



Public Safety Committee
9:00am, Monday, September 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Buckhannon, Ward, and Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Chief Cornett, Chief Hathaway

Also Present: John Edward Griffith, Trident Construction

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – August 10, 2020

Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

The City Clerk read into the record comments submitted to the Public Safety Committee. They can be found on the City's website alongside the agenda for this meeting.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Public Safety Building Rehabilitation Project

Administrator Fragoso reported the rehabilitation project is still on time and under budget. She reviewed what has been completed since the last update. She also reported that she confirmed with the contractors that the two change orders approved by City Council last month will be paid for from the contractor's contingency.

She shared that while the trailers may not be needed as long as originally contracted, there is no refund to the City if they return them earlier than January.

B. Update on implementation of paid parking plan on the existing public beach parking zones

Administrator Fragoso said, "After Council approved pursuing the plan last month, we gave the go-ahead to Stuart Day and Stantec to develop the drawings that are going to have to be submitted to SCDOT for their revised encroachment permit." She added that she, Asst. Administrator Hanna, and Chief Cornett met with the representative from Flowbird to show her the new areas that will be incorporated into the beach parking plan. She will prepare a plan for the additional signage that will be installed to notify and educate people about the pay-to-park

system. She will ask the City Attorney to draft the first reading of the sign plan after SCDOT gives approval for the encroachment permit.

C. Update and discussion of eliminating parking on the landside of Palm Boulevard between 22nd and 40th avenues due to public safety concerns

Committee members agreed that the intent was the permanently eliminate parking on the landside of Palm Boulevard.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to permanently eliminate parking on the landside of Palm Boulevard. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso reported that conversations with Stantec and DHEC confirmed the City will still meet the beach access requirements if they eliminate parking along the landside of Palm Boulevard. She added, “We also had a conversation with SCDOT and their position is that we would have to submit that as part of the same modified permit application that includes the changes for the paid parking changes. SCDOT’s decision remains that the City had jurisdiction over parking on the community and as such recommendations that are made due to Public Safety are considered heavily.”

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of improvements to the ocean side of Palm Boulevard between 21st and 41st avenues

Committee members discussed earmarking some of the funds from paid parking to improve the parking and beach access areas along Palm Boulevard. While there are many options to improve Palm Boulevard, Administrator Fragoso noted, “It is going to be a lot of work because there are utilities. There is drainage, infrastructure that would need to be, that is currently open that would need to be address in a different way. There are encroachments and driveways and landscaping that we would have, it will be a long process of just having that plan developed. But in terms of feasibility, it is possible because the space is currently there.”

Council Member Ward noted such a project is a good opportunity to get the public involved, noting the importance of generating local and state support. Administrator Fragoso said the issue will remain on the Public Safety agenda to keep the discussion moving forward.

E. Update on pedestrian crosswalks and intersection safety

Administrator Fragoso said that SCDOT cannot explain the inconsistency of the placement of the stop bars at Palm Boulevard intersections.

With regards to increasing the safety at crosswalks, Chief Cornett reported that SCDOT will only approve a “rectangular rapid flashing beacon” at crosswalks. Such devices are in use in Summerville and Folly Beach. Applications for such signage must be made through the Federal Highway Administration and then SCDOT for encroachment permits. SCDOT will also require a traffic study at all the locations where the City would like one of the flashing signs. Additionally, they request crash history, vehicle counts, and pedestrian counts for each intersection.

Committee members agreed Chief Cornett should continue to pursue the acquisition and placement of these signs.

F. Update on evaluation of speed limits on residential side streets

Council Member Buckhannon said that SCDOT is not going to allow any change in speed limit without a traffic study. Administrator Fragoso added that hiring a traffic engineer would be necessary to look at speed limits across the island, but that SCDOT will look at specific streets where there may be issues. Chief Cornett will stay on top of speed enforcement in the areas where complaints have been received.

G. Discussion of Front Beach loading zone and parking

Chief Cornett reported that he is waiting to hear back from a company who can handle the signage and striping of the area. He said it may also be necessary to draft an ordinance to address the parking in those specific areas. He will speak with business owners near the loading zones about their needs after he has heard from the company about the signage.

H. Update on Wild Dunes Emergency Exit

Administrator Fragoso reminded Committee members of the request from Wild Dunes residents to have an alternative exit should there be a traffic incident on Palm Boulevard. She reported that SCDOT has approved the request with the agreement that only Chief Cornett and Chief Graham have the keys to the exit. A document agreeing to that requirement has been signed. Administrator Fragoso said the residents of Wild Wood have been included and updated throughout the process. Council Member Pounds said that they expect to begin work on the exit in October and November and be completed in 60 days.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of refurbishment of pumper truck purchased in 2003 [FY21 Budget; Fire Department; Capital Projects, \$150,000; Hospitality Tax Fund, \$75,000; State ATAX Fund, \$75,000]

Chief Graham said, “We had budgeted for our 2003 pumper to be refurbished. The quote came back at \$335,000. The City budgeted \$300,000. In the meantime, a few things have happened. We were planning on sending Engine Two to the shop as soon as the 95-footer came back. The 95-footer was delayed due to the COVID, which is actually in our favor because we really don’t have anywhere to house it just yet. It should be here the end of September, sometime October. By then, we should be able to put it in the bay. The last thing we want to do is spend all this money and leave the truck outside. Unfortunately, the quote for the refurbishment for Engine Two has expired. We are in the process of getting appraisals for the old 75-footer which will go away when the 95-footer comes back. We are also trying to get appraisals for Engine Two for a possible trade-in. In the meantime, when all this was going on when I received the quote for the refurbishment of Engine Two for not a whole lot more money we might be able to get a demo truck. Old Truck One was a demo. The old 95-footer was a demo, so there could be a lot of money saved. So while it is costing more in the long run, we are going to have a truck with a much more substantial warranty. But if we were able to trade both of these trucks in to cut down

the cost. I was expecting the price to be much higher.” She will continue to look into and evaluate the options. She added, “Once we get an updated quote for Engine Two, it could be upwards of \$350,000, and not a whole lot more money to go towards a truck, a demo as long as we caught the demo in time, and if we locked in a commitment then any changes that we needed to be made could be made. It is all about timing, so they have got some trucks that are going to be ready for commitment sometime in July. That also would reduce the amount of time that we were out of the truck. So getting a demo with a few modifications here and there, we might be talking about a three-month turnaround and not an 18-month turnaround.”

B. Consideration of award of a contract to Nicholson Business Systems for the Records Management system in the amount of \$38,990 [FY21 Budget; Capital Projects Fund; Police Department; Capital Outlay, \$30,000, pg. 17, ln. 20]

Assistant Administrator Hanna said the goal behind this change is to replace outdated systems and make work for the Public Safety and Court more efficient. He noted there will be ongoing costs after the system is installed.

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to award the contract for the Records Management System to Nicholson Business Systems in the amount of \$38,990. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Consideration of purchase of beach services 4WD pickup truck, State contract pricing in the amount of \$26,870 [FY21 Budget; Hospitality Tax Fund; Police Department; Capital Outlay, \$30,000, pg. 21, ln. 21]

Chief Cornett explained, “We are already budgeting to replace one of our Beach Services officer trucks this year as it is. As we are looking at the island-wide paid parking, only certain vehicles have the ability to function with the license plate readers that would work with our system. I did verify that one of the trucks that we currently have that we would not be getting rid of will work and the two that are on here will also work. My recommendation would be the Dodge Ram. It is a little bit cheaper, and it is still a significant truck that will work just fine for what we are using it for.”

MOTION: Council Member made a motion to approve the purchase of the beach services 4WD pickup truck, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of entering into mutual aid agreements with the City of North Charleston and Town of Summerville

Committee members and Chief Cornett said these agreements are good to have. Chief Cornett will bring them to the full Council for approval.

E. Discussion of adding handicap parking on 42nd Avenue

Council Member Buckhannon reported this discussion comes via the Real Property Committee who is currently considering changes to the beach access at 42nd Avenue. As the path there is ADA-accessible, more than the one handicap parking space should be available. Chief Cornett

said he will continue to look into this issue but does not foresee any issues with adding additional handicap spots there.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that the 101 calls for service received in August is down from August of last year. Of those 101 calls, 48 were from residents. She detailed some of the calls responded to. She thanked the Awendaw Fire Department for housing the new 75-foot ladder truck during a recent storm.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett reported there were 1,512 calls for service in August, along with 47 arrests, 127 incident reports, and 161 charges of significance, including 9 DUIs. He added the higher number of Disorderly Conduct incidents are due to an increased presence on the beach.

The Police Department initiated a traffic blitz in the last week of August and the first week of September. They will continue to conduct such operations on a regular basis.

Chief Cornett reported that the grant for the drone was denied but reminded the Committee that Council approved funding for the drone if they did not receive the grant. He said has recently learned of another grant he could apply for “in reference to applying for the replacement of our LSVs.” He said two of the four LSVs are currently inoperable. The newly purchased Polaris will be available this week, but that will still leave the department down one vehicle for next beach season. He said, “My recommendation would be that we move forward with the grant to try to obtain another ATV, another Polaris to use on the beach.” He said the application is due in three weeks.

He also reported that he is looking to fill two vacancies. He continues to look among the military surplus for any equipment the City may benefit from acquiring.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Monday, October 5, 2020 at 9am.

9. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk