

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 5, 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 August 15, 2018

3. **Citizens' Comments**

4. **Old Business**

- A. Discussion of plan to address parking and traffic issues at October meeting
- B. Discussion of Coyote Management Plan
  - Obtaining coyote count estimate
- C. Consideration of changes to the visitor parking passes
- D. Consideration of dog permitting and related policies and ordinances

5. **New Business**

- A. Discussion of allowing golf carts on the beach for handicapped persons
- B. Update on crosswalk request on Palm at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

6. **Highlights of Departmental Reports**

Fire Department

Police Department

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Monday, October 1, 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., Wednesday, August 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 15, 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 City Administrator Fragoso, Fire Chief Graham, Interim Chief of Police Usry and City 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 July 2, 2018 as submitted; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Citizens' Comments**

Alice Bova, 403 Palm Boulevard, referenced an email she sent to Interim Administrator Fragoso, Interim Chief Usry, Clerk Copeland and Public Works Director Pitts earlier in the month requesting that the City do what it could to assist her in getting a crosswalk, a "Yield to Pedestrians" sign on Palm at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the relocation of the 30 mph sign. She noted that the neighborhood includes Merritt Boulevard and Palm Boulevard between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues, and the residents are primarily year-round residents with a total of eight (8) children of school age. She stated that one (1) of the neighbors had contacted the Transportation Department (likely SCDOT) about installing a crosswalk on Palm at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and was told that a crosswalk would make crossing Palm Boulevard even more dangerous.

Chair Smith told Mrs. Bova that her request would be on the Agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

Troy Hagemann, owner of Coastal Bus Line, addressed the Committee about his company providing a shuttle service between Mount Pleasant and the Isle of Palms. He said that his buses were yellow school buses that have been retrofitted for air conditioning and seat belts and were capable of carrying the beach gear people typically have when going to the beach. He stated that his goal was to keep his drivers employed year-round.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Update on Managed Beach Parking Plan**

**1. Discussion of fall implementation of approved changes**

Related to the sign contract recently awarded, Interim Administrator Fragoso reported that she did not yet have a firm delivery date, but the contractor has requested that the sign installation begin after Labor Day, the hope is that the installation will be completed by mid-October.

Interim Chief Usry gave the Committee members a copy of the pamphlet the Police Department has printed explaining what changes have been made; she said that some of them were distributed at the National Night Out event and others would be made available to residents and visitors closer to the implementation date along with a media blitz, email blasts and space on the City's and Police Department's websites. Interim Administrator Fragoso also noted that the most recent Mayor's message in *The Island Eye* was dedicated to the upcoming changes to the City's Managed Beach Parking Plan.

Councilmember Bell thought the key to enforcement was consistency; he then asked what the City's policy was related to warning periods.

Interim Chief Usry said that the City normally observes a thirty-day (30 day) grace period when only warnings are issued; she commented that this happened every spring when the covers were taken off the kiosks on Front Beach.

## **2. Discussion of new signage from 42<sup>nd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues**

The Interim Administrator reported that concerns have been expressed that, when the parallel parking goes into effect between 21<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, the dramatic reduction in parking in that area will migrate up Palm Boulevard between 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She pointed out that the ocean side in that area was No Parking zone while the opposite side was part of the Beach Parking zone. The area between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues was not originally considered a problem area since the majority of parking would stay between 21<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The only signs there now were at intersections saying "No Parking Here to Corner" with no signage in the middle of the blocks leading one to think that parking was allowed. Since the beach parking was expected to migrate northward with the current changes, the City should act proactively and install the necessary signage indicating "No Parking" on the ocean side between 44<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> and "No Parking" on either side of Palm between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

Councilmember Bell reported that residents along Palm in the area between 42<sup>nd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where the signs read "No Parking on Pavement," have called him because, in an effort to obey the signs, beach-goers were parking in the residents' yards.

When asked if this area would be signed "No Parking" in this round of signage, Interim Chief Usry said that she and the Interim Administrator plan to draft a change order to the existing contract for "No Parking" signs to be installed from 42<sup>nd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This would add approximately twenty (20) signs.

## **3. Discussion of policy changes relative to visitor parking pass booklets**

A copy of the current visitor parking pass was included in the meeting packet; in the interest of responding to resident complaints, the easiest thing to do would be to change the "One Day Residential Visitor Parking Permit" to an annual pass. Chair Smith added that the "date valid" would be removed, but the resident should continue to identify the vehicle license number and the address to which the passes were assigned. The pass as described would not allow a visitor to park at any other address on the island; she continued to suggest that residents be issued two (2) booklets of visitor passes. If a resident needed a third or fourth booklet, the Police Department could continue to sell them for fifteen dollars (\$15).

Councilmember Bell commented that the addition of the license number eliminated the re-use of the visitor pass which was one (1) of the reasons for changing them. If the pass was displayed

in a locked vehicle and located in front of the residence that the visitor pass was assigned, he did not think the license number was necessary, and the Interim Chief indicated that agreement. Prior to giving a definitive answer, Interim Chief Usry asked for time to discuss the changes with Captain Swain.

**MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to change the daily visitor parking passes to annual multi-use passes showing the address they were assigned to and to authorize an ordinance allowing residents two (2) booklets; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Update on traffic counts along 41<sup>st</sup>, Waterway and Palm**

Interim Chief Usry stated that she had contacted SCDOT about their assistance in deploying some traffic counters and was told that, at this time, they do not have them to deploy; additionally the type of counter they use only gives cumulative data, not separate daily counts. She noted that SCDOT does have a counter embedded at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue near Hartnett that is giving the same kind of numbers as the speed detectors on 41<sup>st</sup>, i.e. approximately seventeen hundred to two thousand (1,700 – 2,000) cars per day travel 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. The City owns a portable speed counter that could also serve as a counter; it needs a software update, and she and Captain Swain were trying to get that done to determine if it was still usable. She commented that a portable traffic counter was not included in the FY19 budget.

Councilmember Bell asked if the count she quoted was a current one, i.e. in-season, and she confirmed that it was.

**C. Discussion of public transit and seasonal shuttle to IOP**

Councilmember Ward, the City's representative on the CARTA Board, informed the Committee that he met with Ron Mitchum, Executive Director of the Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Council of Governments (BCD COG), that now manages CARTA and a couple of his colleagues earlier; he told them that he has two (2) areas of concern related to public transit and the type of service CARTA provides, hospitality and long-range day-tripper parking on IOP. His specific ideas on hospitality included getting the cars out of the neighborhoods and off 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the Recreation Center. He stated that the problem areas were the IOP Marina and Morgan Creek Grill (MCG) because of the large number of employees that needed to park on-site and Wild Dunes with the one hundred fifty-seven (157) room hotel they were building despite the appearance that they do not have sufficient parking for their guests and hospitality workers. Councilmember Ward said that he would like to see CARTA services to the Isle of Palms revived and to add stops to the marina and MCG, Wild Dunes and Front Beach in the summer months. Mr. Mitchum asked for contact names with the City and said that a plan could possibly be crafted in sixty (60) days. The Councilmember noted that Front Beach restaurants, other than the Acme Lowcountry Kitchen, buy annual parking passes for their employees to park in the municipal lots and that parking spaces were not guaranteed for them. Mr. Mitchum indicated that CARTA was looking at locations in Mount Pleasant that could serve as a park-and-ride base.

Having learned this information today, Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that she looked forward to sharing it with the City's staff and initiating discussions with the CARTA staff to get a clear understanding of what could be done. She opined that it was a great opportunity to address parking problems on the island.

**D. Discussion of plan to address additional parking and traffic issues**  
• **Consideration of scheduling Committee work session**

Commenting that the City would soon be implementing changes to parking and traffic that were adopted earlier in the year, Chair Smith noted that other issues related to parking and traffic were yet to be addressed, and she wanted the Committee to determine the best way to move forward. She distributed a list of topics that she thought warranted further study, including

- Expanding paid street parking beyond Front Beach;
- Palm Boulevard, 21<sup>st</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> – other possible improvements, bike lanes;
- Palm Boulevard, 42<sup>nd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> – safety concerns, needs to keep beach funding;
- Parking issues on southern and western ends of the island;
- Seasonal beach shuttle;
- Redesigning lanes on the Connector; and
- Front Beach traffic flow.

Councilmember Ward asked the Chair if the discussion on these issues could take place at the next meeting giving the Committee members time to consider them and, therefore, have a more productive discourse. He added that, although the meeting might run long, he was not in favor of a work session apart from a regular meeting.

Councilmember Bell opined that one (1) thing that should be done would be to go beyond the Managed Beach Parking Plan to a Balanced Parking Plan, which would involve the understanding of current ordinances, current plans, and state requirements. He thought that the City met state requirements “by stuffing as much as we [the City] can between 21<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> and know that there will be a spill-over to the rest of the island,” but do not address the other side of the Connector. He would like for the administrative staff to report to the Committee on where the City was overall, and come back with a managed view, engaging the citizens, and talking about all of the possibilities to solve the problem for the entirety of the island, rather than sections at a time. He stated that, when the new signs were installed, the marina would not have parking on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and, in his view, the problem spilled over to the possibilities with CARTA. He stated that he wanted answers that addressed all of the parking issues on the island.

Interim Administrator Fragoso recommended that this Committee and the balance of Council go to the City’s website to Parking and Beach Improvements to read the reverse chronology where all of the former Councils’ activities, beginning in 2008, were detailed that lead up to the adoption of the Managed Beach Parking Plan. She stated that City Council and staff worked with traffic engineers from Stantec for years to determine what was best for the City; she suggested that some questions Councilmember Bell has would be answered in the Stantec work product.

Interim Chief Usry endorsed the idea of having a traffic engineer on board as the Committee moved forward on parking, and noted that Stantec has been involved with the City and its parking issues from the beginning and were very familiar with the island and its parking problems.

Referencing the change on Palm Boulevard of going from perpendicular parking to parallel parking only on both sides, Councilmember Bell estimated that the number of cars parked on Palm would be reduced by, at least, half. He noted that Mount Pleasant residents would likely be displeased, but the Councilmembers elected in November 2017 campaigned on maintaining the residential quality of life on the island. He opined that, when the Committee was considering modifications to the Managed Beach Parking Plan, they should begin with goals.

Interim Administrator Fragoso explained that part of the scope of work for Stantec was to analyze the impact of the changes made to the parking plan that will go into effect with the installation of new signage; for instance, they will put numbers to the question of how many cars could park on Palm Boulevard between 21st and 41<sup>st</sup> with the introduction of parallel parking on both sides. She also noted that prior Councils discussed at length having paid parking on Palm Boulevard.

According to Interim Chief Usry, if Council decided to have paid parking on Palm, the rights-of-way would need significant improvements, i.e. paving and lining-off the individual parking spaces.

Another reason Council decided against paid parking on Palm was that the City could not make a distinction between resident and non-resident vehicles, meaning that residents who park in the paid parking area would be required to pay-to-park like non-residents.

The consensus of the Committee was to hold the parking discussion at the October 2018 meeting.

#### **E. Discussion of dog permitting and related policies and ordinances**

Interim Chief Usry prepared a brief presentation, and a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

The Interim Chief restated the two (2) motions that came from the June 2018 Public Safety meeting as follows:

Councilmember Bell moved to go forward with licensing and fees as proof of inoculation for all dogs on the beach or at the Bark Park at a dollar amount comparable to other local governments;

Chair Smith moved to direct staff to research an easily identified collar or tag that would aid the Animal Control Officer in enforcement and recommendations on the amount to charge residents and non-residents for the collar or tag

Her presentation began with Section 6-2-11 of the City Code that states "It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep or harbor a dog within the City without a written permit from the City;" based on the recommendation from the former City Attorney, the Police Department has enforced this ordinance on island residents only. In Section 6-2-12 of the City Code, the statement is that an applicant for a dog license must have "proof of a current, valid rabies inoculation."

Interim Chief Usry noted that Sullivan's Island was the only local beach community to require that all dogs were to be licensed, resident and non-resident, and she passed around the collar that they were using to identify dogs with a proper dog license for 2018. The Interim Chief said that they have been very successful with the collars and metal tags; Sullivan's Island charges residents twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a collar and tag and non-residents must pay thirty-five dollars (\$35). The Town of Mount Pleasant does not require dogs to be registered through the Town's Police Department; however they do require that all dogs to have a rabies tag issued by the veterinarian on a dog's collar. When looking at Folly Beach, she found that they have a system very similar to IOP with the exceptions that, if a dog is going to be on the island less than thirty (30) days, the owner was not required to purchase a City dog license, and residents fifty-five (55) years old and older were allowed to register their dogs free of charge. Folly Beach also includes the requirement for rabies inoculation in their ordinance, which the Interim Chief would also like to do. The State does have a requirement for a rabies inoculation, but the Animal Control Officer could not enforce State laws because he was not a sworn officer. By including the



requirement for proof of a current rabies inoculation in an ordinance, the Animal Control Officer would have a basis for checking and writing a City citation.

The original motion referred to only the beach and the Bark Park; Interim Chief Usry would prefer that any change to 6-2-11 not be specific to one or two (1 – 2) areas of the island but encompass the entire island and the law should be the same for resident and non-residents. As noted previously, a change being requested for 6-2-12 was inclusion of a requirement for the proof of a current rabies inoculation enabling the Animal Control Officer to write a citation for the dog owner who does not have a current rabies certificate from a veterinarian.

If the City were to stay with the metal tags, the Department normally buys five hundred (500) for approximately one hundred dollars (\$100) including shipping. If the City chose to use the same collars the Sullivan's Island uses, they cost approximately two dollars (\$2.00) each.

Chair Smith asked if non-resident dog owners could be required to have proof of a current rabies vaccination rather than require all dog owners to register their dogs via a visit to the Police Department.

The Interim Chief thought that would be possible, but she also thought that situation would be served by excluding dog owners who plan to have their dogs on the island less than thirty (30) days in the ordinance.

Councilmember Bell pointed out that the original motion from the June meeting did not include any mention of fees to be charged for the dog permit and IOP license. In his opinion, the intent of the motion was that non-resident dogs were still invited to run on the beach, but their owners would now be charged an annual fee for the privilege to do so.

Councilmember Ward stated that, when the City looked at the dog collars several years ago, they cost between twenty-five and thirty-five dollars (\$25 - \$35), and the cost was the reason that City Council did not go forward with colored collars at that time. Councilmember Ward emphasized that he still did not support raising residents fees paid for anything.

The Interim Chief reiterated that Sullivan's Island was the only local community that requires non-residents to register their dogs, and they charge residents twenty-five dollars (\$25) and non-residents must pay thirty-five dollars (\$35) to do so.

Councilmember Bell thought that a disservice was being done to residents when non-residents can come to the island with their dogs without meeting the same standards residents must meet.

For Chair Smith, the issue of not requiring that all dogs owners, visitor or resident, have proof of a current rabies inoculation was a major issue and one that needed to be addressed.

Interim Administrator Fragoso noted that staff was looking to the Committee to give them direction on the fees to be charged for the dog licenses; she indicated that the City could continue using the tags and charge residents five dollars (\$5). Council could also choose to change to the colored collars, and, based on Interim Chief Usry's research, the fee could stay at five dollars (\$5).

Interim Chief Usry opined that the only ordinance changes that she thought were needed were to clarify Section 6-2-11 so that it referred to all dogs, resident and non-resident, and the inclusion of the requirement for rabies inoculation to Section 6-2-12 that would give the Animal Control

Officer the tool to check and write citations for not having proof of a current rabies inoculation. She noted that the data the City collects when issuing a dog license gives the Police Department the information necessary to return lost dogs to their rightful owner.

**MOTION:** Chair Smith moved to change the City's dog permitting ordinances to add "It shall be unlawful for any resident to own, keep, harbor or allow a dog within the City limits or exercise or walk or allow a dog on public properties without a written permit from the City" and to add "It shall be unlawful for any visitor to own, keep, harbor or allow a dog within the City limits or exercise or walk or allow a dog on public properties without a written permit from the City or another proof of current rabies vaccination."

Interim Chief Usry opined that this ordinance would be unfair to the residents since the residents must pay for their dog license and non-residents would not.

**Councilmember Bell seconded the motion for discussion.**

Although non-residents would not be required to pay for their permit, the Chair pointed out that currently non-resident dogs do not have to be registered and, therefore, not required to show proof of current rabies inoculation. The changes stated above would at least require that all dogs, resident and non-resident, be registered with the City and have a current rabies inoculation.

Chair Smith thought that expecting every person who comes onto the island with a dog to go to the Police Department to obtain an IOP dog license was unrealistic, but she thought that, with her suggested changes, the law was simple and would be enforceable.

Councilmember Bell stated that he would not support the proposed changes because they change nothing and the City would have the same problems it has currently.

**Amendment:** Chair Smith moved to change the current ordinances related to dogs to state that unleashed dogs on the beach or at the Bark Park during off-leash hours be required to wear a current City-issued dog license, tag or collar, to make it clearly visible proof of rabies inoculation, and that residents continue to pay \$5 for the permit and non-residents pay \$10 for the permit.

The amendment failed for lack of a second.

Based on additional discussions, Chair Smith withdrew her original motion and Councilmember Bell withdrew the second.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Bell moved to follow Interim Chief Usry's recommendations to require all dogs, resident or non-resident, to have a written permit from the City at a fee 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; Chair Smith seconded.

The Chair asked for the ordinance amendment to include an exception for dog owners on the island less than thirty (30) days.



Interim Administrator Fragoso said that she needed to confirm the cost for the collars and to study the impact this change would have on current staffing due to the potential increase in activity in the Police Department.

Chair Smith asked the Interim Chief whether this ordinance would be enforceable, and whether it was logical to think all dog-owners who come to the island would go to the Police Department to get the written permit and tag or collar.

The Interim Chief was confident that the new requirement could be enforced, and Interim Administrator Fragoso acknowledged that a major component to initiating the new policy would be public education from social media, the City's website and from officers when patrolling the beach.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

As the Committee discussed tag versus collar, Interim Chief Usry stated that the collars were not included in the FY19 Police Department budget and that she did not have an extra four thousand dollars (\$4,000) in the FY19 budget to implement this change.

The Chair thought that the cost was much lower than originally anticipated and that the funds could be found in the budget to purchase the collars for 2019. She contended that the optimum time to begin distribution of the new collars would be when the other changes to the dog ordinance went into effect with the new calendar year.

Since collars were not included in the FY19 budget, Councilmember Ward stated that a change to the collars would occur in January of 2020.

Although the Chair continued to assert that the money could be found in the FY19 budget for the collars, Councilmember Ward stated that he was doubtful that Council would support the change to colored dog collars because it would be an unbudgeted expenditure. With the possibility of visitors buying a dog license in October and then having to buy another in January was not practical; therefore, she recommended that all of the changes go into effect January 1, 2019.

Interim Chief Usry said that delaying the rollout of the changes until January 1 would provide the Police Department time for public education about the new requirements.

**5. New Business**

**A. Discussion of free parking for veterans at Front Beach**

Interim Administrator Fragoso stated that Councilmember Buckhannon requested that the Committee discuss the possibility of offering free parking for veterans at Front Beach to veterans and that, in her research, she learned that per State law the vehicles with a handicap placard or license plate belonging to disabled veterans and recipients of the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor license plates are exempt from paid parking requirements as long as the vehicles displayed the special license plates issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). When the Interim Administrator asked Attorney Copeland if the City could legally do this, she was told that the attorney for Myrtle Beach had advised them that they could do it, but cautioned that they would be omitting many who serve the public, i.e., firefighters, first responders, police officers, teachers, nurses, etc. Providing free parking for veterans at Front Beach would require them to get the special license plate from the DMV at an additional cost in order to participate. Since the City owns Ocean Boulevard between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues, no SCDOT approval would be needed; veterans

who are disabled or received the Purple Heart or Medal of Honor are allowed to park free on the street and in the parking lots as long as they have the special license plates.

As a veteran, Councilmember Ward stated that he was not in favor of the City taking this action because of the exclusion of other worthwhile groups, especially first responders.

**B. Discussion of public safety and security for City Council and City employees**

Councilmember Bell indicated that he discussed public safety with Interim Administrator Fragoso as a result of attending a session at the MASC Annual Meeting related to an active shooter and the necessary response. Although most people think that kind of situation could not happen here, he has learned that is not true as deranged individuals have attacked others indiscriminately and for seemingly no reason. Since the City now uses a metal detector at sessions of court, he suggested that Council should consider using it as well.

**MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to use the metal detector for Council meetings; Councilmember Ward seconded.**

Interim Administrator Fragoso explained that the City contracts with a local company to operate the metal detector and wand for court sessions; the cost is two hundred dollars (\$200) for four (4) hours.

The Interim Chief was in total agreement with this move by the Committee; she also noted that, when court was held, several armed police officers were present should anything happen outside the norm. She recommended that an armed officer attend Council meetings to engage any threat; she informed the Committee that Officer Storen was certified through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to teach "Active Shooter" and "Active Threats." Interim Chief Usry also suggested that City Council set aside time to go through the training session Officer Storen has put together.

Councilmember Ward asked if money had been earmarked in the FY19 budget to cover this expenditure, and the Interim Administrator responded that it was not specifically identified, but she thought the cost could be absorbed in the Meetings and Seminars line.

**Amendment: Chair Smith moved to amend the motion to include the presence of an armed IOP police officer at Council meetings; Councilmember Bell seconded and it PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VOTE: The amended motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Consideration of an award of a sole source contract to L3 Mobile-Vision in the amount of \$25,585.69 for 5 flashback HD camera systems for patrol vehicles**

When asked if these cameras were in the FY19 budget, Interim Chief Usry replied that they were.

**MOTION: Councilmember Ward moved to recommend to City Council the award of a contract to L3 Mobile-Vision for 5 HD in-car camera systems for \$25,585.69; Councilmember Bell seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

Fire Department – Chief Graham

The Chief reported that crews responded to multiple fire calls during the month and “personnel did an excellent job in getting to the source before they got out of hand.” She stated that, due to the publicity the incident received, she was certain the Committee was aware of the lightning strike on the beach; preliminary reports were that the woman would make a “respectable” recovery. Personnel also responded to a fatal boating accident on Long Creek that required a multi-agency response. Chief Graham stated that personnel have responded to two hundred fifty-five (255) medical calls year-to-date, not including the calls for jellyfish stings; for the month of July, personnel responded to one hundred eighty (180) calls. The Department had several high-ticket repairs during the month, i.e. the ninety-five foot (95 ft.) ladder truck required the replacement of a spring, and, while in the shop, some additional work was done. The resulting bill totaled more than seven thousand dollars (\$7,000). In addition, Fire Station 1 lost an air conditioning unit; about a week later, one (1) of the two (2) units serving the Lobby and the second floor hallway gave out; and now one (1) of the AC units at Fire Station 2 has died. Overtime was high in July because it contained three (3) pay periods and the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and fireworks display when everyone works.

Police Department – Interim Chief Usry

On July 2, an officer stopped a car on the Connector going one hundred miles per hour (100 mph); the driver was put into handcuffs immediately, and, when the officer was patting him down, he found a gun in the waistband of the driver’s pants and an open can of beer and bag of cocaine in the vehicle. An officer was riding on the island near another vehicle that was emitting the strong odor of marijuana; therefore, the driver was pulled over and asked to exit the vehicle. When he did, a duffel bag was seen in the car containing marijuana and individually wrapped bags of cocaine and a digital scale; he was charged with intent to distribute cocaine – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, possession of and intent to distribute marijuana – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense, and driving under suspension – 3<sup>rd</sup> offense. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Officer Hardy assisted a session of summer camp at the Rec Center when they were celebrating Hero Week. On July 5<sup>th</sup>, Officers Hardy and Molino organized a beach clean-up in cooperation with Palmetto Pride and Charleston County Parks and Recreation; about thirty (30) volunteers participated with the cleanup; they collected more than fifteen (15) large bags of trash. “Coffee with a Cop” has been replaced by “Pops with a Cop” using freeze pops and distributing them at the beach; Officers Molino and Hardy make up the City’s community relations team. Telecommunication Specialists responded to six thousand one hundred ninety-four (6,194) calls in July; of that number, five thousand twelve (5,012) were for the Police Department. Officers made four hundred fifty-five (455) traffic stops and wrote one hundred sixty (160) citations. The Livability Officer wrote four (4) citations for noise and gave warning citations for noise ordinance violations to five (5) locations; the officer also issued five (5) citations to residents for unkempt lots. A total of nine (9) coyote sightings were reported in July.

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**Update on Coyote Management Plan**

Chair Smith asked if there were any incidents of aggression by the coyotes, and the Interim Chief stated that none were reported. Due to the rain and subsequent saturation of the ground, the City was not currently trapping but a coyote pup was killed on Palm Boulevard. The Department has posted information on coyotes on social media, was adding coyote information to the Police Department’s brochure, and information was on the new signs at certain beach accesses.

If the City plans to order more signs for the beach accesses, Chair Smith suggested that the statement “not to feed the wildlife” should be replaced with “Watch for coyotes and snakes.”

Interim Administrator Fragoso explained that the language was chosen because of other similar signage on the island, and the City wanted to make people aware but not to create any kind of panic.

Chair Smith added that, to some people, the animal on the signs looked more like a wolf than a coyote and many visitors might not realize that the island, particularly the access paths, was home to poisonous snakes.

Interim Chief Usry noted that the wildlife signs at the beach accesses were very similar to the signs at a large park in Mount Pleasant.

Councilmember Ward stated, for the record, that he liked the signs as they are and did not want to spend more money on them. He commented that the City did not want to scare people away.

The Chair reiterated her opinion that any future signs should specifically mention snakes.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Next Meeting Date: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 5, 2018 in the Conference Room

**8. Executive Session – not needed**

**9. Adjournment**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.; Chair Smith seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk

# **City of Isle of Palms, SC Coyote Management Plan**



**City of Isle of Palms, SC  
Coyote Management Plan**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this plan is to provide a management strategy and guidelines for staff responses to conflicts with coyotes. Public safety is the City's primary concern and coyotes and other wildlife will be managed with human safety as the priority. The plan seeks to achieve a balance between the importance of human safety and the benefits of maintaining natural wildlife populations. While the City employs educational outreach tools as part of the program to manage human/coyote conflicts, the City recognizes there are situations where immediate control may be necessary.

## **Strategic Plan**

1. Create and implement an ongoing education program.
2. Provide information about the rights and responsibilities of private property owners.
3. Track and monitor coyote activity.

4. Implement a program for lethal control, only when it is determined to be necessary for public safety. For example, when the interactions between humans and coyotes change from sightings and encounters to potentially unsafe *incidents or attacks*. (see definitions below)

This plan should not be seen as static in nature and as the situation and circumstances change the plan should likewise be reviewed and the necessary modifications made.

### **Definitions**

The following definitions should be used when obtaining information from the public and assist in standardized documentation of coyote behaviors.

**Observation** - The act of noticing or taking note of tracks, scat, and/or vocalizations without actually seeing a coyote.

**Sighting** - A visual observation of one or more coyotes from a distance.

**Encounter** - An unexpected direct meeting between human and coyote that is without incident.

**Incident** - A conflict between a person and a coyote where a coyote exhibited behavior creating an unsafe situation. A coyote may show aggression towards a person without any physical contact.

**Attack** - An aggressive action by a coyote that involves physical contact with a person and/or a person is injured by the actions of a coyote (example injured while trying to escape an incident or attack)

### **Descriptions of coyote behavior:**

#### **Nuisance**

**Habituated** - A coyote that appears to frequently associate with humans or human related food sources, and exhibits little wariness of the presence of people.

**Depredating** - A coyote that is preying on pets or livestock.

**Menacing** - A coyote that exhibits aggravated abnormal behavior; however such coyote does not display the characteristics of a “dangerous coyote”. This may include coyote incidents and/or encounters where a coyote or a group of coyotes could potentially endanger public safety.



**Dangerous** - A coyote that has attacked a person, exhibits aggressive behavior towards a person and/or poses a significant threat to human safety.

**General definitions:**

**Coyote Smart** - To exist together at the same time. Coyote Smart is not passive, but active on the person's part, including actions such as removing specific coyote habitats and employing hazing methods. It provides a mechanism by which persons obtain and maintain a level of knowledge and understanding of coyote ecology, behaviors and appropriate responses, so as to be coyote smart.

**Feeding of coyotes** - For educational purposes the following are definitions of the types and kinds of ways persons typically feed coyotes.

**Intentional feeding** - A person is actively and intentionally feeding coyotes. This category also includes intentionally providing food for animals that are in the coyote food chain, an example would be a bird or squirrel feeder.

**Unintentional feeding** - A person is unintentionally providing access to food. Examples are inappropriate composting, fruit from fruit trees left on the ground, pet food/water bowls, barbecue grills, sheds and house doors (garage) left open, etc.

**Unsecured trash** - Trash accessible to wildlife. Examples would be garbage cans, bags or dumpsters that are uncovered, open, overflowing or where trash is scattered outside the receptacle.

**Habitat** - Is a place where a coyote lives and grows and includes food, water, and shelter.

**Hazing** - Is an activity or series of activities that is conducted in an attempt to change the behaviors of habituated coyotes or to instill healthy fear of people back into the local coyote populations. It is not intended to physically damage the coyote, property or persons.

**Passive hazing** - Occurs without the presence of persons and includes methods used to discourage the presence of coyotes on one's property. This form may include but not be limited to motion activated devices such as sprinklers, spot lights or strobe lights, noisemakers, fence rollers, enclosed dog runs and electric fences.

**Active hazing** - Involves personal intervention by both physical presence and action. This may include but not be limited to yelling, clapping or waving one's arms to act threatening towards coyotes, as well as the use of devices including noise makers (air horns, whistles, rocks in cans), water from hoses or water guns, or rock/object throwing.

*\*Safety is the first priority and a coyote should never be cornered or should a coyote's young be approached.\**

## **Education and Awareness**

Public education and awareness is a key element of this plan. The City of Isle of Palms will provide education and information to residents and visitors on how to be coyote smart. The City will obtain educational materials from organizations that are knowledgeable in the areas of coyote ecology and behavior of coyotes and will distribute these materials as needed. It will be the responsibility of the Isle of Palms Police Department and Animal Control to organize and implement the education outreach program.

Examples of educational outreach:

1. Educational brochures will be made available in City's facilities.
2. Information will be distributed to community liaisons in response to reports of human/coyotes conflicts.
3. Coyote information will be available on the City of Isle of Palms website at [www.iop.net](http://www.iop.net).
4. Educational programs for HOAs and other groups will be available.
5. Educational wildlife informational signs will be posted in appropriate parks and open spaces.

## **Reporting and Tracking**

It is imperative that the City has an efficient and consistent reporting of human-coyote interactions. A City of Isle of Palms Police Department Incident report will be completed on all reports of coyote incidents, attacks and pet loss/attack (see definitions). Reported coyote encounters will continue to be tracked by the police department on a monthly list including locations and times.

These reports will be forwarded to Animal Control for tracking. Coyote observations and sightings will be reported to Animal Control for follow up and tracking. Tracking will also be maintained on intentional feeding reports, unsecured trash and active den sites.

These reports and tracking will allow Animal Control officers to identify "hot spots" where education, or habitat investigations might be needed. Educational materials will be offered to all persons reporting concerns about coyote encounters, observations, or sightings.

## **Hazing**

A main issue facing jurisdictions is that urban coyotes lose or have lost their fear of humans. Due to the coyote's nature they have easily adapted to urban living and combined with their lack of fear more coyote/human interactions and conflicts have arisen. One solution to this problem is to reinforce the coyote's fear of humans through the utilization of hazing techniques (see definitions). Animal Control will provide educational information to residents on hazing coyotes and suggested techniques.

## **Lethal Control**

The City, at the sole discretion of City Council, may implement a program of lethal control when the interactions between persons and coyotes escalate to the level of incident or attack. The City of Isle of Palms Police Department will investigate to substantiate such reports of incidents/ attacks. Lethal control may be utilized when the City determines that a coyote(s) pose an immediate danger to persons. The City recognizes it may be difficult to identify the specific coyote that has become problematic and will take reasonable measures to direct lethal control measures toward the offending coyote.

If a person is being attacked or there is an imminent threat of attack on a person by a coyote, a police officer may act immediately to ensure public safety and remove the threat.

Simultaneous to implementation of lethal control and upon conclusion of lethal control measures a comprehensive awareness and education program will be undertaken by the City of Isle of Palms Police Department in the affected area.

**Public Spaces:** The City, at sole discretion of City Council, is responsible for the decision as to whether to use lethal control for nuisance wildlife in public spaces with public safety in mind.

**Private Property:** Property owners within the City of Isle of Palms may employ lawful methods to control nuisance wildlife on their property.

Sec. 8-2-25. - Issuance of special permits.

- (a) Health care services permits. On application accompanied by a doctor's statement, the Police Department is authorized to issue temporary permits for health care services to residents of a resident parking district where no off-street parking is available, and when constant health care at the resident's residence is required by a licensed physician. Only one (1) such permit shall be issued for any residence at any one (1) time and shall be valid for a specified duration of time. Such permits shall be free of charge.
- (b) Visitor permits. Each residence located within a resident parking district may be entitled to ~~two (2)~~ books of thirty (30) visitor ~~annual multi-use passes~~ per calendar year free of charge upon approval by the Police Department. Said permits may be used at any time additional parking is required at the residence. Additional books of permits shall be available for purchase for fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per book upon approval by the Police Department. Each permit shall identify the property address of the residence for which it was issued.
- (c) Short-term rental permits. Owners of short-term rental properties may, upon application and approval by the Police Department, be entitled to purchase up to four (4) portable parking permits per calendar year for fifteen dollars (\$15.00) each for short-term rental tenants to use where no adequate off-street parking is available on the property. Prior to issuance of a permit, the Police Department may require an exterior inspection of the short-term rental property to determine the maximum number of vehicles permitted pursuant to section 5-4-204, the availability of off-street parking spaces on the property, and the space available on the right-of-way along the street adjacent to the property.
- (d) Contractor permits. On application by a licensed contractor, the Building Department is authorized to issue temporary permits for contractor vehicle parking for any construction projects requiring a building permit on residential properties located within a resident parking district. Such contractor permits shall be subject to any conditions as may be required by the Building Department.
- (e) The special permits provided for in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section will only be valid if:
- (1) The vehicle is parked along the right-of-way of the street in the immediate vicinity of the residence for which it was issued;
  - (2) All required information is correctly provided on the permit in ink;
  - (3) The permit is displayed in a manner prescribed by the Police Department;
  - (4) The permit is free from alteration and is clearly visible; and
  - (5) The vehicle is not parked in violation of any parking regulation posted on the street or otherwise provided in this chapter.

(Ord. No. 2017-02, § 3, 3-21-2017)

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**Deleted:** Each permit shall be valid for one (1) day only and must be dated by the permit holder on the date of use.

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Isle of Palms	Sullivan's Island	Folly Beach
<p>Metal tag</p> <p>\$5.00 (Residents Only)</p>	<p>Metal tag affixed to a color collar. The color changes each year.</p> <p>\$25.00 for Residents</p> <p>\$35.00 for Non-Residents</p> <p>(\$2 discount applied for AKC Certificate)</p>	<p>Metal tag</p> <p>\$3.00 (Required for a stay over 30 days)</p> <p>Free for applicants 55 and older</p>
<p>Dogs are allowed to be off-leash from:</p> <p>April 1st through September 14th</p> <p>5:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>September 15th through March 31st</p> <p>4:00 p.m. until 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>WINTER HOURS (October 1 – April 30)</p> <p>Off -leash: 5:00am – 12Noon</p> <p>On-leash: 12Noon -5:00am</p> <p>SUMMER HOURS (May 1 – September 30)</p> <p>Off-leash: 5:00am – 10:00am</p> <p>No dogs on beach: 10:00am – 6:00pm</p> <p>On-leash: 6:00pm – 5:00am</p>	<p>No pets off leash at any time on the beach or public streets</p> <p>May 1 to Sept. 30, no pets on beach between 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.</p>
<p><a href="#">IOP Dog Rules</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Sullivan's Island Dog Rules</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Folly Beach Dog Rules</a></p>
<p>Proposed Ordinance Changes:</p> <p>6-2-11 would include all dogs on IOP</p> <p>6-2-12 would put State rabies vaccination requirements into enforceable city ordinance</p> <p>6-2-13 would require fees of \$5 for residents and \$10 for non-residents per calendar year.</p> <p>Includes a \$2 AKC discount.</p>		