



Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Public Facilities Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

1. **Call to Order & Freedom of Information Act Requirements:** The Public Facilities Committee of Council met at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at Town Hall, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied. Present were Council Committee members Carl Hubbard (Chair), Ned Higgins, and Gary Visser. Staff members present were Town Administrator Andy Benke, Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Joe Henderson, Rebecca Fanning, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Bridget Welch, and Max Wurthmann. There were seven (7) members of the public present and one (1) member of the media.

Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law.

Chair Hubbard moved item five to be the first discussion item. He also introduced the new Director of Natural Resources, Rebecca Fanning.

Joe Henderson reviewed discussions that were had with Dominion Energy back in 2019-2020 about the feasibility and process of burying power lines. The first step would be an Island wide engineering study, costing between \$150,000-\$180,000. This study could also provide estimates on the scope of work, which would include burying the power lines, moving transformers, removing poles, and relocating any water & sewer and/or stormwater obstructions. Staff also requested that Dominion come to a meeting to discuss options. He reviewed a recent burying project at Station 20.

Public Comment:

- Katherine Crawford, 927 Middle St – asked why some power lines are already buried around the Island.
 - Mr. Visser stated Dominion buried those at their own expense due to high winds and salt erosion in certain areas damaging the lines and transformers.

- Karen Byko, 2862 Middle St – asked if Dominion would match any funds for the study.
 - Andy Benke stated there is some funding from the non-standard lighting agreement with Dominion that could possibly be used for the study.
- Debbie Sharp, 2901 Jasper Blvd – asked who chose to bury the lines.
 - Mr. Benke stated it was Dominion’s choice and at their expense.

Mr. Benke stated that currently Dominion does not have interest in funding the burying of any more lines. He also went over some potential issues with burying them in certain areas of the Island. It is possible to bury them incrementally.

2. Discussion and Update of Boardwalk Repairs and Replacement Project

Mr. Henderson stated the Station 26 ½ boardwalk is completed and open to the public, Stations 22 ½ and 21 are currently under reconstruction, and Station 24 is the next priority for repair. Following will be Stations 23, 26, and 28.

3. Discussion of Additional Historical Signs to include discussion on placement of marker on Sr. Officers Row

Chair Hubbard gave an update and stated there is still discussion about where to place the sign or signs for Officer’s row. They will decide about the location after hearing from Mike Walsh.

Public Comment:

- Rita Langley, 1618 Middle St – feels it would be best to put two signs, one on each end.

Mr. Henderson suggested doing a site inspection and if it’s decided to put it on each end, they will need to obtain an encroachment permit from SC Department of Transportation.

4. Discussion of Friends of Battery Logan clean-up

The group has requested help with cleaning up and maintaining Battery Logan and its immediate surroundings. The Town will assist with basic maintenance and has reached out to Yellowstone for an estimate on how much it would be to remove some trees in the area. There was more discussion about the needs and costs of the project. Staff will meet with Friends of Battery Logan to discuss their goals and ask them to present to Council as well.

5. Review Feasibility of burying power lines either throughout Island or in certain spaces where trees are subject to severe pruning by Dominion. What is the process?

6. Update of Old Town Hall building

Clean up began on the building on Friday, April 5 in preparation for the asbestos abatement that will take place. Once the area is cleared, demolition will begin on the inside. There will be later discussion about creating a subcommittee to address the future of the building.

7. Adjourn

Motion was made by Gary Visser, seconded by Ned Higgins, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget Welch