

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
9:00am, Monday, November 4, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council Member Buckhannon (chair), Council Members Bell and Ward

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. City Administrator Hanna, Chief Cornett,
Chief Graham

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. Council Member Buckhannon referred to an email received by Dr. Smiley requesting the minutes be amended to reflect his request for consideration of making the landward side of Ocean Boulevard for resident permit parking from 4th Avenue to Inlet Lane and not 10th Avenue. Council Member Buckhannon made a motion to amend the minutes as requested, and Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The vote to amend the minutes passed unanimously. The vote to pass the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Susan Page, 5 Forest Trail Court 1, said she was concerned about a loss of momentum on Ordinance 2019-16 regarding dilapidated structures. She asked to know about the status of the changes to the ordinance.

4. Old Business

A. Consideration of Ordinance 2019-16 – An Ordinance to establish new standards for dilapidated structures

Council Member Buckhannon noted the homeowner at the center of this ordinance has been making changes to the property. Administrator Fragoso stated that excessive mold and mildew could not be added to the ordinance as written and that suggestions from the City Attorney are included in this new version. She noted the other change to the ordinance included repairs needed due to storm damage.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to send Ordinance 2019-16 to City Council for First Reading. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Update on request to SCDOT to conduct a speed study on Palm Boulevard between 10th and 21st avenues

Administrator Fragoso reported that SCDOT has received the City's and they have begun working on it. SCDOT's results and recommendations should be available in 4-6 weeks.

C. Update on implementation of 4' off pavement rule on Palm Boulevard between 41st and 53rd avenues and consideration of recommendations for 2020 beach parking plan

Administrator Fragoso said that Stantec reached out to SCDOT who said the City did not need to get a revised encroachment permit to make the proposed changes to the parking plan. She stated the parking plan can be modified and approved by City Council through a resolution based on the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee, which could be done at the November meeting. The changes will require the purchase of 24 signs which can be affixed to current signposts by Public Works staff or BSOs.

MOTION: Based on staff recommendations, Council Member Bell made a motion to revise the parking plan to including parallel parking and the 4' off pavement rule on Palm Boulevard between 41st and 53rd avenues and to implement parallel parking from 3rd to 9th avenues on Ocean Boulevard. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Update on surveillance camera at Breach Inlet

Chief Cornett reported that he reached out to six companies who could provide a surveillance camera at Breach Inlet, and he received two responses. He said the prices ranged from \$8,000-\$21,000. He suggested using the monies saved on the vehicle purchases to pay for the camera. He noted the company with the lowest offer at this point is the company the City has used for surveillance cameras. He said the costs do not include the electricity needed to power the camera.

Administrator Fragoso agreed there were funds available to use but requested that any recommendation made to the Ways & Means Committee for consideration include a "not to exceed number" as there are ancillary and unknown costs with the installation and use of the camera. Another option would be to put the camera on the Committee's FY21 budget wish list.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to request funds not exceeding \$10,000 to allow for the "investigation of putting in a camera with the appropriate encroachment permits and power." Council Member Buckhannon seconded the motion.

Council Member Buckhannon expressed concern about this purchase not being a budgeted item. Council Member Bell said that putting the motion before Council is only to help discover the costs and practicality of the camera, not to necessarily make the purchase. Additional costs such as electricity still need to be researched. The possibility of using a solar-powered camera was briefly discussed. Administrator Fragoso said that if City Council approves the funds for the purchase, all options will be explored.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

E. Update on TrueGrid sample implementation

Administrator Fragoso said this project had been put aside for the summer, but she will reach out to the contractors she spoke to earlier in the year about providing a sample installation. The City had been offered a no-cost sample installation of up to four parking spaces. She believes the sample could be installed somewhere along Palm Boulevard between 25th-26th avenues. She added that SCDOT has approved the product and will only need simple plans submitted to them prior to installation. She said the City will get the cost for installing the system on one block and then extrapolate the cost for the entire island. If approved, this project will most likely be implemented in phases.

5. New Business

A. Update on malware intrusion, steps taken to mitigate issue, and plan to prevent it from occurring in the future

Administrator Fragoso gave a comprehensive update on last month's ransomware attack on the City's IT system. Among those contacted about the attack were the City's attorney, State and Federal authorities, including the Secret Service, and an investigation into the incident is ongoing. She noted that only 12 computers were infected, and some were replaced. Through the process of recovering data, it was discovered that current backup procedures were inadequate. Redundant backup systems are now in place, and everything that is crucial for City operations is now working. She reported that a cybersecurity firm was hired to conduct a risk assessment, and "they were unable to penetrate the firewall" after the work done by IT. They did identify some risks and critical issues, which have now been dealt with by IT. Everything is back up and running, but some systems such as the court software system and the connections to CDC and NCIC are still being worked on. In order to avoid this in the future, a cybersecurity policy will be developed including training for staff and limiting the use of USBs on City computers. Lastly, she reported there appeared to be no sign of data exfiltration.

B. Discussion of implementing a Reserve Officer Program in the Police Department

Chief Cornett noted the City used to have a Reserve Officer Program, and he would like to reinstitute the program in light of Officer Sanders' retirement and inquiry into such a status. He said the only cost to the City at this point is Worker's Compensation. It will be the officer's responsibility to maintain his monthly training hours. Administrator Fragoso commended Chief Cornett for resurrecting the idea as recruiting new officers has been difficult in recent years.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the development of a Reserve Officer Program in the Police Department. Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of resolution authorizing the consumption of beer and wine at the Holiday Street Festival on December 7, 2019

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the consumption of beer and wine at the Holiday Street Festival on December 7, 2019. Council Member Bell seconded the motion.

Council Member Ward said he would like to have a remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day at the Holiday Street Festival. Administrator Fragoso said she has already contacted the VFW to include them in such a recognition. Council Member Ward suggested including active duty and reserve military personnel also to participate in the event.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham briefly reviewed the October statistics for the Fire Department.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett stated there is no paper report, but he said there were no significant incidents to report. He did share the hiring process for new officers is moving along. A brief discussion ensued about noise ordinance violations at the site of the Wild Dunes Hotel. He also reported the clean-up of the trash left behind following the fireworks display at the Citadel Beach House last weekend has been addressed.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Monday, January 13, 2020 at 9:00am.

8. Executive Session – none needed

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk