



Public Safety Committee
3:00pm, Thursday, February 4, 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

Also Present: Robert Perry and Nick Boozer of SCDOT, Christopher Reed and Abbi Whitney with Lowvelo

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – January 7, 2021

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

3. Citizens' Comments

Katie Zimmerman, Executive Director for Charleston Moves, spoke in favor of the proposed changes to the IOP Connector allowing for bike and pedestrian walkways.

Jan Anderson, 44 Seagrass Lane, also spoke in favor of the proposed changes to the IOP Connector. She did express concern about room for emergency vehicles and how the lanes could be used during a hurricane evacuation. She would also like to know why the lanes were not extended all the way into Mt. Pleasant.

Richard Hrick, 944 Houston Northcutt Blvd., Mt. Pleasant, supports the changes to the IOP Connector as well. He would like to see a more visual traffic control device use to mark the bike and pedestrian pathways as a means of increasing safety for walkers and bikers.

Mary Claire Morgan, 752 Mildenhall, Mt. Pleasant, spoke eloquently in favor of lower speeds and a bike pathway on the IOP Connector.

Council Member Bell said approximately 150 written comments were received for the Committee and they can be found alongside the agenda for this meeting on the City's website. He said the majority of people who live off island spoke in support of the proposed changes to the bridge while the majority of island residents spoke with concern about size reduction of the center emergency lane.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to reorder the agenda to allow the discussion of the proposed changes to the IOP Connector to happen ahead of discussion of Old Business items. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **New Business**

A. **Presentation from SCDOT related to proposed changes to IOP Connector to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle lanes**

Mr. Robert Perry, Director of Traffic Engineering for SCDOT, reviewed the plans for the proposed changes to the striping on the IOP Connector. He said this plan is part of Director Hall's Complete Streets initiative, and he will send that directive to Administrator Fragoso.

Committee members shared residents' concerns with Mr. Perry and Mr. Boozer including the width reduction of the emergency lane, the traffic on the Connector when a storm forces everyone to leave the beach simultaneously, the debris on the Connector, lack of bikers and walkers that use the bridge currently, the need for additional bike infrastructure across the island, and the need for something to further separate bikers and walkers from Connector traffic. It was noted that Isle of Palms has spoken on record numerous times in the past in favor of the emergency lane. Council Member Pounds wondered why there was no community input in the development of the project. Council Member Bell said there is no data to support the need for this change.

Chief Hathaway also expressed concern about the reduced size of the emergency lane. Without it, Public Safety staff may be required to stop the flow of traffic on the bridge to tend to an accident scene for the safety of the personnel.

Mr. Perry said he would like to read the Citizens' Comments that have been submitted about the project. He said use of their on-call contractor could have the project completed by the end of March. Committee members said they would like more conversation with SCDOT before they move forward with this project.

With regards to hurricane evacuations, Mr. Perry said the IOP Connector is not a reversible route, but it can be done with the use of traffic control devices and public safety personnel. Mr. Perry spoke about traffic-related changes being based on hot-spot safety (generally focused on a problem area or spot) and systemic safety (based on a larger area where there is an opportunity for traffic-related incidents). He categorized the changes to the IOP Connector as a systemic change.

Administrator Fragoso asked SCDOT to consider increasing their debris cleanup schedule of the Connector since they anticipate more people using it.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Update of pedestrian crosswalks and intersection safety**

Administrator Fragoso reported there are no updates on this project.

B. Update on Front Beach Loading zones and parking

Chief Cornett said the contractor is on the island today to lay down the first cover of paint and will return next week to finalize the project.

6. New Business

B. Consideration of City-sponsored Event status for Lowvelo 2021 Bike Ride

Christopher Reed and Abbi Whitney reviewed the plans for the 2021 Lowvelo Bike Ride on November 6, 2021. In addition to City sponsorship, they are requesting the use of two blocks of Ocean Boulevard between 14th Avenue and JC Long Boulevard as their Start/Stop areas. Chief Cornett said he has already spoken to them about their needs and has no issues with their requests. Law enforcement will be present. Participant parking will take place in the County Park parking lot with any overflow parking the Municipal lot.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to approve their request for City sponsorship and forward the Committee's recommendation to the full City Council. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Fragoso said the certificate of insurance for the event needs to name the City as an additional insured as part of the requirement for City sponsorship.

C. Discussion of existing dog leash rules

Council Member Pounds would like to review the dog leash rules from surrounding communities. Council Member Bell would like to see incident data regarding dogs. He said it will be necessary to identify what they are attempting to achieve should any ordinance changes be suggested.

D. Discussion of regulations regarding rollout carts left at streetside

Following a brief discussion, it was determined that more outreach to the rental community is in order to remind them of the regulations regarding rollout carts left at streetside.

E. Discussion of FY22 10-year Capital Plan for Fire and Police Departments

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the items in the FY22 Capital Plan for the Fire and Police Departments.

7. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Battalion Chief/Training Officer Hathaway

Chief Hathaway reported 40 calls in January. He also reported on a sailing vessel that ran aground and a moped traffic accident on the Connector. Battalion chiefs attended and enjoyed leadership training recently held at the Riley Center.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett said there were 845 calls for service in January, resulting in 13 drug-related incidents and 4 DUIs. Council Member Bell congratulated the Police Department for their work in a recent drug-related arrest.

8. Miscellaneous Business

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

9. Adjournment

Council Member Pounds made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk