

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
MEETING REPORT  
MARCH 26, 2013 – 2:00 P.M.  
PARKING SERVICES  
CONFERENCE ROOM - 820 WASHINGTON STREET**



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Members of the Columbia City Council conducted an Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at the Parking Services Conference Room, 820 Washington Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Honorable Tameika Isaac Devine (Chair) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. The Honorable Leona K. Plough, The Honorable Cameron A. Runyan and The Honorable Sam Davis (non-committee member) were present.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1. Residential Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Program – Mr. Bill Davis, Wastewater Engineer for the Utilities and Engineering Department

Mr. Bill Davis, Wastewater Engineer for the Utilities and Engineering Department updated the committee on the current status of the FOG program. They obtained the Mutual Confidentiality and Non-Compete Agreement from Greenhood Industries; City's Legal Department reviewed the agreement and requested changes; and staff will advise the committee once Greenhood accepts those changes. He reported that if East Point, Georgia had awarded a contract to Greenhood for a Residential FOG Program, it would have required a monthly fee of \$2.50 to \$3.50 per customer in addition to their regular monthly sewer fees. He recommended that they get the agreement back from Mr. Walker and move forward to obtain additional details on Greenhood to include cost sharing for installation and the plumber. He further suggested that they begin looking into satellite system locations at apartment complexes; evaluate the effectiveness by testing the grease content of the discharge from the sewer and post installation of the proprietary equipment.

There was a consensus of the committee to request a report back to the committee in two (2) months with the understanding that if this doesn't work, we still need to consider other options for a Residential FOG Program; increasing our efforts to get people to recycle oil; and looking at other vendors along with other municipalities.

2. Proposed [Accessibility Assessment](#) and [Community Inclusion/Disability Training](#) – Ms. Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director for Able South Carolina

Ms. Kimberly Tissot, Executive Director for Able South Carolina said that a group of individuals with different disabilities had a meeting with the Mayor and found several problems with accessing City Hall. They found parking to be very difficult; the curb cuts were inadequate; there were no handicap isles; the ramp to City Hall is too steep; and the elevator was out of service. She stated that the word “Handicap” is outdated. She offered technical assistance from Able South Carolina to ensure that the city is more inclusive and accessible. She noted that they have two (2) attorneys on staff that will ensure that all recommendations are in compliance with the city code.

Councilor Devine stated that Able could conduct the assessment for \$150 an hour and it would take up to four (4) hours.

There was a consensus of the committee to forward the proposal for Community Inclusion/Disability Training to the Director of Human Resources in an effort to identify employees for the training. The committee recommended that the City Manager move forward with the proposal for an Accessibility Assessment for City Hall and expand it to Washington Square, Lady Street and our parks. It is noted that the amount of the contract is within the City Manager’s purview.

3. [National Bike Summit Report](#) – Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer and Ms. Natalie Britt, Executive Director for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Ms. Dana Higgins, City Engineer reported on the National Bike Summit held from March 4-8, 2013. She reviewed the conference highlights and the benefits of being a bicycle friendly city. She will be meeting with the Public Works Director to determine if there are roads in the City where bike lanes can be added. She presented long term recommendations for a bike/pedestrian coordinator and grant opportunities. This could tie into the upcoming master plan effort. City Council and Department Heads will be invited to go on a Bike Ride on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Natalie Britt, Executive Director for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee announced the Bike Rack Installation Project that will feature custom bike racks designed by Stewart Snead of Columbia. She said that businesses will be asked to purchase each rack.

Councilor Devine announced that the City is purchasing 50 bike racks and will be asking businesses to purchase the racks from the City of Columbia for \$225 and place them in front of their businesses in honor of National Bike Month in May.

Ms. Natalie Britt, Executive Director for the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee announced that a Request for Qualifications has been issued for a bicycle pedestrian master plan; responses are due on April 8<sup>th</sup>; and then they will issue a full Request for Proposals for a consultant. She noted that the city contributed \$50,000 and BPAC funded the other \$50,000. She announced the following [BPAC Events](#) for National Bike Month:

- April 27<sup>th</sup> Mayors Famously Hot Bike Ride at the Historic Seibel's House
- May 1<sup>st</sup> (11 a.m.) Press Conference with the first bike installation at City Hall.
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Safe Routes to School Family Bike Rodeo in Finlay Park
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Handlebar Happy Hour Series at Publik House. Councilwoman Devine will be the guest speaker.
- May 15<sup>th</sup> (7 a.m.) Ride of Silence in remembrance of cyclist that were killed in the past year.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Bike Summit Forum from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Bike to Work Day
- For the month of May the Nickelodeon will be showing a series of films in honor of Bicycle Month

There was a consensus of the committee to update the full Council on the information presented today and to look at ordinances that can be passed in support of bicycle/pedestrian safety.

4. Sewer Lines Servicing W.G. Sanders Middle School – Mr. Joey Jaco, P.E., Director of Utilities and Engineering

Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of Utilities and Engineering reported that in 1963, the City entered into an agreement with East Richland to treat some of our customers and vice versa, due to topography. In 1963, the school district approached the city about servicing this site and a pump station was built. In 1973 we annexed the school. In 1989, there was work done at the school; our pump station was abandoned; and a sewer line was built, which rerouted the sewer towards the East Richland service area. In February 2011, East Richland did an audit and realized that Sanders was their customer. East Richland went to the school and asked to be reimbursed back to 1973. The school district approached the city, and asked that we reimburse East Richland. The city paid approximately \$20,000 to East Richland for up to three (3) years. They are in our 208 service area, but they are clearly connected to the East Richland system.

Mr. Raymond Perkins, P.E., Richland School District One Director of Facilities said that the school district doesn't want to pay the impact fees required by East Richland. We thought we were on the system with the City. We just want to know where we are and what we legally owe to whatever entity we are a part of. East Richland wants us to pay over \$200,000 in tap fees. He stated that the other issue is the rate they charge in comparison to the city's rate. He said that they school district deeded the lines to the City.

Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of Utilities and Engineering agreed to contact East Richland to determine what is happening. They want to maintain the school as their customer, but if we divert the flow back to our system, the school would be the city's customer. We estimate that it would cost \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00 to rebuild the pump station that was there.

There was a consensus of the committee to ask staff to collectively communicate with East Richland to determine if a resolution can be reached.

- **The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Erika D. Moore  
City Clerk