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**UNDERGROUND WIRING  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
October 14, 2010  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
4:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM. Subcommittee consists of three councilmembers: Childs, Smith and Blair. Councilmembers, Childs and Smith were present. Councilmember Blair was absent due to weather conditions. Also in attendance were Clerk Pinnell, DDC Engineers representative, Eli Jones and Santee Cooper representatives Noah Rohr and Gene Smith.

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

Mr. Jones stated that he wanted to discuss where to place the conduits. There was discussion regarding the easements and right of ways and drainage issues involved in the placement of the conduits.

Mr. Childs stated that 14<sup>th</sup> South was supposed to be the pilot project and this should be used as the model for the rest of the town. Mr. Jones stated that street lights are not on the current plan. DDC would need to discuss with Santee Cooper what types of large equipment they will need to put in; Mr. Jones believes they will have three large switch gear volts which includes 10 by 10 piece of equipment. The way it is shown on the plan is for it to be a below ground piece with an exposed top which is the more expensive option; an above ground green cabinet could also be installed which would be 4 to 5 feet tall; there is a difference in cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per piece. Mr. Childs and Mr. Smith stated that they would need to see the above ground design and would consider this since the price difference is so high. Mr. Jones stated that the City of Myrtle Beach is placing them in the below ground enclosures and that all of Ocean Blvd. except for the immediate downtown section by the Pavilion is underground. The boxes would be located around 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. past the Crown Reef; there are two on the corner there. Mr. Jones stated that Santee Cooper would be able to give a better example of where some above ground boxes are located on Grissom Parkway in Myrtle Beach; around 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. Mr. Childs asked if Mr. Jones could send the locations to Ms. Pinnell and they could look at them.

Santee Cooper representatives arrived. Additional above ground locations were discussed. Mr. Smith asked about them being waterproof. It was explained that they vary depending on the water table but everything installed can be pumped out and they can get in and work on the units. There was discussion regarding locations near the beach. Santee Cooper stated that even beach locations can vary; some will get water and some do not; it depends sometimes on the soil in the area and what type of drainage structures are installed. Santee Cooper confirmed that the cost difference from past projects has been approximately \$100,000. The above ground does save money but there have been issues in getting easements from the property owners for the above ground equipment; it has been more difficult. Mr. Childs stated that Ocean Blvd was just recently paved and there was a concern with work being performed there. Mr. Jones discussed the option of digging the conduits in and placing the dirt somewhere while continuing to work and maintain traffic through that area. There are not many other options; under the sidewalks there are water and sewer and utility lines and to get an easement outside of that area would be

49 difficult. Mr. Childs stated Dogwood actually parallels Ocean Blvd. and it may be an option to  
50 divert traffic around onto Dogwood and back onto Ocean Blvd. Mr. Jones stated that if the town  
51 could allow the contractor to detour traffic as he progresses the install would go much quicker. It  
52 was discussed there would also be access from Seaside. Mr. Jones stated that in his experience  
53 with other communities once the trench is installed and all of the utilities have been converted  
54 the contractor would typically come back and overlay the road so that even though a trench is cut  
55 a few months after the project is done the road is back nice and new with a new coat of asphalt  
56 and new striping. Mr. Smith asked how close the contractor would be to the sidewalk with the  
57 trench. Mr. Jones stated that they would try to put the trench as close to the sidewalk as the  
58 existing utilities will allow and as close to the edge of road as they can. The Santee Cooper  
59 conduits will need to be about 4 feet deep. The conduit bank itself will probably also be 3 or 4  
60 feet wide; it will be a substantial cut. Mr. Jones stated that DDC has done their research  
61 regarding the location of all of the utilities. They have been in touch also with Verizon; they  
62 have existing telephone facilities through the area; they may need to install some minor conduits  
63 running back to a property. The street light design was discussed. Mr. Childs asked if additional  
64 street lights would be placed on Seaside Drive. Santee Cooper confirmed that they had walked  
65 through the site with Interim Administrator, Ms. Fellner and Public Works Director, Mr. Adair  
66 and staked out the locations for the lights. It was confirmed that the street lights used would be  
67 the same lights installed on 14<sup>th</sup>; the lights would be unified throughout town.

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69 The recommendation of Santee Cooper on the first draft is to place the vault in the parking area  
70 owned by the town; no additional easement to private property would be needed at that location.  
71 Cars can drive over it; they can be placed in parking spaces. Typically they would not place  
72 them in a parking space just in case they had a problem where they needed to get to it. Mr. Jones  
73 stated that he and Mr. Gene Smith would be glad to go over the locations with the subcommittee.  
74 Different scenarios and landscaping options could be discussed. Substructures and the cost were  
75 discussed. Mr. Jones stated the next phase would be to begin the easement acquisition process;  
76 Santee Cooper would have their agents attempt to get these easements. If they do not get them  
77 then some of the locations may need to be shifted to other areas. Mr. Jones showed renderings of  
78 transformers. Underground and above ground configurations were discussed. Time Warner and  
79 HTC were discussed. Mr. Jones brought up the question of whether HTC and Time Warner were  
80 paying for their conduits on this project; sometimes this is mentioned in franchise agreements. It  
81 was discussed that this would need to be discussed with the utilities; Mr. Jones stated that he is  
82 bringing this up so that there are no surprises down the road; this needs to be addressed before  
83 the project starts. Mr. Jones stated that different municipalities do it different ways; some pay  
84 and some do not; City of Myrtle Beach pays for all conduits for the utilities out of their General  
85 Fund and HTC and Time Warner would pay for the wires and the manpower. It was  
86 recommended to approach the utilities and request them to pay for their share of the conduit  
87 costs. Mr. Jones reviewed the plan briefly with the subcommittee.

88  
89 There was some discussion regarding costs to reconnect to properties. On 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue the town  
90 paid for most of the connections, they were for residents but on Seaside Drive many of those  
91 were rentals and the cost was paid by the owner. Mr. Smith stated that the 4 percent property tax  
92 payers the town would pay for the connection and the 6 percent property tax payers the owner  
93 pays. Mr. Jones stated that as the project gets further along in construction an electrician will  
94 need to be contracted to do all identified meters and conversions at one time as one contract.

95 The town would need someone to submit bids to do it all. Mr. Childs stated that he would like to  
96 look into having the town hire an electrician as a contractor for the town; there are probably  
97 many electricians that are currently out of work and he feels that it would be something worth  
98 looking into. Mr. Jones stated that he believes Conway used their contracted electrician.  
99 Another location for a vault on Surfside Drive was discussed. Various items on the plans were  
100 discussed. Possible substation locations were discussed. Substantial need for easements was  
101 discussed. Mr. Childs recommended that while requests for easements are being made photos of  
102 the proposed boxes and plans should be shown to the property owners so they are made aware of  
103 the plan.

104  
105 Mr. Childs and Mr. Smith agreed that it would be beneficial to review the proposed locations and  
106 alternate locations. Mr. Smith brought up the subject of hurricanes. It was discussed that the  
107 underground wiring has not seen problems resulting from hurricanes as of yet. Mr. Jones  
108 brought up timing of the project. The preliminary design except for street lighting is pretty much  
109 done. The easement acquisition process will be the next step and hopefully this could be done in  
110 a few months. Mr. Childs stated that obviously a resort area like this it would be preferred to  
111 start the project in an off season. The redevelopment project for the downtown area of Surfside  
112 Drive is being anticipated to begin January 2011. It was discussed to possibly begin the  
113 underground project the fall of 2011. The timing for the project was discussed. It was  
114 discussed that it would all depend on the restrictions placed on the contractor; if he is told it must  
115 be completed in 2 or 3 months then he would need to bring the manpower to complete it but the  
116 cost may be additional. It would be advised to give a realistic timeframe to complete the work.  
117 It was discussed that the contractor would probably need 3 to 4 months to complete. If the  
118 project was started in October it could be completed by February the following year. There are  
119 actually 2 parts to the project; conduits are installed then HTC and Time Warner will need to get  
120 in and pull wires to convert and this will take longer than the conduit installation. The  
121 switchovers would need to be done at the convenience of the customers; it takes time to  
122 coordinate these schedules.

123  
124 Seaside Drive was brought up again and discussed briefly. Seaside Drive is currently being  
125 addressed to have the proper number of lights. Mr. Smith stated that the town needs to look at  
126 the franchise agreement with Time Warner and then the connections to residential and  
127 commercial costs and who pays needs to be discussed. Landscaping would need to be discussed.  
128 Safety poles and no parking signs being installed was talked about. Mr. Rohr stated that he  
129 believes that Ms. Fellner and Mr. Adair were planning on addressing this issue. Working out a  
130 schedule to meet was discussed. Mr. Childs added that Ms. Blair would also be included in the  
131 meeting and they would check on her availability. It was noted that the previous Public Works  
132 Director had sent out letters to the property owners on previous projects to let them now when  
133 project would begin. Mr. Childs stated that a citizen Mr. Hanson brought up problems with  
134 underground wiring. Mr. Gene Smith stated that Santee has a pretty good underground system;  
135 they can get to the systems pretty easily and various systems can be isolated and repaired. They  
136 have not experienced a lot of situations that have impacted the system to date. Mr. Childs stated  
137 that the subcommittee would wait to hear from DDC and Santee Cooper regarding a meeting.

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140 **ADJOURNMENT**  
141 Meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm  
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Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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