



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 3097

Date: April 15, 2010

### Council Holds Public Hearing to Gather Feedback on Drainage Concerns

[Charleston County Council](#) will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Lonnie Hamilton, III, Public Services Building (4045 Bridge View Drive; North Charleston, 29405) about drainage concerns in the unincorporated portions of the County.

"I requested to have a hearing after receiving phone calls from my constituents who are concerned about drainage and ditch issues in their yards. This will allow all of Council to hear if there are similar concerns from citizens in the rest of the County," [Council member Curtis Inabinett](#) said. "Unfortunately, we currently have no authority to work on privately owned roads, which is where many of the problems are occurring according to the calls we are receiving from our residents. But we still want to hear from anyone who has issues."

The hearing will begin with a short presentation by County staff about the [Public Works Department](#)'s operations and responsibilities. After the staff presentation, the public will have the opportunity to address Charleston County Council members.

For anyone wishing to make comments during the meeting, a sign-up sheet will be available beginning at 6 p.m. at the meeting location.

Among other duties, the Public Works Department is responsible for the County's transportation and drainage infrastructure and for constructing and maintaining County-owned roads, canals and ditches in the unincorporated portions of the County.

The County department only has authority to perform this work on public lands, easements and rights-of-way. It is often difficult to determine whether roads and drainage facilities are publicly owned or are part of private or neighborhood property.

"Sometimes one end of a road or drainage ditch is publicly owned and the other end is private, which leads to confusion about whether or not the County can maintain it," said Jim Neal, Charleston County Public Works Director. "We are continually researching these issues, because state law does not allow us to use County funds or equipment to work on private property. County staff is constantly examining and computerizing an inventory of ditches, roads and drainage structures to determine where it is necessary to acquire public easements or ownership and to better manage the countywide system."

The Public Works Department aids and supports municipalities within the County, under guidelines established by County Council, and is also responsible for mosquito control throughout approximately 900 square miles of Charleston County.

**For questions concerning the public hearing, contact the Charleston County Clerk of Council's Office at (843) 958-4030.** Visit the Charleston County Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.