

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

Monday, January 24, 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 4:31 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 Mike Seeking and Councilmember Ross A. Appel. Also present was Councilmember Bowden, District 10.

City Staff: Mr. Tom O'Brien Director of Public Service, Mr. Matthew Fountain, Director Storm Water Management, Mr. Daniel McQueeney, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Mrs. Stirling Halversen, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Ms. Mallary Scheer, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Mr. Christopher Morgan, Director Planning and Sustainability, Mr. Richard Jerue, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, Mrs. Tracy McKee, Chief Innovation Officer, Mr. Andrew Dickson, Network Engineer, Ms. Velvett Simmons, Assistant Clerk of Council and Ms. Vanessa Ellington, Administrative Assistant.

A. Invocation

Councilmember Seeking opened the meeting with an invocation.

B. Approval of Public Works and Utilities Committee Minutes:

1. January 10, 2022 – Deferred

C. Request to Set a Public Hearing

None

D. Old Business

None

E. Acceptance and Dedication of Streets

1. Authorization to notify SCDOT that the City will accept maintenance of the right-of-way of Maybank Highway in conjunction with the project at 1800 Produce Lane.

On motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve authorization to notify SCDOT that the City will accept maintenance of the right-of-way of Maybank Highway in conjunction with the project at 1800 Produce Lane.

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

1. 346 East Bay Street – Installing non-standard pipe materials in the right-of-way. This encroachment is temporary
2. 2705 Doubletree Court – Installing fence encroaching in the City drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.
3. 314 Bayley Road – Installing irrigation encroaching in the City right-of-way. This encroachment is temporary.

4. 3563 Springmire Court – Installing fence encroaching in the City drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.
5. 307 Bayley Road – Installing fence encroaching in the City’s drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.
6. 556 Lesesne Street – Installing irrigation encroaching in the City right-of-way. The encroachment is temporary.
7. 151 Brailsford Street – Installing irrigation encroaching in the City right-of-way. The encroachment is temporary.
8. 2921 Calvacade Circle – Installing fence encroaching in the City’s drainage easement. This encroachment if temporary.

Mr. O’Brien conveyed all of the encroachments were inspected and approved by staff. He mentioned the City was allowing use of a double pipe at 346 Eastbay Street.

G. Public Service Department Update

None

H. Stormwater Management Department Update

1. King/Huger Drainage Project – Recommend approval to apply for a FEMA HMGP grant for the design and construction of a pump station (Project Phase 2) at the intersection of Huger and King Streets. Total funding request of \$9,582, 143.00 (Federal Share \$7,186, 607.25 and City Match of 42, 395, 535.75). The City match is available within the Drainage Fund.

Councilmember Shahid mad a motion to approve the King/Huger Drainage Project – apply for a FEMA HMGP grant for the design and construction of a pump station (Project Phase 2) at the intersection of Huger and King Streets. Total funding request of \$9,582, 143.00 (Federal Share \$7,186, 607.25 and City Match of 42, 395, 535.75). The City match is available within the Drainage Fund. Mayor Tecklenburg seconded the motion.

Councilmember Appel asked Mr. Fountain how many pumps were currently on the peninsula. Mr. Fountain replied there was a smaller pump station located off of Bravo Street, a midsize pump station at Concord Street, Spring/Fishburne Streets and King/Huger Streets.

Councilmember Appel felt it important for the public to know, that for so of there was a reliance totally upon gravity, slopes, ditches and pipes. There was only so much gravity could do in our Lowcountry. Changing the approach in a fundamental way was another example of how The City was getting serious about moving water around.

The Chair stated he couldn’t agree more. He mentioned the Mayor mentioned the Spring/Fishburne pump could move one million gallons of water per minute. Mr. Fountain said there were three pumps there moving stormwater out during rain events.

Mayor Tecklenburg thanked the Charleston Housing Authority who allowed the City to place the pump station on their property.

Councilmember Seeking asked whether there would be backup generator capabilities. Mr. Fountain replied that was one of the options but purchasing one depended upon the amount of funding the City acquired. Councilmember Seekings asked if this would be a good idea. Mr. Fountain replied yes it would for this location. King and Huger Streets were used during emergency events. It was a very important corridor which was part of the reason why it was a

priority project. Additionally, it served the affordable housing complex and businesses within the area.

The Committee voted on the motion and it was unanimously approve.

2. Johns island Resiliency Plan – Discussion of Project Report

Mr. Fountain displayed and reported on a PowerPoint presentation entitled Stormwater Management Department, JOHNS ISLAND RESTORATION PLAN TO IMPROVE FLOOD RESILIENCY PW&U COMMITTEE JANUARY 2022. A copy was included in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Shahid and the Committee members thanked Mr. Fountain for his presentation.

The Chair asked Mr. Fountain whether the screen buffers were opened or clogged when they get to the outfall. Mr. Fountain replied some of the outfalls could be enhanced but not totally cleaned.

Councilmember Shahid felt this was a lot of work. Mr. Fountain replied it was a collaboration of a lot of people on Johns Island working very hard for over a year. Money wise, staff was looking at increments, manageable bites as a way to proceed with the project. The screen buffer could be done at staff level however, from a stormwater perspective an ordinance drafting process was needed with outreach from the community. Currently, the focus was on the funded Barberry Woods project, the stream buffers. Other projects would be considered.

Mayor Tecklenburg felt the City was moving in the right direction. He concurred with Mr. Fountain, the ordinances should be worked on and brought back to this Committee for review. The Chair agreed.

3. Medical District Tunnel Extension at Ehrhardt – Project Update

Mr. Fountain He displayed and report on a PowerPoint presentation Stormwater Management Department MEDICAL DISTRICT TUNNEL EXTENSION AT EHRHARDT STREET PW&U COMMITTEE JANUARY 2022.

Mr. Fountain conveyed the construction bids were in and following staff review a recommendation would be presented at the next Committee meeting. He noted this was the concept to extend the deep tunnel system from Sprint/Fishburne into the Medical District.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Fountain replied he would have to double check but the size of the pipe would either be a 6-foot or 8-foot tunnel add on. The yellow line indicated a connection to a cross tunnel at President Street, a bigger tunnel that was being tied into. He noted the second reason was that the area was owned by the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). They are dedicating the easement to the City of Charleston making it a straight forward project given it was so deep underground. This made the project straight forward to obtain the easement.

Councilmember Shahid asked did MUSC own the 27-acres. Mr. Fountain using the map presented and oriented Councilmember Shahid with the properties and its owners.

Councilmember Appel asked Mr. Fountain if there was any state funding forthcoming for this project. Though he loved MUSC, as public entity he wasn't sure they paid public taxes. Mayor Tecklenburg thanked Governor Henry McMaster for his help, agreed to do so ever since his visit to the Spring/Fishburne project. However, as things ended up working out, that was the year Covid-19 hit resulting with delays. The City would not have received federal funds without the assistance from the Governor. He noted MUSC also advocated on behalf of the City throughout the process.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mayor Tecklenburg replied the amount awarded to the City was approximately \$10M.

Continuing Mr. Fountain reported the following,

Background

- City Design Effort from Calhoun West Prelim Engineering 2019
- Funding Options Discussed
- City Design Completed in 2020
- Easement Dedicated
- HUD Application in 2020
- Grant Award in 2021
- HUD ESA
- Release of Funds Approved
- Construction Docs
- Project Bid Phase

Project Impact

- Medical District
 - Employs 25,000 People
 - Serves 400,000 Patients Per year including 75,000 Veterans
 - 120 Businesses
 - 25% of Population Served is LMI
- Opportunity to Leverage - \$200 Million Spring/Fishburne Project
- \$150M HUD CDBG MIT Grant

Next Steps

- February 2022 – construction Contract Award to PW&U/Council
- Spring 2022 – Tunnel Extension Construction Start
- 2022 – S/F Ph 4 Completed with Gravity Outfall Functional
- End of 2022 – S/F Ph 5 Construction Start
- End of 2023 – Tunnel Extension Complete with Gravity Drainage
- 2024 – S/F Ph 5 Completed to Add Pumping Capacity

The Chair asked if the property would be able to drain with only one intake. Mr. Fountain replied yes. The Ehrhardt basin when completed would be able to drain into the Spring/Fishburne project without major infrastructure work on the street level. He said it would be very expensive just because of how much stuff was currently in the ground in the medical district.

Councilmember Shahid asked if there were any other revenue sources available. Mr. Fountain replied he would have to talk with Mrs. Wharton, CFO, Budget Finance and Revenue Collections to see whether any funds were available. Councilmember Shahid didn't want to miss an opportunity to tap into any available funds.

Mayor Tecklenburg thanked Mr. Fountain Mr. Frank Newham, Senior Engineering Project Manager and Mr. Steve Kirk, Senior Engineering Project Manager on pulling this together. He wanted to remind the Committee the City took a risk taking on this project. Normally on Capital projects the City would not spend money getting the engineer and design work done before having funds for the project. However, in this case, feeling there was a good chance of receiving the grant with the support of the Governor and knowing the timing of the Spring/Fishburne project, it was important to move the project forward. Council approved the funding to proceed. MUSC was very thankful to the City. Mayor Tecklenburg said it was quite a feat to pull off, thanking everyone. The Chair agreed.

The Chair asked who made the motion and seconded. Councilmember Shahid said he made the motion and Mayor Tecklenburg said he seconded the motion.

With regards to the expansion of the Committee members, he asked Mr. McQueeney, whether the Committee needed to vote on the proposed increase to the membership. Mayor Tecklenburg replied the ordinance changing the membership would be voted upon at the upcoming City Council meeting.

Ms. Ellington asked the Chair of the six Councilmembers present who were the voting members of the committee.

Mayor Tecklenburg replied going by the way the names appeared on the Standing Committee list, and with all due respect to Councilmember Bowden, he would not be a voting member until the ordinance was approved. The Mayor apologized for not communicating that to Councilmember Bowden.

Mayor Tecklenburg had one request given the matter would be of particular importance to this Committee, the City of Charleston and given the Committee has a couple of new members he wanted to let everyone know about the relocation of the relocation of the Public Works facilities. The City received notification of the relocation of the Public Works facilities last year. It's been go through the procurement process to hire a consultant, to help with the space and move, an architectural firm to help with the design of the future facility. He thought it appropriate for Mr. O'Brien to ask a gentleman named Edmund to give an update and subsequently quarterly updates. Over the next year and half this project would be unfolding. He thought it important to determine the what, where and when we would build and to house public works facility in the future.

The Chair asked how long the City had to be in the current location. Mayor Tecklenburg replied the way the agreement worked was they can give the City a three-year notice and the City had to be out. The Mayor felt it was incumbent upon the City to get moving because they were going to start coming out of the ground next year. Though they hadn't given the City notice the Mayor felt it was time to get something going. The Chair said he agreed because three years was not a lot to get something designed and built especially in a hurricane prone regions.

Mr. O'Brien said he would be glad to speak with Edmund and get something set up.

I. **Miscellaneous or Other New Business**

By acclamation the Committee adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Vanessa Ellington
Clerk of Council's Office