

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**  
4 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Public Works Committee was held at 4 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2010 in the Public Works Building, 1303 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee members Duffy, Stone and Thomas, City Administrator Tucker, Public Works Director Pitts, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland. Special guests present were Westy Westmoreland of SCE&G and Dave Stevens of Civil Site Engineering.

1. Brian Duffy, senior member of the Committee, 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. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Councilmember Stone nominated Councilmember Duffy to serve as Chair; Councilmember Thomas seconded and there were no other nominations. Councilmember Duffy was unanimously elected Chair of the Committee.

Councilman Stone nominated Councilmember Thomas to serve as Vice-Chair; Chair Duffy seconded and there were no other nominations. Councilmember Thomas was unanimously elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Chair Duffy asked for the Committee's approval to suspend the rules move the first item of Old Business to this place in the agenda; the Committee unanimously agreed.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Discussion of Possible Options for SCE&G Electrical Service Redistribution by Westy Westmoreland, SCE&G**

Mr. Westmoreland stated that SCE&G was trying to accomplish several improvements on the island, and he was present to explain them to the Committee. He explained that the substation behind City Hall has three (3) circuits leaving it; one (1) services Sullivan's Island and two (2) go north. One (1) that goes north feeds everything up to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and the second is referred to as an "express feeder" up to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and serves everything beyond 42<sup>nd</sup>, including Wild Dunes, Dewees, Capers and Bull islands. Due to the growth on the north end of the island, the greatest majority of the electrical load of the three (3) circuits is on the Wild Dunes circuit; SCE&G wants to add a fourth circuit to more evenly distribute the electrical load. The plan is to take a portion of the load from the circuit serving up to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and to use that to serve some of the area around Front Beach and City Hall. If that were to be accomplished, capacity would be freed up to supplement should service be interrupted on the circuit going to the north end of the island. The job at-hand is to run the new feeder line from the substation to the line behind the Red & White Shopping Center, which is where the City becomes involved - the ideal route for the new line is underground from the substation across the City's property now occupied by the Building Department. Administrator Tucker commented that, since the long-range future for that parcel is undefined, she was of the opinion that SCE&G should run the

line along the rear property lines of the City's property so as to minimize the impact the future development of the land.

In response to Councilmember Stone's question, Mr. Westmoreland said SCE&G would need an easement from the City of ten to twelve feet (10-12') to ensure accessibility for servicing the line. The proposed work will not make any visible change to the lines or poles and the entire cost of the project would be borne by SCE&G.

Administrator Tucker cautioned the Committee that the City should not make any decisions without involving the two (2) property owners behind City Hall and the Public Works Department, the Duncans and Glaves.

Mr. Westmoreland indicated that SCE&G has the funds for the project budgeted and could begin as soon as a decision is reached by the City about the approved route for the feeder line.

Mr. Westmoreland stated that there are plans to convert the substation behind City Hall to a regulator station in that SCE&G is using its resources to best serve the island in worst case situations, i.e. improving the reliability of service to the island.

A second project being discussed is eliminating the overhead lines in front of City Hall; the City could use its Non-standard Service Funds to finance its portion of the costs. The City currently has approximately two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) in its Non-standard Service Fund; Mayor Cronin noted that the use of Non-standard Service Funds requires matching funds from the City. Mr. Westmoreland noted that there would be efficiency and economy in coordinating the two (2) projects.

Mr. Westmoreland asked if the City had made any progress in getting the three (3) property owners between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues to grant the easements for undergrounding lines. Mayor Cronin stated that the City had sent them letters urging them to sign over the easements and was now at the point of scheduling a meeting between the residents, representatives of SCE&G and the City to explain the benefits of their acquiescing to SCE&G's request.

Lastly, Mr. Westmoreland informed the Committee that Phase 1 of undergrounding of lines in Forest Trail has been completed, and SCE&G is beginning Phase 2, with plans to complete the job by the end of the year.

The Committee thanked Mr. Westmoreland for attending the meeting and explaining SCE&G's plans for the Isle of Palms.

**B. Update on 54<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Project from Dave Stevens of Civil Site Engineering**

Administrator Tucker explained that the 53<sup>rd</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Project has been "in the works" for a long time because the area has basically no drainage infrastructure at all, and the area included, as well as 46<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Avenues that are not included in the project, experience serious flooding when high tides and heavy rains coincide. There area instances when people and public safety vehicles cannot get to their homes. In the early 2000s, City Council decided

to begin setting aside money to someday put infrastructure into this area; a cooperative agreement was entered into with Wild Dunes because the fastest way to eliminate the water is to go through their property. In the last year, Council decided to move forward with the funding the engineering design and permitting segments for the area between 54<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues. There is a possibility that, between the money that City Council has set aside and grants received from Charleston County, the City can move forward with a bid package for the project.

Mr. Stevens explained that the plan is to run drainage parallel to the existing road to the back gate of Wild Dunes, cut across the parking lot going down Racket Club Road, through the bike path to the outfall at the lake at the back. According to Mr. Stevens, the only entity who has not yet given final approval is DOT who has issues with the fact that there is not enough fall with the pipes; Mr. Stevens is presently going through a meeting process with DOT to show that they can do pre-imposed. He stated that he does not anticipate any problems, but that there may have to be some minor grade adjustments. The project has received approvals from OCRM, Coastal Zone Consistency, Charleston County, and Charleston County stormwater.

Mr. Stevens noted that, if the City chose to do so, the project could be phased, but there would be a loss of economy in mobilization if it were phased. The first phase would be following beach accesses between 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues where the worst flooding occurs. Administrator Tucker commented that the additional phases could be bid as alternates and, depending on how the bids came in, alternates could be added back in until the available funds were used. The Administrator noted that the City has already acquired the easement from Wild Dunes for this portion.

Mr. Stevens stated that Wild Dunes would require that the outfall be constructed first before proceeding with the beach access phase. Administrator Tucker commented that the City has already spent one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars (\$154,000) to pay for a parallel pipe that runs along Racquet Club that is large enough to accommodate the water at such time as the City connected.

Mr. Stevens assured the Committee that he would keep them abreast of progress with DOT.

On the subject of flooding, Administrator Tucker reported that 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue is subject to flooding in heavy rains, and it is a private road. During the last flooding event, public safety vehicles could not get to the occupied homes on the street, and Public Works trucks could not get to the homes to remove the garbage; therefore, the Administrator authorized Public Works to pump 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue. With Committee approval, the Administrator intends to write to the 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue property owners expressing the need for them either to find a method of draining the stormwater from the street or convey the road to the City.

On the subject of the 54<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup> Avenue Drainage Project, Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that no funds are set aside in the FY10 budget to proceed with construction; however, if it is the will of the Committee, because the bid climate is so good, to recommend to Ways and Means to go forward with the bid process to determine if the City can go forward with any part of the project, funds are available. Assistant Dziuban noted that the language in the bid packet states that the City is not required to award a contract becau

Mr. Stevens stated that the project would take three (3) months to get the project setup and staked out in responding to Councilmember Stone's question. He added that he expected Wild Dunes to require the work to be done in the winter; Chair Duffy stated that the expense could be addressed in the coming budget cycle.

At this point, both the Administrator and City Clerk were excused from the meeting to go to the Recreation Committee meeting at the Recreation Center.

### **3. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Chair Duffy moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 4, 2009 as submitted; Councilmember Stone seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. Citizens' Comments - None**

### **5. Department Report for November and December 2009 – Director Pitts**

Director Pitts stated that for November and December, sanitation was down as demonstrated on the 5-year comparison schedule; the City was at a five (5) year low for both months. Yard debris was higher than normal in November. The primary concern for the two (2) months was pumping stormwater; the Director stated, with the new pumps, Public Works personnel had been able to deploy quickly with the first storm. The pumps were placed at 46<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 51<sup>st</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, and the City rented two (2) additional pumps for 50<sup>th</sup> and 56-57<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Vehicle maintenance remains under budget.

Councilmember Stone asked to what Director Pitts attributed the rise in yard debris; the Director thought it was probably due to nice weather for people to be trimming back their shrubbery.

### **6. Old Business**

#### **C. Update on Isle of Palms Solid Waste Disposal Destination**

Director Pitts explained that the City is taking all of its garbage to Carolina Waste, a new transfer station that is just off Azalea Drive in North Charleston. He indicated that the new situation is working very well because the trips take less time than they were taking to the incinerator. There is no additional cost to the City because the mileage is comparable to that of the Bees Ferry Landfill, and productivity is up because personnel are not off the island as long.

### **7. New Business**

#### **A. Report on Anticipated Pre-Construction Meeting on CTC Resurfacing Plan**

Chair Duffy decided to roll this forward to the next meeting.

**B. Discussion of Possible Amendment to Ordinance Regarding Leaves and Grass Clippings**

Chair Duffy stated that the City is anticipating that Charleston County is not going to accept this type of debris in plastic bags as the County plans to improve its current composting. According to Director Pitts, there are currently three (3) options “on the table.”

Councilmember Stone expressed an opinion he has held for awhile that the City should invest in a grinder for yard debris to put into the City’s parking lots to compost. Director Pitts noted that all of the yard debris goes to 4B where it is recycled.

This item will also be carried over to the February meeting.

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

**8. Miscellaneous Business**

Chair Duffy reported that the street sign is down at 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Waterway Boulevard. Director Pitts reported that he had received some fifteen (15) signs before Christmas, but the staff was diverted from installing them to pump stormwater. The installation work has resumed.

Director Pitts related that he remains unable to get the forty-gallon (40 gal) recycle bin to be placed at the Front Beach restrooms on a trial basis.

The Director commented that he had spoken with Charleston County about a date for the spring household hazardous materials collection; the only dates that are unavailable are March 13 and April 17. The Committee decided to select a date at the next meeting.

**Next meeting Date:** 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 3, 2010

**9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Councilmember Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m.; Councilmember Thomas seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted;

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk