

St. Andrews Public Service District Commission petitions Charleston County Council to approve the District's issuance of general obligation bonds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charleston, S.C. (February 1, 2021) -

St. Andrews Public Service District Commission has petitioned Charleston County Council to approve the District's issuance of general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$8,380,469. There will be three public hearings to provide an opportunity for comments regarding the request.

The Commission determined it is necessary for the District to construct, furnish, and equip a Fleet Maintenance Facility and a proposed Fire Station No. 3 to replace two antiquated structures built in 1981 and 1967, respectively. The District's engineers estimate the cost of these two projects to be \$8,369,832.

Both structures are in dire need of repair/renovations/replacement and/or demolition due to antiquated space and function, however, anything other than new construction has been deemed fiscally irresponsible.

The Fleet Maintenance Facility, located at 2228 North Westchester Drive in West Ashley, will be used for servicing, repairing, and maintaining all of the District's 40 fleet vehicles, including garbage trucks and fire trucks, as well as serve as the Environmental Service Department for 20 employees. The proposed Fleet Maintenance Facility will be a pre-engineered metal and miscellaneous steel building to include two double bays, parts room, lube room, tire storage, lobby, three offices, and locker room with toilets and shower. It will also include a fuel pump, wash station, and covered parking for up to twelve garbage trucks.

One of the primary issues of the current fleet maintenance facility is the trucks that were serviced in the 1980's were much smaller in size/height than in 2021. Therefore, taller ceilings are imperative for the garbage and fire trucks currently manufactured. The existing facility also consists of only two bays which is insufficient for the number of vehicles currently being used. In addition, there are plumbing and electrical needs that will be resolved with the new facility. There is discussion that the existing Fleet Facility remains for storage purposes, however, the final decision has not yet been made.



Proposed Fire Station No. 3 will house St. Andrews Fire Department Engine 303 with an additional bay for the reserve engine, together with a daily crew up to four members. In addition to the two apparatus bays, the fire station will include living quarters and restroom facilities for four firefighters, kitchen, dayroom, exercise room, office, laundry room, and PPE storage room.

Similar to the fleet maintenance facility, the current Fire Station No. 3, built in 1967, will also be replaced with new construction. Some of the major issues for this current facility is inadequate HVAC, extensive plumbing issues, electrical issues and structural issues on the outside wall of the truck bay. Any rebuild at the current site would also require the removal of 2 grand oak trees situated on the property. In an effort to avoid disrupting the trees and construct a station sufficient for the needs of the department, the District applied for, and was awarded, Charleston County Greenbelt Funds to acquire property to construct a new station on the site, formerly known as Church Creek Plaza situated on Old Parsonage Road. To date, this is the anticipated site for construction. There are no plans yet for the future use of the existing station.

The majority of the funds will be used for the Fleet Maintenance facility. This facility will be the first project to begin construction. Work is anticipated to begin with a ground breaking in 2021 and an estimated completion of approximately 12 months. Acquisition of the Church Creek Plaza site remains in negotiations with the current owner. Pending completion of the transaction, it is anticipated that design of the fire station will begin immediately.

The exact timeline for the remaining steps to take place are uncertain at this time. Updates will be provided on our social media pages (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter), as well as our website, as they become available.

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St. Andrews Public Service District was created by Act 443 of the S.C. General Assembly on July 1, 1949. Currently, St. Andrews Public Service District provides fire protection and rescue, environmental services, and street lighting with devotion, determination, and dependability.