Water and Sewer Commission does not believe that is the case.

The Administrator remarked that she has other photographs that show the cracks in the sink hole, indicating that it will ultimately collapse; the City wants to get to the root of the problem before that occurs.

#### **B. Report on RFB for sale of 1999 Garbage Truck**

Assistant Dziuban stated that the City had a bid opening in accordance with the procurement code for the sale of one (1) 1999 Mack garbage truck; the City only received one (1) bid in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000). For comparison purposes, Director Pitts checked to see what the salvage value of the truck was and was told three thousand one hundred eight-six dollars (\$3,186). Staff is inclined not to take either amount in hopes of getting more and to be satisfied that everything has been done to get the best possible price for surplus equipment. Staff is going to go in a different direction and advertise sale of the truck on MUNICIPALID. She added that the truck is out of service and taking up valuable space at the Public Works site.

Councilmember Loftus asked how the sale had been advertised originally; Assistant Dziuban responded that the sale had been on the City's website, the MASC website and Director Pitts contacted people he knew who might be interested; an advertisement was not placed in newspapers due to the expense. He asked whether a sale notice had been put on Craigslist, and Assistant Dziuban said it had not been. In her mind, the next step was the MUNICIPALID or Govdeals that do their listings more professionally and is the government surplus property equivalent of Craigslist.

#### **7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room.**

#### **8. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m.; Chair Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk