

**MINUTES  
PAWLEYS ISLAND COUNCIL  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

DATE/PLACE: July 26, 2019  
Pawleys Island Town Hall

PRESENT: Mayor Jimmy Braswell, Ashley Carter, Guerry Green & Rocky Holliday

ABSENT: Sarah Zimmerman

**BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT**

Mayor Braswell stated that the Army Corps of Engineers is going through an evaluation process that they originally told us that they were going to waive. We are now looking at sometime in September, at the earliest, before the evaluation is finished and the entire project which could delay the project another year or two. In 2004 the estimated cost of this project was \$10,000,000 and now it is \$18,000,000. We had planned to proceed with this project without the Corps as we were told that we wouldn't get any help from them, so we talked to a dredging company called Marinex out of Charleston. Then we were told that the Corps had money to help pay for a portion of this project, so we decided to go with them and told Marinex what we were planning on doing.

In light of these recent setbacks we're experiencing with the Army Corps of Engineers, Ryan Fabbri decided to reach out to Marinex Construction, the low bidder on the town's project last year, to see what their work schedule looks like for fall 2019/winter 2020. Marinex informed Mr. Fabbri that their dredge is currently sitting, although they have 2 projects they're in the process of bidding on. One project has a bid due date of July 31 and the other is due sometime in August, and if awarded it would tie them up for the next 2 years. As far as our project goes, they could only provide information about their current near term availability since their circumstances could drastically change if awarded one of the projects they're bidding. Marinex confirmed that they would honor their bid price from last year and reduce the cost of mobilization by \$459,000. They would also lower the unit price for additional sand to \$9.25 per cy, down from their original per cy price of \$10.33, and they want to start the project on October 1. Our permits don't allow for a start date prior to November 1, but CSE is confident OCRM will allow for a permit modification provided all turtle activity on the island comes to end before then.

Bill Otis stated that he had been in discussion with Senator Graham's office about this. They have been trying to convey his sense of urgency on this project to the Corps. Senator Graham's office and Congressman Rice's office are coordinating and talking to the Corps in Charleston and they told them that they were almost done with the engineering – we thought it had already been done. Charleston told Congressman's Rice's office that they would have a new time line in 2 weeks. Otis's stated that his personal overall feeling of 1.1 million project is off the table. He guesses that it will be less than that. Rocky Holliday stated that he always felt the money would be there, but his biggest concern is will the Corps do the job at all.

CSE's Steve Traynum stated that Folly Beach's project was originally estimated at \$20m but the bids came in at \$30m. Ryan Fabbri stated that the decision to have a validation study did not come from the Charleston District office and they firmly believe that we should be exempt from that so the decision for this is coming from Washington, DC. Washington will be going on recess for a month so nothing will be done there during this time.

Ryan Fabbri reviewed Marinex's bids to do this project. The town's project entails a base bid project of 700k cubic yards of sand with the option of adding up to an additional 400k cy. Based on Marinex's original bid from last year, the 700k cy project would've required the Town to borrow around \$1.2m. Given the new Marinex pricing, an additional \$400k in the beach fund and good portion of the engineering costs already paid for, the same project today would require borrowing \$300k. The full 1.1m cy project would've required borrowing \$3.6m last year, but this fall it can be accomplished by borrowing \$2.5m. The Town could now complete a 850,000 cu.yd. project for the same cost as last year for 750,000 cu.yds. The 750,000 would bring us just north of the pier. CSE would determine where the additional cu.yds. would go. Steve Tranum stated that it is anticipated that the sand that will be placed on the beaches will immediately start moving to the north as soon as the dredgers leaves so, he thinks that more should be applied to the southern part of the island. Ryan Fabbri stated that these numbers wo spending every cent that is in the Beach Fund. We will have \$6.1m to spend out of the Beach Fund and borrow \$312,000 for the minimum project. The \$850,000 we would spend everything in the Beach Fund and borrow \$1.14 and spread over 10 years or for however length of time we decided. After 10 years we'd have around \$2.5m in the Beach Fund. Bill Otis stated that if we had the Corps do the project, they would be obligated to do 9-year renourishments for 50 years. If we have a significant erosion event whether or not we have a named storm, the Corps will pay 100% for renourishment. If we did the 850,000 cu.yd. project and bypass the Corps, and we had a storm that took away ½ of the sand we placed on the beach, FEMA would give us the money to replace it, but they would cover only 75% of the cost. Marinex may be open to doing some kind of deferred payments. Ryan Fabbri made it clear that Marinex's current offer is predicated on the Town providing them with an answer by July 30<sup>th</sup>. Another council meeting will be Monday, 7/29/19 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss finalizing this decision.

Meeting adjourned.