

**Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)**

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Public Works Department Conference Room

**CAC Representatives Present**

Ms. Sharyn Fox, Chairperson

Mr. Phil Bomersheim

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Sandra Davis

Mr. Thomas Herbert

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

**CAC Representatives Absent**

Dr. Arnold Abrams

Dr. Harold Cones

Ms. Artistine Reid

Ms. Elsy Henriquez

Ms. Crystal Hill

**Public Works Representatives**

Mr. H. Reed Fowler, Jr., Director of Public Works

Mr. Ralph Caldwell, Acting Assistant Director of Public Works

Mr. Roy Chesson, CAC Coordinator

Mr. Tim Shockley, Acting Solid Waste Division Administrator

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. A moment of silence was held for the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the February 20, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

**Report on the First Meeting of the Trash, Debris and Litter Project Team**

Mr. Shockley reported on the first meeting of the subject team, which he and Mr. Herbert attended. This initial meeting served primarily to acquaint the members with the recommendations of the WINN team that preceded this team and to reiterate the team's goals and objectives. They did, however, form a subcommittee to look at some specific issues. The subcommittee members are Reed Fowler (Public Works), Neil Morgan (Assistant City Manager), Kathy James-Webb (Planning), Christine Mignogna (Codes and Compliance), Trent Sturgis (Police) and Tim Shockley (Public Works). (At this point, Mr. Fowler invited Mr. Herbert to join the subcommittee if was able to attend the bi-weekly meetings.)

The subcommittee will be looking at Chapter 19 and Chapter 13 (city code dealing with Property Maintenance). The first order of business is to review Chapter 19 for necessary changes. A lot of this work has already been done by the Solid Waste Division and has been reviewed by the CAC. The subcommittee, however, will be looking at this in a broader perspective as they are also looking into litter abatement issues. Once this is completed, the subcommittee will be looking into new ideas and possible pilot programs.

Mr. Shockley also briefly discussed a project that Public Works is pursuing in which City Farm inmates would be used on weekends to collect litter. For this, Public Works would identify litter problem areas throughout the city for the inmates to police each weekend on a rotating schedule. Public Works would provide the supervisors for the inmate crews. The goal is to have this program running by July 1.

### **Briefing on Public Works' FY2008 Budget**

Mr. Fowler had planned to discuss the FY2008 budget including changes to the user fees. However, recent citizen concern over the tax rate and city budget has caused Council to again review the budget to see what adjustments might be made to save money. Leaf collection and street sweeping are "on the table" as are some of the new generator mechanic positions that were to be filled during the next year. Because of these possible changes, a full briefing on next fiscal year's budget cannot be made at this time.

As for user fees, the sewer and stormwater fees will probably increase; the solid waste fee should stay the same.

### **Briefing on Consent Order**

Mr. Fowler reported that the EPA had taken HRSD to the federal level and that this essentially destroys all work that has been accomplished since 2005. The regional consent order, including its impact on long-term capital improvements to infrastructure, is currently being presented to the various Councils in the region. The Newport News City Council should be briefed by the end of May. By then, more should be known as to where HRSD stands.

### **Other Topics**

After the agenda items were covered, there was a general discussion on solid waste issues including yard debris, construction debris, and the proposed bulk waste call-in program. There was a consensus that many problems in these areas result from too many residents not being familiar with the rules and procedures. Suggestions were made to better utilize Channel 48 on cable and to set up an instructional video on the Public Works website.

Mr. Fowler suggested that the WINN program video be shown at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Chairperson Fox adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.