



Public Safety Committee
3:00pm, Thursday, January 7, 2021
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 Bell, Pounds, and Ward

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. Administrator Hanna, Chief Cornett, Chief Hathaway

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Council Member Pounds nominated Council Member Bell for Chair of the Public Safety Committee. There being no other nominations, the vote for Council Member Bell as Chair of the Public Safety Committee was unanimous.

Council Member Bell nominated Council Member Pounds for Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. There being no other nominations, the vote for Council Member Pounds as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee was unanimous.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – November 9, 2020

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

4. Citizens' Comments -- none

5. Old Business

A. Update of pedestrian crosswalks and intersection safety

Administrator Fragoso reported, "The City has been working with Stantec and the Wild Dunes Resort with SCDOT's approval of installation of new crosswalks along this stretch [Palm Boulevard between 41st and 57th avenues]. Along this stretch there are five that have been permitted by SCDOT. We submitted the encroachment permit. They have been reviewed. They have been approved by the agency, and all those construction and design documents have been finalized. We are working with the Wild Dunes Resort on the construction of these. They have gracefully, and we are so grateful for their offer to cover the cost of the construction of these crosswalks." The goal is to have installation of the new crosswalks complete by the end of March, which is the expected opening of the hotel.

Chief Cornett will email a video to Committee members of the rapid rectangular flashing beacons. He reported that SCDOT receives complaints about their brightness at night when installed in residential areas. Installation costs approximately \$10-\$15,000 per crosswalk. He suggested it may be worth considering having a pair installed at the crosswalk near the shopping center.

B. Update on Front Beach Loading zones and parking

Chief Cornett said he has reached out to the company who said they could paint the newly designated loading zones for \$3,000. He said the signs will say, "Loading Zone Only, 8am-2pm," which will require no change to the City ordinance. Those loading zone spots will become regular parking spaces after 2pm. Five signs will be needed.

6. New Business

A. Consideration of purchase of two (2) Dodge Durango SWD V6 Pursuit SUVs for the Police Department in the amount of \$30,450 each [FY21 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, Police Capital Outlay - \$41,000 and State ATAX Fund, Police Capital Outlay - \$41,000]

Administrator Fragoso said these cars are budgeted expenses. Chief Cornett said his goal is to move away from sedan-style vehicles and move to SUVs. He said this Dodge Durango will work better in the beach environment. Even with all the upfitting and markings needed, the vehicle purchases will still come in under budget.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to approve the request as per Chief Cornett's description and recommend it to the Ways & Means Committee. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Battalion Chief/Training Officer Hathaway

Chief Hathaway reported there were 87 calls for service in December, which was a 43% increase over December 2019. However, year-to-date calls for service are down 14% from 2019. He reviewed the notable events and activities for December including the old ladder truck being traded in and Chief Graham's retirement.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett shared the City received a grant of approximately \$70,000 that will go towards the costs of a beach patrol vehicle, a trailer to pull the beach patrol vehicles, and a mobile digital billboard sign "along with \$20,000 of overtime money for patrolling the beach during the COVID response."

He also reported that staff has begun receiving the COVID vaccine. One of the patrol vehicles is out of service and will cost too much to fix. This particular vehicle was not slated to be replaced until next year, so discussion on its replacement will happen in the near future. A boat that ran aground within Wild Dunes is being removed.

Chief Cornett stated there were 830 calls for service in December. The total number of calls for service in 2020 was 16,869, which is a 50% reduction from 2019. There were 62 incident reports taken in December, closing out the year with 1,043, which is about average. Significant incident increases could be found in DUI arrests and marijuana and narcotic-related charges. He also shared an analytical map of the island indicating locations of incidents.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 3pm.

9. Adjournment

Council Member Pounds made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk