

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 2010 in Council Chambers of City Hall; attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Loftus, Chair Bettelli, City Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Chief Graham, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Chair Bettelli called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2010 as submitted; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

3. Citizens' Comments

Phil Werner, 32 Thirty-first Avenue, questioned the actions the Committee had taken regarding the increased fees for the dog licenses and the need for the collars.

Bambi Werner, 32 Thirty-first Avenue, stated that she saw no reason for the collar; she stated that the collar would not be visible on her long-haired dog. She suggested a larger, possibly neon colored tag. She stated that she had understood that she could be ticketed if she were walking her dog when he was not wearing the collar. She questioned that the increase in license fees was a way to increase revenue for the City and create a tax on dog owners.

Sis Nunnely, 10 Thirty-first Avenue, stated that she did not have a problem paying ten dollars (\$10.00), but she did not understand how the collars were to work or to be enforced.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Public Safety Building

Administrator Tucker reported that the list of warranty items was in the process of being refined and was getting longer while the punch list was growing shorter. On the moisture problem, she reported that it has been determined that some exterior and some interior materials had been installed incorrectly and were the source of the problem. The contractor and sub-contractors have been notified that the City does not want "a fix," but wants the materials removed and installed in the manner for which they were designed. Responding to Councilmember Loftus' question, Administrator Tucker said the contractor had been paid all that it was due except the retainage, but the building is under warranty. Chief Graham reported that she had spoken with Dave Johnson of Cole+Russell earlier in the day and had been told that the work would be done in April or May.

B. Update on Civil Engineering for 41st Avenue and Palm Boulevard Intersection

The Administrator informed the Committee that the City has met with Thomas and Hutton, who have since met with SCDOT. As a result of the meeting with SCDOT, Thomas and Hutton has requested another meeting with the City that has not yet been scheduled.

C. Update on Crosswalk at 45th/46th Avenue and Palm Boulevard

Chair Bettelli reported that the crosswalk had been included in Wild Dunes' plans when they designed the new bike path; they have gotten permission from SCDOT for the crosswalk and it will be constructed once the weather clears up.

D. Update on Digital Radios by Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that there had been a meeting of the Users' Group on January 5 and that she and Chair Bettelli had attended the Charleston County Finance Committee meeting on January 28. After an Executive Session, the Finance Committee committed to hiring a consultant to review the existing radio system and Motorola's proposal. She also reported possible tower sites on the island were on the north end and center near the water tower. No action will be taken by Charleston County on the radios until the consultant makes his report.

E. Update on Dog Licensing

Administrator Tucker had an example of the type collar that Sullivan's Island uses with the numbered metal tag attached; she commented that this particular collar was not easy to close. She stated that she had learned that frequently dog owners at Sullivan's Island do not put the collars on their dogs but carry them, wrap them around their arms or attach them to the dog's leash, which she thought defeated the intended purpose. When she looked into providing a typical dog collar, she ran into a problem with the numbered identification tag, plus the City would have to purchase multiple sized collars and there is an increased cost. Meeting the March 1 implementation date was going to be difficult since the collars have not yet been ordered. Research has also been done into finding a collar similar to the one shown with an easier clasp and the City and a number printed on it as a possible alternative.

Having run into these issues and having heard feedback from residents, she had concluded that the issue needed to come back to the Committee for consideration of extending the deadline and direction from the Committee on the type of collar.

Chair Bettelli explained that he had closed the demonstration collar without any difficulty, therefore had no problem with the less expensive one. He addressed the citizens' concerns stating that the City was not looking to increase its revenues and that the licenses had remained two dollars (\$2.00) for twenty (20) years; he did not think an increase to ten dollars (\$10.00) was excessive. He reported that Sullivan's Island reported selling two thousand (2,000) licenses in 2009 while the City sold three hundred sixty-three (363); Sullivan's Island requires all dogs to be licensed and charges residents twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and visitors thirty-five dollars (\$35.00). The Chair explained that there was a concern that, due to the cost, dogs would be brought from Sullivan's Island to run on the Isle of Palms' beach and use the pooper-scooper supplies purchased for Isle of Palms dogs. Additionally, Chair Bettelli reported that the City spends seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per year for pooper-scooper bags.

Councilman Loftus commented that a primary reason to license all dogs that might run on the beach or visit the dog park was to insure the health of all dogs on the island; this action was never intended to be a way to harass citizens. He repeated Chair Bettelli's concern that the Isle of Palms would be overrun because of the cost of Sullivan's Island licenses and informed the citizens in the audience that City Council had voted unanimously to support the change.

Administrator Tucker acknowledged that residents who are getting the City license early are getting the same tag that has been used in the past because they had been ordered before the change in policy.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to extend the deadline for implementation of the new dog licensing policy and to allow Administrator Tucker and Chief Buckhannon do more research into the dog collars and to have a recommendation at the Ways and Means Committee meeting; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker related that she had assured Steve Berman that she would communicate to the Committee his request to charge the same licensing fee to both residents and visitors.

5. New Business

A. Consideration of Placement of Bike Rack at Public Safety Building

Administrator Tucker reported that she had received this request after the January Public Safety Committee meeting when a resident had ridden his bicycle to the meeting; the Committee supported the idea and asked Chief Buckhannon to get pricing for the March meeting. Councilmember Loftus asked if the expense could be paid from the contingency fund for the Public Safety Building; Administrator Tucker expressed doubt that could be done since the bicycle rack would not be a permanent fixture.

B. Disaster Preparedness Expo

The Administrator suggested 5 to 7 pm on Friday, June 11, 2010 as the date for the joint Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island Disaster Preparedness Expo. Councilmember Loftus questioned the selection of Friday evening, but Chief Graham reported that the highest attendance for the Expo had occurred when the event had been held on Friday evening. The Committee agreed to the date.

C. Consideration of Capital Budgets for FY 2010-2011 for Police and Fire Departments

Police Department

Replace patrol cars (3 in FY 11 – these were purchased in FY05) \$ 69,000
Maintain the vehicle replacement schedule

Replace beach services Club Car (ATV) deferred in FY10 11,000

The salt water takes a toll on this vehicle. Chief Buckhannon explained that the rust was so bad on the vehicle that it should be replaced in this budget cycle.

Replace VHS in-car camera systems with digital (3 in FY10) VHS is a dying technology and it is very difficult to get supplies.	9,900
Replace mobile data terminals (patrol laptops) (2 per year) These laptops allow reports to be completed in the field.	4,500
Replace body armor (4 or 5 sets per year) Annual replacement; suggested life is 5 years	2,500
Replace staff computers Three (3) computers are to be purchased; one is running on Windows 2000.	2,310
Replacement/Expansion of Front Beach surveillance system This will be a move to wireless technology with the addition of cameras.	25,000
Replace speed radar on trailer The radar was purchased in 1999 and is experiencing some major problems; it is used extensively. Chief Buckhannon stated that there were multiple vendors so the cost could be less than indicated, but this as a best estimate for budget purposes.	10,000
Replace computer servers (3-yr replacement) w/backup system Replacing two (2) servers in the Police Department.	8,500
Purchase new digital camera for Victim's Assistance program Digital camera for Victim Advocate for use at crime scenes; purchase from Victim Advocate Fund.	2,800
Replace fuming chamber & equipment (used for fingerprinting) The existing chamber has broken down.	2,400
Install wireless audio system at 2 nd floor Police window Since there is no one stationed at the Police window, this would allow people to communicate through the thick, bulletproof glass.	1,674

Facility Maintenance

Elevator maintenance (1.5 of 2 elevators in PSB)	3,250
Generator maintenance (50% of PSB generator)	750
HVAC maintenance (50% of annual contract)	2,500

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to take the FY 2010-2011 Police capital budget to the Ways and Means Committee; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fire Department

Existing lease pymt on '03 95' ladder truck (10 yrs)	82,113
Existing lease pymt on 75' ladder truck (cost-\$500K) (10 yrs)	55,210
Existing lease pymt on '09 E-1 pumper (10 yrs)	40,383
Replace SCBA air packs and cylinders	22,000
Replace 10 sets of bunker gear	14,000
Replace fire hose and appliances Each of these represents a regular recurring budget item.	10,500
3 mobile radio repeaters (this will allow one repeater per big truck) Chief Graham noted that 1 had been purchased; it allows for a weak signal to work inside buildings.	36,000

Replace all terrain vehicles (ATVs) for beach patrol/mission (3 in FY11, b/c 1 deferred in FY10)	33,000
Chief Graham noted that the '05 had been deferred to FY11; she reported that the 2 '07 Yamaha Rhinos have been very high maintenance and that one had been out of service for over 6 months)	
Thermal imaging cameras (have 2; goal is to have 1 on each truck)	10,500
Safety Harness System (10 indiv sets – goal to outfit entire staff)	5,500
2 nd stair chair to be located at Station 2 (Sta. 1 already has one)	3,000
Replace Ford F-150 purchase in FY04 (deferred in FY10)	30,000
Replace CPR mannequin	2,500
Chief Graham reported that the CPR classes have become very popular with IOP residents.	
Replace staff computers	1,600
Firecom communication sys components for Engine 1 (new truck)	2,500
If this had been ordered with the truck it would have cost \$5,000, but the line item should be increased to \$3,500.	

Capital Needs for Additional Staffing Request

Bunker gear for 3 additional firefighters (1 per shift)	4,200
The personnel request will come forward with the discussions of the operating budget; this is a placeholder should the additional personnel be approved.	

Facility Maintenance

Generator maintenance (50% of PSB generator)	750
Generator maintenance – Station 2	1,100
Contribution to SIFD training facility maintenance	1,000
Elevator maintenance – Station 2	2,200
Elevator maintenance (1/2 of 1 elevator at PSB)	1,100
HVAC maintenance (50% of annual contract at PSB)	2,500
HVAC maintenance at FS2	2,000

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the FY 2010-2011 Fire Department capital budget as changed to the Ways and Means Committee; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Review of Projects Greater than \$250,000

Since all members of the Committee had reviewed the list at a previous meeting, the Committee set their priority list as follows;

1. 54-57th Avenue Drainage;
2. Marina dredging;
3. Disaster Recovery Fund;
4. Reconfiguration of Recreation Department ball fields; and
5. Marina docks replacement/reconfiguration.

E. Award of Contract in Excess of \$10,000 - None

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

- A. Fire Department – January 2010 – Chief Graham**
- B. Police Department – January 2010 – Chief Buckhannon**

The written reports are attached to the historic record of the meeting.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Chair Bettelli announced that the ALS race would be held Saturday, June 12, 2010; this event is included on the City's list of approved activities.

Next meeting date: 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Public Safety Building

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk