

# City of Charleston Public Service Files, 1964-1983

## Descriptive Summary

### Title and Dates:

City of Charleston Public Service Files, 1964-1983

### Creators:

Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E., 1978-1980

Mario J. Ciappa, 1980-1983

F. M. Searson, Jr., 1964-1965

Charles Rector, 1965

Byron Beck, 1965-1983

### Quantity:

4 cubic ft.

### Forms of Material:

Correspondence, reports, contracts, invoices, legal papers, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, articles, maps, plats, and photographs

### Processed by:

Rebecca Schultz and Anna Simpkins, 2014

## Abstract:

The files of the directors of the City of Charleston Public Services Department, with the bulk of material falling between 1978 and 1983 along with files from the Electric Division under three supervisors dating from 1964 to 1983. The collection consists of the papers of two directors who supervised the department during the subject years, Harold B. Nielson, Jr. and Mario J. Ciappa. The collection also contains the papers of the Electrical Division under two City Electricians, Charles S. Rector and Byron Beck, and one Acting City Electrician, F.M. Searson, Jr. These records document the City's efforts to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents through the enforcement of building and environmental codes, the maintenance of public right of ways, and the development of a stormwater management system.

## Background

The Department of Public Service was established in 1924 under the direction of Mayor Thomas Porcher Stoney. At that time, the department was composed of six main divisions: the Central Office Division; Construction Division; Division of Street Lighting, Fire and Police Telegraph, and Electrical Inspection; the Stables, Shops, and Equipment Division; the Street Cleaning and Waste Collection Division; and the Maintenance Division. The organization of the department changed over the years with some divisions being combined, eliminated or otherwise amended.

During the time period covered by the collection, the Department of Public Service went through some rather sweeping changes. In the 1975 Code of Ordinances, the department consisted of just four divisions: Engineering, Sanitation and Maintenance, Zoning, and Inspections. In subsequent years, the

Zoning Division moved to the Department of Planning and Urban Development while the Sanitation and Maintenance Division was separated into the Sanitation Division, the Streets and Sidewalks Division, and the Shops and Equipment Division. In 1979, the Department of Electricity became the Division of Electrical and Communications under the auspices of the Public Service Department. The following year, an ordinance transferred the George M. Lockwood Municipal Marina from the Department of Special Facilities to the Department of Public Service. Towards the end of this record series, the Shops and Equipment Division was transferred to the Executive Department where it eventually became known as the Fleet Management Division.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of the files of two directors, Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E. (1977 – July 1980) and Mario J. Ciappa (August 1980 – 1983), along with the papers of three City Electricians, F. M. Searson (1964 – 1965), Charles S. Rector (1965), and Byron Beck (1965 – 1983). The collection is thus separated into five distinct series, organized chronologically as well as topically. The material found in the collection includes internal and external office correspondence, reports and studies, manuals and pamphlets, invoices, legal papers, deeds, plats, maps, and site plans, ordinances, meeting minutes, zoning request forms, newspaper articles and advertisements, and photographs.

Under Nielson's and Ciappa's leadership the divisions that made up the Department of Public Service were party to a number of significant renovations and improvements occurring in Charleston during this time period. A few projects of note include renovations to the Josiah Smith Tennent House, City Hall, and the Heyward-Washington House, as well as, improvements to the Lockwood Marina, Rice Mill Building, Garden Theatre, Gaillard Auditorium, and Shaw Community Center. The construction of The Charleston Center and accompanying Meeting Street renovation is another project of importance which transpired throughout the subject period. In administrative discussions, several subjects of interest predominate, including environmental concerns, rehabilitation efforts in the City's Eastside neighborhoods, and stormwater drainage problems. The records of the City Electricians include documentation of bandstand use, street lighting records and complaints or requests to the Department.

### **Series List**

- Series I – Harold B. Nielson, Jr., P.E., Files, 1975-1981 (bulk 1978-1980), Boxes 1 and 2
- Series II – Mario J. Ciappa, 1976-1983 (bulk 1980-1982), Boxes 2 and 3
- Series III - F. M. Searson, Jr., City Electrician, 1964-1965, Box 4
- Series VI - Charles Rector, Acting City Electrician, 1965, Box 4
- Series V - Byron Beck, City Electrician, 1965-1983, Box 4

**Container List****Box Folder**

*Harold Nielson Files:*

1	1	Administrative Services, 1978
1	2	Administrative Services, 1979
1	3	Administrative Services, January-July 1980
1	4	Airport, 1978-1979
1	5	Board of Adjustments, 1978
1	6	Board of Adjustments, 1979
1	7	Board of Adjustments, January-July 1980
1	8	Budget, 1979
1	9	Budget, 1979-1980
1	10	Building Inspection, 1979
1	11	Building Inspections, 1978
1	12	Building Inspections, January-July 1980
1	13	Charleston Council of Architects, 1978
1	14	Charleston Mapping Program, 1977-1978
1	15	Committees, 1978-1979
1	16	Complaints, 1978-1979
1	17	Consultant Studies, 1979-1980
1	18	Corporation Council, 1979
1	19	Corporation Council, January-July 1980
1	20	Department Heads, 1978-1979
1	21	Department Work Orders, 1977-1979 (bulk 1978)
1	22	Dockside Condominiums, 1979
1	23	Driveways, 1978-1979
1	24	Economic Development Administration, 1978
1	25	Electrical, 1978
1	26	Electrical, 1979
1	27	Fennessey, Marion C., 1977-1978
1	28	Ferrara, Robert, 1977-1980
1	29	Garage, 1978-1979
1	30	Goodson, Joe M., 1978
1	31	Hurricanes, 1976
1	32	Indigo Inn, 1978-1979
1	33	King Street Complex, 1978-1979
1	34	King Street Complex Land Acquisition, 1978-1979
1	35	Lockwood Marina, 1977-July 1980
1	36	Lockwood Marina Operating Statements, 1978-1980
1	37	Lot Cleaning, 1977-1979
1	38	Market – Market Street Area, 1977-1979
1	39	Mayor, 1979
1	40	Mayor, January-July 1980
1	41	Murray, William – Property, 1977
1	42	National Park Service Tour Boat Facility, 1978
1	43	Neighborhood Councils, 1979
1	44	Neighborhood Housing Service, 1978
1	45	Newspaper Recovery Program, 1978

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
2	1	North Charleston Sewer District, 1975-1977
2	2	Ombudsman, 1978
2	3	Ombudsman, 1979
2	4	Parsell Property, 1979
2	5	Personnel Department, 1978-1979
2	6	Personnel Study, 1977
2	7	Plat Requirements, 1978
2	8	Public Service Announcements, 1978-1980
2	9	Receptacles – Litter Prevention, 1976
2	10	Saint Francis Hospital, 1977-1979
2	11	Salary Information, 1978
2	12	Sanitation, 1978
2	13	Sanitation, 1979
2	14	Sanitation, January-July 1980
2	15	Shaw Center Expansion, 1978-1979
2	16	Special Facilities, 1979
2	17	Streets and Sidewalks, 1975-1978 (bulk 1978)
2	18	Streets and Sidewalks, 1979
2	19	Streets and Sidewalks, January-July 1980
2	20	The Neck Annexation, 1977
2	21	United Way Restitution Program, 1979
2	22	Water Pollution, 1977
		<i>Mario Ciappa Files</i>
2	23	AAA Administrative Services, 1979-1981
2	24	Administrative Services, 1980-1981 (bulk 1981)
2	25	Administrative Services, 1982-1983 (bulk 1982)
2	26	Board of Adjustments, August-December 1980
2	27	Budget, 1981
2	28	Budget, 1982
2	29	Building Inspections, 1980-1981
2	30	Corporation Counsel, August-December 1980
2	31	Corporation Counsel, 1981
3	1	Corporation Counsel, 1982
3	2	Data Processing Steering Committee, 1980-1981
3	3	Equipment Management, 1978-1981
3	4	Lockwood Marina, August 1980-1981
3	5	Lockwood Marina, 1982
3	6	Lockwood Marina Operating Statements, 1980-1982
3	7	Management by Objectives Program, 1976-1977
3	8	Mayor August-December, 1980
3	9	Mayor, 1981
3	10	Mayor, January-July 1982
3	11	Mayor, August-December 1982
3	12	Oxford Services, 1980-1981
3	13	Personnel, 1980-1981
3	14	Sanitation Division, July-December 1980

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
3	15	Sanitation Division, 1982
3	16	Shops and Equipment, 1981
3	17	Shops and Equipment, 1982
3	18	Streets and Sidewalks, August-December 1980
3	19	Streets and Sidewalks, 1981
3	21	Ways and Means Correspondence, 1980
3	22	Ways and Means, 1982-1983
3	23	Weekly Departmental Reports, 1981
3	24	Weekly Departmental Reports, January-May 1982
3	25	Weekly Departmental Reports, June-October 1982
		<i>F. M. Searson, Jr. Files</i>
4	1	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, April-June 1964
		<i>Charles Rector Files</i>
4	2	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, July 1964-July 1966
4	3	Electrical Letters, April 1964-August 1967
		<i>Byron Beck Files</i>
4	4	Action Request Forms, Complaint/Request, July 1972-July 1982
4	5	Bandstand Use Correspondence, February 1970-November 1971
4	6	Conventions Correspondence, March-December 1971
4	7	A.J. Tamsberg, Clerk of Council Correspondence, August 1966-March 1979
4	8	Electric Wires and Lighting Committee, June 1972-November 1978
4	9	Electrical Letters, December 1966-July 1979
4	10	General Correspondence, March 1966-November 1982
4	11	Internal Office Correspondence, June 1968-September 1979
4	12	Internal Office Correspondence, October 1979-May 1983
4	13	J. Palmer Gaillard, Jr. Mayor, Correspondence, January 1967-June 1974
4	14	External Office Correspondence, May 1967-August 1977
4	15	External Office Correspondence, September 1977-April 1983
4	16	Personal Correspondence, July 1971-December 1978
4	17	Personal Correspondence, December 1978-October 1981
4	18	Street Lighting, July 1964-December 1972
4	19	Street Lighting, January 1973-December 1973
4	20	Street Lighting, September 1973-June 1978
4	21	Street Lighting, August 1978-December 1979
4	22	Street Lighting, January 1980-February 1982
4	23	Street Lighting, March 1982-April 1984
4	24	Traffic and Transportation, June 1977-November 1983
4	25	Traffic and Transportation, July 1977-November 1983
4	26	Ways and Means Committee, June 1966-February 1981