



City of Charleston
Committee on Public Works & Utilities
October 27, 2025

A meeting of the Committee on Public Works & Utilities was held this date beginning at 5:02 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, and Councilmember Seekings.

Also Present: Matt Alltop, Ron Bucci, Jennifer Cook, Julia Copeland, Magalie Creech, Elizabeth Dieck, Matthew Fountain, Steve Kirk, Hampton Logan, Sheila Smith, and Robbie Somerville.

Link to meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkqdZzwu3cs>

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. **September 22, 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

None.

F. Temporary Encroachments Approved by The Department of Development Services (For information only)

1. **40 Line St. - Installing two blade signs encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.**
2. **32 Cumberland St - Installing blade sign encroaching into City right or way. This encroachment is temporary.**
3. **185 Saint Philip St. - Installing sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.**

4. **425 Meeting St. - Installing right angle sign encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.**
5. **559 Old Compass Rd. - Installing irrigation encroaching into City right of way. This encroachment is temporary.**
6. **2011 Bees Ferry Rd. - Installing temporary erosion controls into City maintained right of ways. These encroachments are temporary.**

Mr. Bucci explained that all the items presented were for information only.

G. Request for Permanent Encroachments

None.

H. Public Service Department Update

1. **Director Updates**

None.

I. Department of Development Services Update

None.

J. Stormwater Management Department Update

1. **Cooper/Jackson Drainage Project - Discussion regarding application for a U.S. Economic Development Administration Public Works Grant for installation of drainage improvements in the area of Morrison Drive at Grace Bridge St.**

Mr. Fountain said the item was for an update to the Public Works Utilities Committee that depended on how the federal shutdown shifted when the grant application came through. It would be for the information submitted when the federal government reopened and for the Economic Development Administration Grant application for the Cooper/Jackson Project, specifically for the component along Morrison Drive and the outfalls through Morrison. It was the economic engine portion of the project that worked well in the grant's cost benefit assessments. They spoke with the agency prior to the shutdown and plan to pick up with the discussions when the agency reopens. That would be roughly a \$2M application for about a \$5M component of that project work.

Councilmember Gregg asked what the ultimate scope of the work in that area was.

Mr. Fountain said the Cooper/Jackson project was on the Upper East Side where they had looked to improve the drainage corridor. It was from where the major speed hump was on Morrison Drive to where the box culverts sit near the parking lot where the old bridge corridor came through. They would upsize the culverts through that section, up back through the parking lot, and then down Lee Street almost all the way to Meeting Street. They would also provide improvements along Aiken and America, basically the whole Cooper River Bridge TIFF district, to improve the ability to drain out during lower tide events. It would need either pumping or some kind of tidal barrier to be able to handle the flooding during a major tide with heavy rain. It would let it drain out quicker and prevent flooding during lower tide events.

2. **Spring/Fishburne Project - Approval of Change Order No.1 to the Lockwood Drive PS Maintenance Service Agreement with Harper General Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$500,020.96 for sediment removal from the Pump Station shaft in preparation of the main pump commissioning. Funding is available within the Project Budget**

Mr. Fountian said the item was a component of the Spring/Fishburne project. The system was opened for gravity flow to get things going before the pumps were installed. Sediment had accumulated in the system, and the City did not have the primary pumps that could lift and recirculate the sediment. A higher sediment load would also occur with Startup when initially connected. The City signed a contract with one of their specialty maintenance contractors to provide full removal of the sediment so when the primary engines were started, they would not take that heavy sediment load that could potentially damage the engines. It would be a one-time expense associated with the capital project as part of getting the gravity flow early and was within the existing project budget. Once the system was fully functional, it was designed to keep the sediment in suspension and would remove it as it intakes.

Chair Waring said he could see the pump building coming in from West Ashley and it was looking good. He asked when would the pumps be delivered and installed?

Mr. Fountian said the physical pumps were in and the engines were in the process of being installed. They would be tested, started and programmed and it would be spring 2026 for them to be functional. There were listed and contractual items that followed, but the primary pump system should start to work in the spring, so, close to the end.

Councilmember Gregg officially requested to be on the invite list for the startup because it could be pretty cool.

Mr. Fountain said absolutely and agreed it would be great. The BAR staff worked on it. They had the mockups, and the color panels and Josh spent time on the lettering, also Jason, and of course the Mayor's Office. It had come together very well.

Chair Waring agreed and said it looked like good quality and congratulated them.

On a motion by Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Item J2.

K. Miscellaneous Business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Sheila Smith
Clerk of Council's Office