

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2014

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee held its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Ferencz and Loftus, Chair Ward, Administrator Tucker, Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. 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 June 4, 2014 as submitted; Councilmember Ferencz seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Department Reports for June and July 2014 – Director Pitts**

Director Pitts reported that, in the month of June, the focus was on keeping the beach clean; personnel also mowed the rights-of-way from 21st to 57th Avenues, and 41st Avenue was mowed twice. In addition, new Mobi Mat was installed at the 9th Avenue beach access.

In the month of July, beach sweeps were also a priority; running a five (5) person operation on Saturday, July 19th was needed to pick up debris. Charleston County was on the island and cleaned the 41st Avenue ditch and cleaned the vegetation from some open ditches.

Eadies Drain and Vacuum completed Year 4 of the five-year (5 yr.) maintenance plan.

Vehicle maintenance expenses in June reflect getting the flatbed back into operation and replacing the hydraulic pump and clutch on one (1) of the Load Masters. The truck had to be taken to Columbia for repairs which were in excess of six thousand dollars (\$6,000); Director Pitts was told that the replacements were the result of normal wear and tear on the vehicle.

In July, the CAT shut down for no apparent reason; when computer-tested, no problem registered. Director Pitts suspects that the problem is with some type of sensor that is going bad.

Councilmember Loftus asked the age of the truck, requiring a new hydraulic pump; the Director responded that the truck is either a 2010 or 2011 model and is the first generation of regeneration.

Director Pitts commented that he had purchased eleven (11) tires in June that cost approximately three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$375) each plus installation. The Director stated that he is in receipt of literature on re-treads from a resident; he stated that re-treads typically cannot deal with the turning stress on the rear. He thought that he could use them on

the smaller trucks, but not on the larger trucks; he indicated that he is going to do more research.

The trend continues in that yard debris has increased while garbage has been reduced; the reduction is attributed to single-stream recycling. The Director informed the Committee that, when garbage collection reaches three hundred seventy-five (375) tons, he will need another truck.

5. Old Business

A. Update on Front Beach Lighting

Administrator Tucker reported that SCE&G has informed her that their engineers are working with the manufacturer on the photometrics and expect to have a presentation for the Committee in September.

Chair Ward commented that the Front Beach businesses are looking forward to more lighting.

B. Update on Beach and Marina Recycling

Administrator Tucker reported that beach recycling has been “a resounding success,” but the marina has not received the commercial recycling bins.

The Administrator remarked that the City wants to continue the beach recycling program all year round and that will mean having the recycling removed year round. Currently Bill Schupp is contracted with the City for the removal of both garbage and recycling from the beach. Directing attention to the “Analysis of Off-season Beach Recycling for FY2015,” the Administrator stated that, by making a few adjustments, Mr. Schupp can continue all year with no increase in his contract as shown.

MOTION: Chair Ward moved to approve the no-cost change order to the City’s contract with Mr. Schupp for removing recycling from the beach year round; Councilmember Ferencz seconded.

Councilmember Loftus asked if the City had the opportunity to adjust Mr. Schupp’s other contract with the City due to the reduced volume of garbage.

Administrator Tucker noted that Mr. Schupp must make the same number of trips despite the volume he is collecting.

Director Pitts stated that one would think that the volume of garbage would decrease with recycling on the beach, but garbage has actually increased. The Director noted that the number of yellow barrels has increased to a total of one hundred eight (108), and fourteen to sixteen (14-16) additional recycling bins have been placed on the beach. Currently Mr. Schupp makes two (2) runs per week for recycling and four (4) runs per week for garbage.

Councilmember Loftus stated that he has seen very few overflowing garbage or recycling barrels that would require Mr. Schupp to leave his vehicle to manually collect. The Councilmember said that he would like for the City to pursue a possible reduction to the contract for garbage and recycling collection on the beach.

Director Pitts commented that, no matter the volume, there is the same number of cans to be dumped on each run.

For information, the Director reported that Carolina Waste removes the recycling from the island, and they are on the island on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. New Business

A. Discussion of Seahorse Court Asphalt Depression

The asphalt depression on Seahorse Court has been there for more than a year, and a resident has called repeatedly inquiring about repairs for a year. Charleston County has quoted the City four thousand six hundred thirty-four dollars eighty-six cents (\$4,634.86) for the repairs to the street; the quote includes labor, materials and equipment.

Administrator Tucker indicated that she had been surprised by the cost; in the past the City has paid Charleston County only for materials, but that opportunity does not exist today. The City could get the old terms if it entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Charleston County. The Administrator posed the question to the Committee: does the City pay one hundred percent (100%) of the cost or wait for an intergovernmental agreement?

Director Pitts reported that the repair of this depression is not a matter of filling it in; the problem is the organic matter under the road bed.

Discussion continued relative to the ownership of Seahorse Court; Councilmember Ferencz informed the Committee that the developer had put in the road, but did not dedicate it to SCDOT, Charleston County or the Isle of Palms.

Councilmember Loftus suggested that, if the intergovernmental agreement could be ready by September, the Committee address the issue again at its September meeting. The other members of the Committee agreed.

B. Consideration of Eliminating Twice a Week Garbage Collection for the Summer of 2015

Councilmember Loftus said that he had asked for this item to be added to the meeting agenda. With the success of residential single-stream recycling, the Councilmember thought the City has an opportunity to reduce expenses. He stated that he did not expect an answer from the Committee tonight, but he would like the feasibility studied. The Councilmember would

recommend eliminating the Thursday and Friday collections and to add garbage cans where needed.

Director Pitts noted that some rental properties have nine (9) cans now.

In Councilmember Loftus' opinion, Wild Dunes does not need two (2) pickups per week for the entire summer. He asked that staff study the issue for a month and to come back to the Committee in September with the results.

Chair Ward voiced concern for residents who may have an overflowing garbage can once in the summer when family visits.

Administrator Tucker thought that the time period for twice a week collections could be modified, i.e. start later in the season and end earlier, maybe mid-August.

Director Pitts urged the Committee not to take any action this summer; the week of Labor Day is the last twice a week pickup. He stated that he could not imagine having once a week collections when the tonnage has increased from one hundred fifty tons (150 T) to three hundred fifty tons (350 T) in four (4) months.

Councilmember Loftus commented that the rentals are maxed out, and he does not think the island was any busier in 2004 than 2012 or 2013.

Director Pitts said that he would isolate tonnage for the last two (2) weeks of August; if the volume was down noticeably, the once a week pickup can begin sooner in 2015.

7. Miscellaneous Business

A. Discussion of WELCOME Signs at the Entrances to the Island

Seeing this item on the Agenda, Chair Ward stated that he thought the electronic signs were coming up again.

Administrator Tucker assured the Chair and other members of the Committee that the discussion was not about electronic boards, but the Committee's preference for replacing them.

Councilmember Loftus asked why meeting dates and times had not been posted in recent weeks. The Administrator responded that the Recreation Department has been operating without two (2) staff members, and the activities at the Recreation Center did not allow for someone to take the time to post to the message boards. Assistant Dziuban added that many of the strips that hold the letters are broken; even if employees were available, it is doubtful that the meetings could be posted.

Chair Ward indicated that he would have liked to have known that because the timing was very poor.

Councilmember Loftus stated that some in the community thought the blank message boards were City Hall's expression of "sour grapes" for the defeat of the electronic message board.

Administrator Tucker stated that reality was just the opposite; staff was trying to follow through with Council's decision.

Assistant Dziuban explained that the decision to be made was to have only a WELCOME sign and to use social media for notifications of happenings on the island or to have a message board with lettering.

The Administrator reminded the Committee that any new sign would have to meet SCDOT standards, such as having break-away posts.

When asked about repairing the existing sign, the Administrator recalled that Director Page had sought estimates for both repair and replacement; a repair would cost very close to the amount to replace it.

Councilmember Loftus voiced the opinion that the sign should continue to be a message board; he likes that residents know when meetings are taking place.

Councilmember Ferencz, on the other hand, indicated that she was in favor of eliminating this task for the Recreation Department; she commented that the signs appear to be in poor condition. In addition, the Councilmember wanted to stay with the wayfinding theme and possibly eliminate the sign on the right as one exits the Connector entering the island.

Chair Ward stated that he thought this was a big issue and should be discussed by the full Council; he said that he was in favor of all important issues being discussed by the entire body.

B. Beach Monitoring Results for Ocean Water Quality

Administrator Tucker noted that the beach monitoring results for May through July were included in meeting packets; she reported that there had been a couple of less than desirable samples, but the island's water is safe.

Chair Ward expressed the opinion that the Blue Wave designation seemed to mean something to island residents and visitors; he asked why the City no longer has that designation.

The Administrator explained that the Blue Wave designation costs the City between twelve hundred and two thousand dollars (\$1,200-2,000) a year; when the budget got tight and the island was getting as many visitors as it could handle, the decision was that the label was no longer needed.

Responding to Chair Ward's question about the meaning of the Blue Wave title, Assistant Dziuban stated that it means that the City has met their standards.

Administrator Tucker said that there is another group that is more scientific and more respected than the Blue Wave, but it costs upwards of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). Kiawah has a biologist on staff and is the only beach in the area to have this designation. The Administrator added that she was not sure that the Blue Wave designation is still available; Assistant Dziuban agreed to research it.

Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2014 in the Conference Room.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Loftus moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m.; Chair Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Copeland
City Clerk