

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Monday, October 1, 2018

Conference Room

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

AGENDA

1. **Call to order** and acknowledgement 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**
Regular Meeting of September 5, 2018
3. **Citizens' Comments**
Request for City-sponsored event status for filming a portion of a National Geographic documentary dedicated to the 3 Civil War ship wrecks, including the Hunley, on Saturday, October 13th for a maximum of 2 hours
4. **Old Business**
 - A. Discussion of parking and traffic issues
 - Paid parking beyond Front Beach
 - Review of Stantec work product and impact of recent changes to parking
 - B. Update on funding for coyote count
 - C. Update on allowing golf carts on the beach for handicap persons
 - D. Consideration of changes to the dog ordinances
 - E. Update on IOP public transit initiative in partnership with the Council of Governments (COG)
5. **New Business**
Review of Hurricane Florence response
6. **Highlights of Departmental Reports**
Fire Department
Police Department
7. **Miscellaneous Business**

Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 5, 2018 in the Conference Room
8. **Executive Session – if needed**
Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session
9. **Adjournment**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
5:00 p.m., Monday, October 1, 2018

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 1, 2018 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bell and Ward, Chair Smith, Interim Administrator Fragoso, Interim Police Chief Usry, Fire Chief Graham and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2018 as submitted; Councilmember Ward seconded.

Chair Smith asked that the words "some of" before "City's best tools" be added to page 3, Paragraph 3; on page 6 paragraph 2, the word "Citadel" should be changed to "Wild Dunes Property Owners."

Vote on Corrected Minutes: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY to approve the minutes as corrected.

3. Citizens' Comments

The Chair stated that the City has been asked to approve the filming on the beach of a portion of a National Geographic documentary on the three (3) Civil War shipwrecks including the H L Hunley; they indicate that they will be filming on Saturday October 13th for two to three (2 – 3) hours with no impact to the City. The Committee participated in a conference call with Tom Vaughn of the film company; he said that the documentary was about the naval confrontations in the Civil War and how they changed naval history in America. They will film on the island to capture some of the coast of Charleston, and the Isle of Palms was selected for the atmospheric shots. He stated that they will have a handheld camera operator and possibly one (1) other person and possibly a drone taking those shots.

MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to approve the request for City-sponsored event status for filming on the beach on Saturday, October 13th for a National Geographic documentary; Councilmember Bell seconded.

Chair Smith asked whether the Isle of Palms would be specifically mentioned in the documentary, and Mr. Vaughn stated that he could not predict what would happen in the editing process, but he guaranteed that the Isle of Palms would be included in the credits at the end.

The Interim Administrator told Mr. Vaughn that part of the approval process was for the film company to provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance naming the City as an "additional insured."

He was prepared to make that happen once he received the approval.

Interim Administrator Fragoso also explained that a final step in the approval process was getting another approval from the City Council which will hold a Special Meeting in order to meet his timeline.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Katrina Limbach, 5 Duck Lane, noted that the Committee was addressing the issue of handicap access to the beach; she stated that her company IOP Beach Chair and Bike Company rents beach wheelchairs but they are typically sold out. Director Kerr suggested to her that they purchase another beach wheelchair that they would contract with the City for its use at a discounted rate that would cover their labor. She noted that many beach communities offer beach wheelchairs for the use of their residents and visitors; she thought that for the City to offer the service at Front Beach and suggested that the City might find a place to store it there. She said that her company typically rents the wheelchairs by the week at two hundred forty dollars (\$240); the daily rate is seventy dollars (\$70).

Jim Raih, 3906 Cameron Boulevard, thanked the City personnel for marking the handicap parking spaces at 21st and Palm earlier in the day. He voiced support for allowing golf carts on the beach, but added that, unless the City was going to mirror Sullivan's Island process, it would be "opening a can of worms." He noted that the County Park has two or three (2 – 3) beach wheelchairs that they do not charge for their use. On the subject of beach parking, he opined that the change to parallel parking on Palm Boulevard and not allowing stacking on the ocean side would create challenges for the houses on second row that have no parking on the landward side of Palm. He expressed the opinion that these changes could create a hardship for those residents living there. He said that any changes to the dog ordinances should be looked at from the perspective of "what is the end goal." He recalled times when he and his wife have been on the beach playing with their dogs and, out of nowhere, a dog comes up; he added that his dogs are not the friendliest and he is "on a first name basis" with Animal Control. He commented that dog owners need to be educated that the beach is not a big dog park where they can let their dogs run as much as one hundred (100) yards from them. He concluded saying that he thought the Committee was doing a good job on some tough issues.

Sally Wiseman, 35 Fairway Dunes Lane, stated that she was present to address the Coyote Management Plan, and she thanked the City for adopting it in the spring. Since the young coyotes are leaving the dens, more residents are reporting sightings that some residents think is reason for an urgent alert, which, in reality, should only occur in matters of safety. She indicated that residents have a serious need for more coyote education; she noted that the IOP Coyote Control Coalition was a good resource for residents and the City.

For better understanding, Ms. Wiseman asked what the data collection process was when residents call in sightings; she noted that the Coyote Management Plan was considered a framework and gave definitions which can be used as data is collected to measure when a situation reaches a point when City Council needs to take different actions. The Coalition is interested in knowing how the City is using the data being collected. She was very complimentary of Animal Control Officer Enourato for his professionalism, responsiveness and open-mindedness.

4. Old Business

MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to re-order the Agenda to place this item at the end of Old Business since it will be a lengthy discussion; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Update on funding for coyote count

Although processes for getting an estimate of the number of coyotes on the island were discussed during the FY19 budget process, Council did not make a decision for any type of study. Interim Administrator Fragoso recalled that the budget was increased by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for FY19, and it was done in case the City needed additional funds to take a different approach to reduce the coyote population.

Interim Chief Usry stated that Animal Control would be setting eight (8) soft-let traps and some of the Collarum traps where the ground is not saturated and will support them. The Department is also following up on the sightings in the 600 block of Palm Boulevard where multiple sightings have been reported.

Councilmembers Bell and Ward agreed that they would not support a coyote count in this fiscal year.

C. Update on allowing golf carts on the beach for handicap access

Interim Chief Usry stated, that, as far as the public safety aspect of allowing golf carts on the beach, the Police Department would not be supportive of that action; she explained that golf carts are not regulated by the state which means a four (4) year old child could drive one (1). Another consideration was that the majority of beach accesses are not wide enough to accommodate a golf cart and a pedestrian.

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The Interim Administrator indicated that, because of the public safety concerns, she could not recommend that the City move forward; she also noted that the topography of Sullivan's Island's beach was very different from that of the Isle of Palms. She stated that she thought other initiatives were available to the City to make the beach more accessible to handicapped residents and visitors. She suggested that, during the budget process, the City could consider an agreement with IOP Beach Chair and Bike Company whereby the City could provide the beach wheelchair to people and absorb the cost or the City could buy one or two (1 – 2) beach wheelchairs.

Councilmember Ward voiced complete agreement.

Chair Smith asked if one (1) beach access could accommodate a golf cart, could access be limited to that one (1) access.

Interim Administrator Fragoso commented that the access at 42nd Avenue is wide enough but that it ends in soft sand.

Councilmember Bell questioned whether the consideration of buying a beach wheelchair and offering its use for free was for residents or for visitors; he was not interested in IOP becoming the City offering the most, free services. He would prefer for the City coordinate with a commercial business.

D. Consideration of changes to the dog ordinances

When Chair Smith covered the changes she would like to see in the dog ordinance, she saw that some Councilmembers were supportive of them.

Interim Administrator Fragoso clarified that City Council took no action on the ordinance presented for First Reading, to allow the Committee to discuss those items as possible amendments. She stated that the Committee would not be making changes to the ordinance as presented by Chair Smith; if the Committee wanted to make changes to the ordinance as presented, they would have to be in the form of recommendations and to be offered to City Council for consideration. The amendments would not appear in ordinance form until after being approved by Council.

Councilmember Bell opined that Council was clear that the ordinance presented was not likely to pass, and he asked if the Committee was going to have the same discussion about changes in this Committee because, after discussing the issue for several months, he did not want to have another discussion at Council at this time because the Council had much larger issues to deal with.

Councilmember Smith stated that she did not want to see the changes to the dog ordinance fall by the wayside since the Committee has done a lot of work; she added that she has seen interest from dog owners who frequent the dog park and the beach with their dogs for these changes. She thought that the opposition has died down as residents have come to understand what the changes are trying to accomplish; at the very least verbiage needs to be added to the City Code requiring rabies inoculation so that the Animal Control Officer can enforce violations.

MOTION: Chair Smith moved to continue to recommend changes in City ordinances that provide clear language in regard to required proof of rabies inoculations so that the statute can be properly enforced by the Animal Control Officer.

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Interim Administrator Fragoso commented that this provision was already in the ordinance presented to Council.

MOTION: Chair Smith moved to recommend that the City only required dogs, resident and non-resident, to have proof of City registration in allowed off-leash situations.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Chair Smith moved to make City dog registration voluntary for resident and non-residents as long as they have other proof of rabies inoculation.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Chair Smith moved to switch from metal tags to a colored collar system for City dog registration, while maintaining the annual cost at \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

According to the Interim Administrator, the ordinance related to dog regulations presented to Council at the September meeting will go before them again in October for First Reading.

E. Update on IOP public transit initiative in partnership with the Council of Governments (COG)

Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that the City and the COG hosted a meeting in Council Chambers on September 19th and invited the businesses on the island to participate, including those at the marina and in Wild Dunes. The topic for the meeting was public transit to the island that would hopefully be used by their employees, and the purpose was to measure the level of participation the initiative might anticipate. A questionnaire was distributed to attendees and emailed to the invited businesses that could not attend asking additional questions and seeking additional information; they will go to the COG where they will design a program that best meets the needs of the island. She stated that was optimistic about having a plan in place for next season.

Councilmember Ward said that he had been told at the last CARTA meeting that they needed another month; they got behind due to Hurricane Florence.

A. Discussion of parking and traffic issues

- Paid Parking beyond Front Beach
- Review of Stantec work product and impact of recent changes to parking

By way of an update, Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that the signs stating the dates when the parking plan was in effect have been removed so people can get accustomed to year-round parking plan enforcement. The signs reflecting the recent parking changes will arrive in the City in mid-October and the poles a week later; installations will begin the first week in November.

The Interim Administrator reviewed the parking plans and issues with each that the City considered leading up to the adoption of the plan adopted; the reverse chronology of the parking plan is on the City's website.

Councilmember Ward noted that the City was going to get pushback from residents with the single line of parking on the ocean side of Palm.

Interim Chief Usry agreed with Councilmember Ward that the new parking ordinances were going to be difficult; the Councilmember stated that the residents were tired of the parking discussion.

Councilmember Bell stated that single-row, parallel parking was a conscious effort on the part of Council "to cut down on the . . . day-tripping, free parking on Palm Boulevard." He stated that he appreciated the concerns of the long-term residents on Palm, but the concerns become worse when the City does nothing. He stated that cars were four (4) deep in the curve on Palm over the past weekend; for him the problem was over-crowding.

Interim Administrator Fragoso advised the Committee that the State's Beach Management Act requires that the City provide access to the public beach, and cities are encouraged to increase access to the public beach for both residents and non-residents.

Councilmember Bell noted that the City far exceeds the number of parking spaces it is expected to have as defined in the City's Beach Management Plan. He stated that the City needs to set a practical limit as the City government that acknowledges that it has done its job in providing public access.

Chair Smith questioned that paid parking could be used as a tool to better control and steer traffic in a safer way; she stated that pay-to-park apps has made great strides since the City looked at them three to five (3 – 5) years ago and were much more affordable.

Councilmember Bell stated that he preferred to start with defining the problem to understand it because the solution may not be as complicated as once thought.

Councilmember Bell expressed the desire to know how many spaces are estimated to exist along Palm Boulevard with the changes to be implemented in a few weeks.

The Interim Administrator suggested that a good idea might be to wait to see how this year's changes affect parking and traffic next season. She reported that the last traffic study estimated a total of one thousand forty-four (1,044) on-street parking spaces on the island, and the required number of parking spaces per the Beach Management Plan is three hundred forty-eight (348) spaces for public beach access.

Councilmember Bell said that he wanted to see a parking plan that would accommodate what residents want and a number that is considered to be an appropriate amount of visitation on the island in a way that is responsible and in the interest of the public safety.

Interim Administrator Fragoso recalled that originally the existing parking plan left three (3) areas on the island unregulated, i.e. the Rec Center, Breach Inlet and 41st and Waterway; the area of 41st and Waterway was addressed earlier in the year. She suggested that the other two (2) might be starting places for future work. When the Interim Chief stated that Breach Inlet was SCDOT property, Interim Administrator Fragoso noted that the City would be required to get SCDOT approval for any parking regulations it wanted to impose there.

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For the next meeting, Chair Smith said that she would like to have the Stantec information to review and to continue discussions about expanding paid parking.

The Interim Administrator said that she would like to have clear direction from the Committee about the information they wanted staff to investigate related to paid parking.

Councilmember Bell suggested that staff learn what other beach communities are doing relevant to paid parking.

5. New Business

Review of Hurricane Florence response

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that everyone stepped up to the plate throughout the period the City was on alert; department heads gathered at least once a day, and sometimes more, to listen to the updates from the Charleston County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and to implement the City's emergency action plan. She stated that she was very pleased with the way the departments worked together and coordinated their efforts when necessary.

Interim Chief Usry has a policy referred to as "The Unusual Occurrences or Hazard Policy" in place; the plan meets all CALEA requirements. The policy explains what officers are expected to do in all stages of the operating conditions as they change.

Councilmember Ward stated that he thought the public safety departments did “an exceptional job” when the City was waiting for Hurricane Florence to decide where she was going.

The Interim Administrator explained that the statewide EOC has eliminated the voluntary evacuation order; the governor will only issue mandatory evacuations; however, state law does not establish a means to enforce a mandatory evacuation – people must make their own decisions and be willing to accept the consequences. The City serves as a communicator to those on the island.

For his personal education, Councilmember Bell commented that he attended the staff meetings as the City waited, and he stated that “the level of coordination and the level of professionalism were off the charts.” When the EOC declared that the entire County was at OPCON 1 – immediate threat, people became confused.

Interim Administrator Fragoso suggested that staff erred on the side of transparency by publicizing the operational levels that the City was following.

Chief Graham stated that, before the hurricane season begins, the Fire Department updates its Memoranda of Understanding for alternate sources of housing and for staging equipment. If a storm is approaching, they test their equipment, chain saws, generators, etc., to ensure they are in good working order; they also get extra fuel. They also notify the island residents on the Primary Assistance list; residents who might need assistance are residents who may need help boarding up their windows, may need assistance with securing objects that could become flying projectiles, may need assistance in getting off the island or down stairs to leave the island, etc. Personnel will ultimately place phone calls to each of these people to learn who is staying and who is going. The Chief noted that Station 2 is much lower than Station 1, so the flood panels must be installed and the equipment must be relocated.

Chair Smith stated that she too thought that the City’s departments had done a great job with a high level of professionalism. She indicated that some citizens were complaining about the availability of sandbags and asked that the Interim Administrator explain the City procedures with sand bags.

Interim Administrator Fragoso said that the City bought three or four (3 – 4) truckloads of sand; if the storm was still forty-eight (48) hours out and the determination was that the City should get more sand, depending on availability, it will do so. The Public Works Department maintains a stock of sandbags, and residents are responsible for filling the bags. The notice to residents is that the sand and bags, at no cost, are available to residents only and that they were asked to limit to no more than ten (10) bags.

Councilmember Bell was very complimentary of Director Pitts who stayed “on top” of the sand-bag operation, and, when others were scrambling for bags, he secured an additional quantity of them.

Responding to the Chair’s inquiry, Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that the sand and bags were not very expensive, but having sandbags provides some residents with peace of mind. She commented that it was a service that the City should continue to offer, and she noted that the cost of the sand and bags was reimbursable from FEMA at the 75 – 25 rate.

In the after-action meeting, staff discussed how to better educate the public on the correct placement of sandbags to get the best result.

Councilmember Ward noted that the sandbags were a free service offered by the City, and it could not provide residents with an unlimited supply of bags. Some businesses in the area had sandbags for sale.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department (Copies of both reports are on the City's website)
Police Department

7. Miscellaneous Business

Net Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 5, 2018 in the Conference Room

8. Executive Session not needed

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.;
Councilmember Ward seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

British television production company Mallinson Sadler Productions is in Charleston from 12-15 October making an episode for season 2 of National Geographic's documentary series DRAIN THE OCEANS.

The series is about naval archaeology – using state of the art scanning technology to unlock hidden histories on our ocean beds. Please feel free to explore the series more: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/drain-the-oceans/>

For one episode we are telling the history of the Civil War through three wrecks – the USS Monitor in Hampton Roads, the USS Tecumseh in Mobile and the HL Hunley and USS Housatonic in Charleston. We are spending time with the team at the Warren Lasch Conservation Centre to see their work on the wreck of the Hunley, and intend to interview our historian Jim Delgado at Fort Moultrie.

We are keen to shoot atmospheric B-roll footage that shows off the beauty of coastal Charleston and are keen to come along to Isle of Palms beach for a maximum of two hours on the afternoon of Saturday 13 October to film some beauty shots of the beach. This would involve a crew of about four or five persons, a camera on a tripod and perhaps a drone (weather dependent). There will be no actors or extras, no special effects, no road closures, no vehicles bar the two cars we arrive in, no props or set dressings and no need for any supervision from a city representative. We would be simply looking to capture time-lapses and panoramas of beach vistas such as the below.



I would be incredibly grateful if you could consider granting us a permit to film on Isle of Palms beach and am happy to take any further calls or emails relating to our trip and/or documentary. I can be reached on tom.vaughan@msptv.co.uk or +447974920033.

Kind regards,
Tom Vaughan
Producer
Mallinson Sadler Productions

ORDINANCE 2018-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 6, HEALTH AND SANITATION, CHAPTER 2, ANIMALS, ARTICLE B: DOGS, OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO REQUIRE ALL DOGS, RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT, TO HAVE A WRITTEN PERMIT FROM THE CITY AND TAG AT A COST OF \$5 FOR RESIDENTS AND \$10 FOR NON-RESIDENTS TO SERVE AS PROOF OF RABIES INOCULATION AND TO ADOPT LANGUAGE IN THE ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE PROOF OF CURRENT RABIES INOCULATION.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. That Section 6-2-11, is hereby amended by deleting in its entirety and replacing it to state as follows:

“Sec. 6-2-11. - Permit required; Term.

It shall be unlawful for any person, resident or visitor, to own, keep, harbor or allow a dog within the City limits, exercise, walk, or allow a dog on public properties without a written permit from the City. Each permit shall be valid for one calendar year commencing January 1 of each year, and no longer.”

SECTION 2. That Section 6-2-12, is hereby amended by deleting in its entirety and replacing it to state as follows:

“Sec. 6-2-12. - Certificate of vaccination required and presented prior to permit and tag issuance.

No person shall own, keep or harbor any pet within the city, or be issued a permit, unless the pet has been vaccinated against rabies as provided herein.

(A) Unless the pet has received (as evidenced by certificate) a vaccination from a licensed graduate veterinarian using a vaccine which is good for a period of one year, provided the vaccine has been approved with the longer period of time specified by the State Department of Health and Environmental Control after consultation with the executive committee of the Association of Veterinarians.

(B) A State Department of Health and Environmental Control certificate of pet rabies vaccination will be issued by a licensed graduate veterinarian for each pet, stating the name and address of the owner, the name, breed, color and markings, age, sex of animal and the veterinary or pharmaceutical control number of the vaccination.

(C) Coincident with the issuance of the certificate, the licensed graduate veterinarian shall also furnish a serially numbered metal tag bearing the same number and year as is on the

certificate. The metal license tag shall bear the name of the veterinarian and shall at all times be attached to a collar or harness worn by the pet for which the certificate and tag have been issued. Tags must be of the same color and shape when issued in offices of veterinarians.

(D) The owner shall have a valid certificate of rabies vaccination readily available at all times for inspection by the animal control officer, law enforcement officer or the SCDHEC designee.

(E) In the event that a rabies tag is lost, the owner shall obtain a duplicate tag within seven working days.

(F) A certificate of rabies vaccination issued by a licensed veterinarian from another state will be accepted as valid evidence provided it is less than a year from date of issue.

(G) Rabies inoculation must be given by age four months to all cats and dogs.”

SECTION 3. That Section 6-2-13, is hereby amended to state as follows:

“Sec. 6-2-13. – Tags Issued; records.

The City shall annually provide a sufficient number of stamped metal tags suitable for dogs to be fastened to the animal's collar, numbered from one upwards, stamped "dog permit" and the year of issue. This tag and the written permit shall be delivered to the person owning, keeping or harboring the dog. The name and address of each party to whom such permit and tag has been issued shall be kept on file by the City, for the purpose of identification in case such tags should at any time be lost, stolen or otherwise misappropriated. The cost of the tag will be Five (\$5.00) Dollars for residents and Ten (\$10.00) Dollars for non-residents.”

SECTION 4. That Section 6-2-14, is hereby amended to state as follows:

“Sec. 6-2-14. - Removal of tag from dog prohibited.

No person shall wrongfully remove a tag from a dog registered as required by this article. “

SECTION 5. Should any part of this Ordinance be held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall be severable therefrom and shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as the same affect this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. That this Ordinance take effect and be in full force as of January 1, 2019.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2018.

Jimmy Carroll, Mayor

(Seal)

Attest:

Marie B. Copeland, City Clerk

First Reading: _____

Second Reading: _____

Ratification: _____