



City of Charleston
Committee on Public Works & Utilities
February 24, 2025

A meeting of the Committee on Public Works & Utilities was held this date beginning at 5:03 p.m. over video conference call.

Notice of this meeting was sent to all local news media.

Present: Councilmember Waring, Chair, Councilmember Gregorie, Vice Chair, Mayor Cogswell, Councilmember Gregg, Councilmember Parker, and Councilmember Seekings.

Also Present: Matt Alltop, Jennifer Cook, Julia Copeland, Magalie Creech, Katie Dahlheim, Elizabeth Dieck, Matthew Fountain, Tim Keane, Steve Kirk, Kaylan Koszela, Sheila Smith, and Robbie Somerville.

Link to meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09Jq3gONS-U&t=188s>

A. Invocation

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence provided by Chair Waring.

B. Approval of Public Works and Utilities Committee Minutes

1. **January 27, 2025**

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Item B1.

C. Request to Set a Public Hearing

None.

D. Old Business

None.

E. Acceptance and Dedication of Rights-of-Way and Easements

1. **Marsches at Daniel Island, Phases 1A & 1B - Stokely Way (50' R/W), Bellemeade St. (20' RW), Etta Way (50' R/W), Simone Drive (38' R/W), Callender Dr. (20' R/W)**
 - a. **Title to Real Estate**
 - b. **Exclusive Stormwater Drainage Easement Agreement**
 - c. **Affidavit for Taxable or Exempt Transfers**
 - d. **Plat**

Mr. Keane provided an update on Items E1a–E1b. It was correctly identified on the agenda and was for the dedication of those phases. The package information was also on last month's agenda. The dedication process was lengthy. He said the contractors had completed phases 1a and 1b, and they were recommending it for approval.

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Items E1a-E1b.

2. Acceptance and dedication of an Exclusive Stormwater Drainage Easement Agreement on property owned by The Spinx Company, Inc. as part of the Spinx West Wildcat project (TRC ID# TRC-SP2020-000317) that involved the construction of a new gas station/convenience store. Said easement is for the reconfiguration of the existing drainage easement and associated drainage system serving William E. Murray Boulevard through this site and into Glenn McConnell Parkway. This system has been inspected and approved by the Department of Stormwater Management for compliance with the approved construction plans.
 - a. Exclusive Stormwater Drainage Easement Agreement
 - b. Plat

Mr. Fountain explained the item.

On a motion by Councilmember Gregg, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Items E2a-E2b.

F. Temporary Encroachments Approved by The Department of Public Service (For information only)

1. 43 Broad St. (The Little Market) - Installing sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary
2. 350 Bayley Rd. - Installing irrigation encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
3. 494 King St. (Kohler) - Installing right angle sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
4. 1397 Smythe St. - Installing fence encroaching into City-maintained drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.
5. 72 Wentworth St. (Sapphire Boutique) - Installing sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
6. 90 Cannon St. (Sonder) - Installing sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
7. 909 Fish Camp Rd. - Installing irrigation encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
8. 191 W. Poplar St. - Installing paver driveway apron encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
9. 2124 Coffey St. - Installing paver driveway apron encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.
10. 2158 Pierpont. - Installing fence encroaching into City-maintained drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.

**11. 194 Brailsford St. - Installing irrigation encroaching into City right of way.
This encroachment is temporary.**

Mr. Keane said the items were standard encroachments presented for information only.

G. Public Service Department Update

1. Director Updates

Mr. Alltop said the Bigbelly installation was finished, and work had begun on the Hay Road sidewalk installation.

Chair Waring thanked Mr. Alltop for the speedy delivery of a much-needed trash receptacle on Daniel Island.

H. Stormwater Management Department Update

1. Forest Acres Drainage Improvement - Project Update

Mr. Fountain provided an update on the item and shared his screen with an overview. He said it was a very successful project and had great support from the community, including Chair Waring, who was a strong advocate and helped with community interaction. The system was at full functional performance. Mr. Fountain said he would contact the outreach office for a possible ribbon-cutting ceremony when the project was cleaned up. The project came in \$1M under the construction budget.

Chair Waring thanked Mr. Fountain for his explanation and said people in the area were talking about the awesome improvements the project brought. Long-term residents of 30-40 years had seen the worst. He thanked the Committee and said it was a victory all around.

2. Approval of a construction contract in the amount of \$178,709 for emergency lining of 36" CMP in the Sandhurst neighborhood

Mr. Fountain explained that the item was an emergency repair contract and shared his screen with an overview of the affected area. He said the design could have been abandoned because of the difficulty of accessing the area. However, because of a significant increase in cost due to drainage work, it would not be abandoned. He said they had been looking at contractors' pricing and had received reasonable quotes. With contract approval, the pipe would be lined and made functional while working through the capital project, adding additional piping and a larger system in the future. He said funding was coming from the existing budget.

Chair Waring asked how they planned on getting access to do the work.

Mr. Fountain said they would perform a trenchless repair without digging and use small-scale, man-accessed equipment to access the pipe through the main system. A "concrete sock" would be inflated in the pipe and would cure in place to form the liner.

On a motion by Mayor Cogswell, seconded by Councilmember Parker, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Item H2.

3. Rebellion Road - Outfall Cleaning Project Update

Mr. Fountain gave an update on the project and shared his screen for an overview.

4. Howle Stormwater Park - Project Update

Mr. Fountain gave an update on the project and shared his screen for an overview. He said both the County and the City acquired Greenbelt funding to buy the property at the end of Howle Avenue. It was a great example of two jurisdictions working together and applying for the

Greenbelt collaboratively. The project design came from the City level, with the City obtaining \$1M in funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Grant for the construction. The project should be completed by Fall 2025.

Councilmember Gregorie said the residents at Howle Avenue must be extremely happy. He asked Mr. Fountain if the equipment on Saint Luke's property indicated the Halsey Creek project was ready to start.

Mr. Fountain said the project was in Permitting and not yet at Cleaning.

Councilmember Gregorie said some of the residents would like to meet with Mr. Fountain at the project site, and he would try to get everyone together.

Mr. Fountain said he would be available to meet.

I. Miscellaneous Business

- 1. Approval of the 4th Amendment to the Comprehensive Integrated Water Plan with Black & Veatch to develop a Flood Resilience Project for the Rosemont and Bridgeview neighborhoods. The amended additional contract amount of \$200,000 will be paid with General Fund Reserves.**

On a motion by Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Mayor Cogswell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Item I1.

- 2. Authorization for the Mayor to execute a contract in the amount of \$200,000.00, in a form substantially similar to the Professional Services Contract attached hereto, with Robinson Design Engineers to provide engineering services as outlined in the attached proposal.**

Councilmember Gregg asked if someone would provide an overview of the scope with Robinson and the Comprehensive Integrated Water Plan as it appeared to be duplicate work.

The Mayor said he understood and explained that the Comprehensive Water Plan gave a basic understanding of what they could do. This was high level when you look around the City. He saw it as a combination of efforts between engineering and resiliency to determine what was realistic and feasible.

The Mayor said this type of contract might be somewhat of an experiment. They had been back and forth with Robinson. They were a good, small local company that knew the area well. and was impressed with their work on Church Creek. He said they would be very productive regarding immediate fixes and would help augment the efforts of the City's Stormwater department, which was very busy with emergencies. He said the City needed help, a lot more engineering help. The contract would serve for the here and now, and the company as a "jack of all trades." This would be the go-to that would help augment the efforts of City staff.

Councilmember Parker said she understood the contract did not go through Procurement and asked what the point was of having a policy if \$200,000 contracts were just given out. She said the contract came through Ways and Means and questioned how many items crossed their desks without going through Procurement. She said the contract should be handled in the same manner as all the others.

The Mayor said he respected that and would take responsibility for it. Originally, it was supposed to be a staff position, but it proved difficult to find an engineer in the community. They decided to outsource it to see if it was beneficial. The contract was sole sourced, which was unique as there was not an immediate need. He said that if the need no longer existed or if it no longer proved

beneficial, the City would not authorize the contract again. The Mayor said he appreciated the uniqueness of the contract, and that was the reason for it coming that way.

Councilmember Parker asked if the company receiving the contract had projects going on in the City and if they were known for navigating the process. She also asked what the end goal of the \$200,000 was and if the contract term was for a year.

The Mayor said the contract was intended to be for one year. The scope was to look at a host of projects; some were identified on the water plan and others in stormwater. Several projects did not need a full-blown engineer until vetted. City engineers could facilitate the projects but were very busy with other stormwater and flooding issues. The contract would help augment staffing efforts while bringing engineering expertise on board. They would be able to navigate any potential conflicts. The bottom line was the City needed engineering help with flooding and stormwater because it was a growing concern.

Councilmember Gregorie asked the Mayor if he had said the contract was sole sourced.

The Mayor said they didn't do an RFQ, he was not sure how they would write it. It evolved out of a need to hire someone.

Councilmember Gregorie asked if it would be placed under Mr. Keane's section.

The Mayor said that initially, it was thought to be under Resiliency and Mr. McVey, but as they would be working so closely with Stormwater and Engineering, it made sense to be with Mr. Keane.

Chair Waring asked if there were any more questions.

On a motion by Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted to approve Item I2. The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Parker opposed.

Chair Waring said he had a question outside the scope and asked Mr. Somerville if the fencing along Ashley Hall Road signaled the beginning of the Lane Extension Project.

Mr. Somerville said he was not sure and would check. It was more than likely a DOT project.

Councilmember Parker said there was an SCDOT repaving project on Secessionville Road in an area where she had asked for the ditches and brush to be cleared. Any help from Mr. Somerville and/or Mr. Fountain to ask SCDOT to clear the area would be greatly appreciated as it was becoming a safety hazard.

Mr. Fountain said he agreed, and that it would be a good time for him and Mr. Somerville to support that clearing and speak with SCDOT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Sheila Smith
Clerk of Council's Office