

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Monday, April 11, 2022

A meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee was held this date A meeting of the Public Works and Utilities Committee was held this date held this date using Conference Call Number: 1-929-205-6099 and Access Code: 592 385 519 beginning at 4:35 pm. Notice of this meeting was sent to the news media.

PRESENT

Committee Members: Councilmember Perry K. Waring, Chair, Mayor John J. Tecklenburg, Councilmember A. Peter Shahid, Jr., Councilmember Ross A. Appel, Councilmember Mike Seekings and Councilmember Stephen M. Bowden. Also present was Councilmember Sakran, District Three and Councilmember Parker, District Twelve.

City Staff: Mr. Tom O'Brien Director of Public Service, Mr. Matthew Fountain, Director Storm Water Management, Mr. Jason Kronsberg, Director of Parks, Mr. Matt Alltop, Mrs. Julia Copeland, Corporation Counsel, Ms. Mallary Scheer, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Mrs. Melissa Cruthirds, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Mrs. Amy Wharton, Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Richard Jerue, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Mr. Dale Morris, Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor for Resilience, Mr. Jeremy Collins, Network Engineer and Ms. Jennifer Cook, Clerk of Council.

A. Invocation

Councilmember Bowden opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

B. Approval of Public Works and Utilities Committee Minutes:

1. March 7, 2022
2. March 21, 2022

On motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the March 7th and 21st minutes as distributed.

C. Request to Set a Public Hearing

1. Request to set a Public Hearing for the Closing and abandonment of a portion of Third Avenue.

Mr. Kronsberg displayed and reported on a rendering of the site. He noted it was a valuable piece of property owned by the City and it was valuable. He felt there needed to be some thought, a critical eye was needed to determine the land's future use before releasing it to the public.

The property was located directly across the marsh from Longborough. Many years ago the property was abandoned. Mr. Kronsberg felt the use could be a long linear park and if provided, an opportunity to defend the City against seal level rise. It was also a nice place for benches, a small walking trail or potentially bridged over to Longborough.

Councilmember Shahid asked to what advantage was the abandonment to the City and the property owner. In response Mrs. Copeland said currently the applicant was having trouble logging into the meeting. The applicant provided reasons for the abandonment, i.e. the existing tree on the property may damage her fence due to the City' lack of maintenance, a portion of her property was eroded and acquiring this portion would balance out the setbacks for a house she planned to build in the future.

Addressing Mrs. Copeland, Ms. Cook suggested having the applicant call into the meeting. Then asked the Chair if he wanted to wait to discuss this matter until such time the applicant was present.

In response to a question from Mayor Tecklenburg, Mr. O'Brien replied following an investigation with other departments and based upon the outcome a public hearing would be set if favorable. However, in this case and based upon the concerns of staff the matter was currently up for solely for discussion.

Mrs. Copeland noted one of the residents erected a fence as well as a structure that was housing a camper that encroached onto Third Avenue.

The Chair stated until such time the applicant could login, the Committee would consider Item E.

D. Old Business

None

E. Acceptance and Dedication of Streets

1. Authorization to notify SCDOT that the City will accept maintenance of a portion of a 5' concrete sidewalk within the r/w of Clements Ferry Road (S-33)

On motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Appel, the Committee voted unanimously to approve notifying SCDOT that the City would accept maintenance of a portion of a 5' concrete sidewalk within the r/w of Clements Ferry Road (S-33)the following acceptances and dedications

F. Temporary Encroachments Approved by Department of Public Service - for information only

1. **62 Spring Street - Taxidermy - installing right angle sign in City right-of-way.** This encroachment is temporary.
 1. **2343 Sturgeon Street - Install fence in City drainage easement.** This encroachment is temporary.
 2. **2143 Leopold Street- Install fence in City drainage easement.** This encroachment is temporary.
 3. **2145 Leopold Street- Install fence in City drainage easement.** This encroachment is temporary.
 4. **2560 Hatch Drive- Install fence in City drainage easement.** This encroachment is temporary.
 5. **202 Fell Point- Install fence in City drainage easement.** This encroachment is temporary.

6. **113 Captains Island - Install irrigation in City r/w.** This encroachment is temporary.
7. **211 King Street Install awning in City r/w.** This encroachment is temporary.

Mr. O'Brien conveyed staff reviewed and approved all of the encroachments.

Ms. Cook conveyed to the Chair the homeowner for Item C may be joining the meeting. Councilmember Seekings addressing the Chair conveyed, procedurally Item C was a request to set a public hearing. He didn't feel public comment was appropriate at this point. Though everyone was excited to have citizens listening in on the meeting at this point the information was for the Committee.

On motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Seekings the Committee voted unanimously to set a public hearing for the closing and abandonment of a portion of Third Avenue

G. Public Service Department Update

1. Report on Lease with the City of Folly Beach for six parking spaces at 2150 Milford Street.

Mr. O'Brien conveyed the City of Charleston entered into a lease agreement for six parking spaces with the City of Folly Beach for their sanitation vehicles.

The Chair acknowledged Councilmember Appel who stated the Real Estate Committee approved this matter unanimously.

Councilmember Seekings was concerned with Milford Street being so tightly packed for lack of vehicle space that the City was now leasing spaces to another entity. Mr. O'Brien replied staff located additional space that would not affect Fleet Operations.

On motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, the Committee voted unanimously to approve a lease with the City of Folly Beach for six parking spaces at 2150 Milford Street.

2. Discussion regarding delayed trash and garbage pickup issues and how to resolve (Requested by Councilmember Caroline Parker)

Councilmember Parker wanted an update on garbage pickup issues.

Mr. O'Brien replied Mr. Alltop had information to share with the Committee regarding delays. Mr. Alltop conveyed trash collection was running on time without issue. However there was an issue with yard debris in bulk. The current tonnage was 65% higher than normal. All hands were on deck working Fridays and Saturdays in an attempt to collect everything.

The Chair asked Mr. Alltop for a reason in the tonnage increase. Mr. Alltop replied there were some windstorms recently. Mr. Alltop noted the City did not have a full

complimentary staff at this time. They were working with Human Resources on recruiting and dealing with equipment repairs. He added the quickest way to notify the public of the delays would be to reach out to neighborhood associations and the PIO's office who utilized social media.

Councilmember Parker wanted to ensure the City recognized this as a priority for citizens. Mr. O'Brien stated last fall staff brought changes to the Committee for consideration. Staff was working on finalizing the changes and start enforcement.

Mayor Tecklenburg stated Mr. Fountain and Mr. O'Brien was working to make environmental services work more efficiently. He suggested Councilmember Parking helping the City and James Island work more efficient with collections especially where they shared citizens on the same street. He suggested revisiting the proposal whereby the City would pick up some of James Island customers on the same street as City collection and they in turn would do the same for citizens of Charleston. This would save time and efficiency.

Additionally, it would require additional funds, purchasing knuckle boom trucks operated by one person. Explore having citizens notify the department when debris removal was needed versus working streets that didn't have debris pickup. He felt this would increase efficiency and save money.

Councilmember Shahid thanked Mr. Fountain for being very responsive when issues arise. He echoed and supported Mayor Tecklenburg's comments. He thanked everyone for the job they were doing but added communication was still an issue that needed work.

Councilmember Appel said he found Mr. Fountain to be unbelievably responsive and very good. Addressing Councilmember Parker, Mr. Fountain would be the person to contact when issues arise. He said Mr. Fountain and his crew did an excellent job.

Additionally the fact that citizens can place something on the curb and the City of Charleston could come by and pick it up for free was a very unique. He stated it was simple economics when you offer a service for free people have not incentive to be judicious about what they're doing. He felt the City needed to charge a minimal cost for this service. It would be a good idea and help produce some of the excess demand that cause the City's infrastructure to buckle. Fees could be reinvested in the department and create a more virtuous cycle. Though there were a lot of citizens that were reasonable with what they put out onto the curb, but there were some with high expectations

3. Discussion regarding access issues to F and I streets for sanitation
(Requested by Chairman Keith Waring)

The Chair conveyed last Friday at 4:10 pm there was an issue with collection and he reached out to Mr. Fountain and Mr. O'Brien who was in Syracuse, both responded. It turned out the street was too small for the City's truck to traverse the street. Mr. O'Brien stated he would send an email to all Councilmembers with his and Mr. Fountain's telephone numbers.

Mr. O'Brien conveyed he along with Mr. Fountain participated in a neighborhood meeting a month ago where they discussed the proposed housing development that could affect the rerouting of some routes at F and I Streets. He mentioned Deputy Chief Cruz had drone video of trucks trying to maneuver up and down the dead end road. One suggestion, Mr. O'Brien planned to discuss with Mr. Robert Somerville, Director of Traffic and Transportation, eliminating parking on one side of the street on collection days.

Mr. Alltop added Deputy Chief Cruz told him an hour ago the drone footage should be available to view next week. Currently staff drove a small garbage pickup truck backwards down the street for garbage collection. He noted there were small alleyway in Charleston but none were as small as F and I Streets.

The Chair thanked Mr. Alltop and Mr. O'Brien.

H. Stormwater Management Department Update

1. Update on Calhoun West Project (Requested by Councilmember Michael Seekings).

Mr. Fountain displayed and reported on the PowerPoint presentation entitled "Stormwater Management Department, CALHOUN WEST STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE MARCH 2022."

Work to Date

- Complied information on drainage infrastructure
- Built computer model of the area - 815 acres
- Used model to develop conceptual "Short Term" protective approaches
- Used model to develop conceptual "Long Term" project approach
- Began implementation of selected short term projects

Next Steps

- Medical District Tunnel Extension- Complete construction in 2023
- Low Battery Outfall Improvements - Complete Phase 3 in 2023 and Phase 4 in 2024
- Brick Arch Upfit - Pilot Project Construction Complete in 2022; Identify funding for additional project work
- Pump Booster at Limehouse - Identify funding to take concept work to final design/permit
- MUSC Pump Station Upfit - RFQ for design team in 2022
- VA Basin Pump Station - Continue Coordination with VA as design progress; define level of additional City improvement
- Calhoun/Alberta Long Lake - Determine in 295 Calhoun Progresses

Councilmember Seekings thanked Mr. Fountain making the information stating this was time very well spent. He noted there were some things that could provide relief, he would love to see the City pursue the MUSC Pump Station and the knee wall at Lockwood and Broad Streets.

Mr. Fountain stated there were two areas out there, Courtney Street Corridor Pump Station, staff was looking to repair and upfit over the next few years in order to improve performance in the area. Second, the Calhoun Street Corridor, staff needed to look at a concept plan. In response to a question from the Chair. Mr. Fountain replied funding was needed in order to get the Calhoun Street concept plan going, approximately a few hundred thousand dollars to get it going.

The Chair asked for staff to come up with a plan and budget of what it would take to complete some of these projects so that when the funds became available the project could be executed. He felt it would be money well spent. Councilmember Seekings agreed with the Chair. He mentioned the City would not be starting from scratch having spent approximately \$2M already with Davis and Floyd looking at short and long term solutions. If the City allocated money it would be to complete work that was really already well along the way with some collective knowledge already in the hands of the people who would be completing it. With regards to the Calhoun West Corridor and the Medical District Corridor, the City was going to have to pay attention to it regardless of what the bigger picture looked like.

Mayor Tecklenburg conveyed they recently learned of a \$4M allocations to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with regards to the MUSC pump upgrades, relevant to the Spring Fishburne Corridor. He said the City needed to meet with them to verify.

Additionally, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) was going to make major upgrades to their hospital. The City was working with Congresswoman Nancy Mace's office to ensure the VA receives funding for that pump station. The archway tunnel, he said he was still making the case to Christy A. Hall, P.E. Secretary of Transportation South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). The archway tunnels were located underneath SCDOT streets. Hence, Secretary Hall was committed to helping the City find funding to continue the effort to clean and fortify the archway tunnels.

Mayor Tecklenburg felt the missing link was considering doing the knee wall now or in phases. He felt within the next two years or so the City would be able to use some of the TIF on Long Lake and the Calhoun Street pump station. The Mayor wanted to share some of his thoughts that might help move some of the projects along and help pay for them. The Chair thanked the Mayor.

2. Update on Cooper/Jackson (Upper East Side) Project

Mr. Fountain displayed and reported on a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Stormwater Management Department, COOPER JACKSON STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS UPPER EAST SIDE UPDATE MARCH 2022."

Work to Date

- Cleaned 10,000' of stormwater pipe
- Partially surveyed drainage infrastructure and conditions
- Built computer model of the area

- Used model to evaluate impact of improvement project options on current and future flooding
- Gathering additional community information for design/permitting

Next Steps

- 6 to 2 Years - Design/permitting of improvements and potential road realignment
- 2 to 4 years - Construction of Improvements

In response to a comment from Mayor Tecklenburg Mr. Fountain replied staff tried to future proof projects. Hence it would be cheaper to expand in the future.

The Chair thanked Mr. Fountain for his presentation.

3. Presentation of Small Project Funding Allocation for FY 2022.

Mr. Fountain displayed and reported on displayed and reported on a PowerPoint presentation entitled “FY2022 Small Project Allocation Options.”

1. Harborsun Ditch Stabilization - Design/Construction to repair and stabilize a drainage structure
2. Savannah Hwy Sidewalk Drainage Improvements - Design/permitting/construction of shoulder stabilization relive sidewalk and front yard flooding
3. Sandhurst Conveyance Improvement and Outfall Maintenance - Install upland storage, improve pipe conveyances, maintain marsh area outfall system
4. Willow Walk Rear Yard Swale Upland Phase - Construction of stormwater detention in rear yard system
5. Lochmore Terrace Drainage Project - Remove trees and construct swale in easement
6. Ferguson Village Drainage Project -Obtain easements and connect ditch system
7. Anita Dr at Magnolia Drainage Project - Acquire easement on outfall ditch/pipe system to connect to bikeway drainage system
8. Howle Ave Greenbelt Pond Design and Finishing - Design plans for DRC and permitting and finish construction work following county excavation
9. Asbury Place Pipe Upsizing - Upsize end of pipe system to match upstream system
10. Oak Forest Outfall System Improvements - Permitting of maintenance, obtain gratis easement, a?? system in support of canal maintenance
11. Wagner Terrace Outfall Permitting and Cleaning - Permitting of Outfall maintenance and then contracted outfall cleaning of multiple outfalls
12. Rebellion Road Outfall Cleaning Hazelwood/Taberwood Pipe Upsizing - Permitting of Outfall maintenance and then contracted outfall cleaning of two outfalls
13. Hazelwood/Taberwood Pipe Upsizing - Upsizing neighborhood crosspipes and selected driveway pipes
14. Dunbar St Area Flood Storage Project - Design and construct additional stormwater storage along the city parcel in the area

Councilmember Bowden asked what the time frame for the Committee to consider and take a vote on the small projects was. Mr. Fountain replied staff planned to return two meeting from now to discuss in more detail. In the interim he would send highlights of the small projects to include the district and photos. The Chair asked Mr. Fountain to distribute the information to the full body of Council so they would be aware of what was going on within their districts. He thanked Mr. Fountain for putting this together

Mrs. Wharton mentioned on May 5th the Ad Hoc Budget Advisory Committee will be meeting to go over the drainage funds as it relates to these projects.

Mayor Tecklenburg commented he found this to be very exciting. The Chair said we are getting things done. He felt 10K feet of pipe needed to be reported and on the news.

J. Miscellaneous or Other New Business

None

On motion of Councilmember Appel, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:58 pm.

Vanessa Ellington
Clerk of Council's Office