

Committee on Public Works & Utilities

May 23, 2022

A meeting of the Committee on Public Works & Utilities was held this date beginning at 3:05 p.m. over video conference call.

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

Present: Councilmember Peter Shahid, Vice Chair, Councilmember Ross Appel, Councilmember Stephen Bowden, and Mayor John Tecklenburg. **Also Present:** Julia Copeland, Tracy McKee, Rick Jerue, Mallary Scheer, Matthew Fountain, Melissa Cruthirds, Tom O'Brien, Matt Alltop, Rachel Castell, Jeremy Collins, Magalie Creech, Amy Wharton, Councilmember Boyd Gregg, Vanessa Ellington, and Andrea Derungs, recording.

Councilmember Shahid called the meeting to order.

A. Invocation

The meeting was opened with an invocation provided by Councilmember Bowden.

B. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Appel, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of May 9, 2022.

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 Public Service (For information only).

- 1. 141 Nobels Point-Installing irrigation in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.**
- 2. 193 King Street-Placing two benches in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.**
- 3. 203 Captain Goddard Road-Installing irrigation in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.**
- 4. 556 Lesesne Street-Installing fence in a City drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.**
- 5. 41 Broad Street-Bringardner Law Firm-Installing right angle sign in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.**
- 6. 402 Fish Tale Road-Installing fence in a City drainage easement. This encroachment is temporary.**

7. 342 East Bay Street-Push Digital-Installing right angle sign in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.

8. 54 Watroo Point-Installing specialty driveway in the City r/w. This encroachment is temporary.

Tom O'Brien said that all of the temporary encroachments had been investigated by staff and recommended all of them to ultimately be approved and was presenting them to the Committee for informational purposes only. Councilmember Shahid clarified the position of the benches near 193 King Street and made sure they wouldn't block the pedestrian walkways.

G. Public Service Department Update

1. Proposed Changes to Trash Collection Methods (Information Only)

Mr. O'Brien introduced Matt Alltop, an Environmental Services Supervisor, and invited him to make a short presentation concerning potential improvements to City trash collection methods.

Mr. Alltop said that his team had examined different collection systems and explored ways to convert from the established method using claws and scows to potentially using a knuckleboom and claw based system. At the time, the City utilized six claws and three dump trucks per claw to pick up yard debris and bulk items. At times, when they had enough employees on hand they would use a knuckleboom system. However, that required four pieces of equipment per route which could not be manned by their available staff and supplies. The City was using 27 pieces of collection equipment, but moving to a knuckleboom system, on routes outside of the downtown peninsula, reduced the number of necessary vehicles to 22, reduced the estimated annual equipment cost by nearly \$150,000, reduced estimated annual maintenance costs by \$83,000, and reduced estimated annual fuel costs by nearly \$50,000. In addition, the new system would increase waste pick up capacity by nearly 41,600 cubic yards while simultaneously reducing the estimated total collection cost from \$11.16 per cubic yard to \$7.59 per cubic yard. Finally, this proposal reduced the number of necessary department employees by 5 positions. No layoffs would be necessary, because savings would be gained by closing several posted vacant positions. In total, these proposals were estimated to save the city over \$520,000 per year by adopting a new bulk waste collection system. Mr. Alltop and Mr. O'Brien said that this project and the necessary budget adjustments would be phased in over the next four years and would focus on purchasing three new knuckleboom-based pieces of equipment every year until 2026.

H. Stormwater Management Department Update

1. Small Project Allocation-Approve annual allocations from the small project list.

Matt Fountain showed a budget breakdown concerning the allocations for multiple small projects being conducted throughout the City. A series of drainage, stabilization, and cleaning projects were expected to consume the departmental budget for 2022, 2023, and part of 2024's expected allocations. This would make it more difficult to add new projects through 2024, but helped to outline where resources were being allocated as certain projects were completed. Mayor Tecklenburg asked if there were any anticipated projects that were not listed and Mr. Fountain said that this was a comprehensive list of all the identified issues that had been approved for consideration and completion.

On a motion by Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Appel, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed allocation budget.

2. Spring Fishburne-Update on progress of the project.

Mr. Fountain gave a presentation updating the Committee on the progress of the drainage improvements being conducted in the Spring/Fishburne district. The latest phase of construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2022 with the installation of bar screens, discharge piping, dewatering pumps, an automated debris removal system, backup electrical generators, three outfall box culverts and a large pump station wet well-all run by computer controlled systems that would result in at least a 500% flow rate increase in district drainage. This phase of the overall project had been delayed by almost three months because of weather delays, COVID-19 impacts, and logistical/supply challenges. According to the construction schedule, final pump installation and completion of the associated Medical District tunnel and drop shaft extension were anticipated to be finished by the end of 2023.

Councilmember Appel asked about the relative size of this project compared to other jurisdictions in the United States and Mr. Fountain said that it was considered a significant project that utilized multiple methods of stormwater management on a large scale that will have transformative effects on the peninsula.

Mayor Tecklenburg asked about anticipated maintenance plans and Mr. Fountain said that the pumps can be used to remove material from the system and lower the water levels to the point where maintenance crews could address any issues with the primary pumps and systems.

Mayor Tecklenburg reminded the Committee that this project was supported by State-funded transportation budgets because of the transformative effect this project would have on continuous access to the Septima Clark Parkway and Medical District.

I. Miscellaneous Business

1. Approval of a permanent encroachment permit to the Ralph H. Johnson VA Health Care System, specific to the parking garage project currently underway, and subject to the approval as to form by City staff and Legal Department.

On a motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Bowden, the Committee voted unanimously to amend the agenda and add Item I for discussion and approval.

Julia Copeland said that the VA Hospital was trying to rebuild their parking garage, utilizing the Army Corps of Engineers, but it required a permanent encroachment to build the structure over existing City water lines and Mr. Fountain was available answer any additional logistical questions.

Mr. Fountain said the hospital planned to build a second parking deck on the southern end of their existing parking structure. Based on federal funding timelines, the project manager wanted to move to a design build procurement stage to finalize design on the project and begin construction by early 2023. This required assurances from the City that the project was meeting the necessary permit and environmental standard requirements. There was an anticipated two phases to the project. The construction team would focus on the parking deck as a structural project in phase one, and then complete the necessary stormwater and infrastructural improvements to the area in phase two. At the time, there was a 60 inch concrete pipe that ran through the center of the existing parking deck that functioned as a stormwater outfall. During phase one of the project, the pipe would remain in place, however, during phase two the pipe would need to be relocated by the construction team as part of the infrastructural and stormwater improvement efforts.

Councilmember Shahid asked about the assumed liability in this scenario and Ms. Copeland said the City could add some coverage in the contract to protect the City as much as possible.

Mayor Tecklenburg said that because of the complicated nature of procuring federal funding through traditional VA channels, this project had a very narrow window for approval and implementation. By completing this parking project, the VA Hospital could continue its anticipated improvement projects that could benefit the 75,000 veterans living throughout the Lowcountry. With the legal protection provided by Ms. Copeland, Mayor Tecklenburg advised that the Committee approve this request to maintain good relations with the VA and its associated stakeholders.

Councilmember Appel asked if the contractor was required to post a bond in the City's favor, in case of project issues, and Mr. Fountain said that that should be a part of the discussion during the design build phase and Ms. Copeland could help ensure that the permits to properly protect the project would be incorporated.

On a motion by Councilmember Appel, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve Item I.

Having no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Patrick Carlson

Clerk of Council