



Public Safety Committee
3:00pm, Thursday, May 6, 2021
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC
and 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, Deputy Chief Smith, Captain Swain

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 meeting, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments -- none

4. Old Business

A. Update on angled parking on the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard between 22nd and 40th avenues

Administrator Fragoso noted the new angled parking is going very well so far. Further education is needed to remind people to pull all the way into the spaces. SCDOT has spoken to the homeowners whose mailboxes had to be moved from the right of way. She will meet with TruGrid representatives about installing a small area of the product to assess a more aesthetically pleasing option for the parking bumpers. Chief Cornett said minimal parking violations have been issued with regards to this new parking arrangement and also believes it is working well.

Administrator Fragoso said she noticed increased litter in that area and has asked Public Works personnel to look at the area more closely on Mondays and Fridays. Additional equipment for picking up trash will be assigned to the Beach Services Officers.

B. Discussion of golf cart and low speed vehicle regulations and enforcement

Chief Cornett said the Police Department is proactively enforcing the laws around golf carts and low speed vehicles. They are working on how best to track the violations so they can be reported to the Committee and City Council. Council Member Bell suggested the Livability Officer continue to speak with the rental agencies so that island visitors are informed about the laws regarding the use of golf carts and low speed vehicles.

C. Discussion of coyote management

Chief Cornett said that his department will do a better job of educating the public about coyotes on the island. Increased sightings in April led to the capture of several over the weekend. The City cannot trap coyotes on private property. Chief Cornett said he is trying to partner with other agencies about wildlife management to further the education of his officers.

Administrator Fragoso noted that funding for trapping coyotes was taken out of the budget. The City's focus has been on educating the public through the City website. Committee members briefly discussed whether or not a placeholder needs to be put back in the budget for coyote management.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Beach Shuttle between IOP and Mt. Pleasant and consideration of requesting to CARTA that the service be free

Assistant Administrator Hanna spoke with CARTA about the beach shuttle, noting they are heavily subsidizing the costs of the Beach Shuttle. It currently costs \$4/day/person. CARTA anticipates up to 100 riders/day depending on weather conditions. Business sponsorships of the weekend service were suggested as a means to defray the costs. Council Member Ward said he spoke with local businesses and only a few expressed interest in that option. Council Member Bell said the key to the success of the shuttle is collaboration among neighboring communities.

B. Consideration of purchase of a 2021 For Ranger in the amount not to exceed \$35,000 [State contract base price \$22,253] for the Fire Inspector [FY21 Budget, Capital Projects, Fire Department, Capital Outlay \$1,994,687]

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

C. Consideration of a request from IOP Beach Chair Company for approve to drive a motorized ATV on the beach for loading and unloading of beach rental equipment

Katrina Limbach came before the Public Safety Committee "requesting that we have access in Wild Dunes from owner's beach house north to Ocean Club just on the track of the trash truck line only running parallel with the shoreline from before 9am and after 6pm to drop loaded carts of chairs and umbrellas on the trash truck line to help us with our operations right now." She said they are having trouble accessing the beach and want to eliminate their carbon footprint by reducing the trucks coming in and out of Wild Dunes loading and unloading the chairs and umbrellas. She said the ATV will not go faster than walking speed and would only be on the beach from April 15 to September 30.

Council Member Bell expressed concern about the "slippery slope" that could open the door to other businesses asking for the same access.

Administrator Fragoso explained, "The City code prohibits any vehicle from being on the beach with several exceptions. Anything that is public safety or public health-related, emergency

vehicles are allowed to be on the beach, and the code provides some type of flexibility for City Council to approve the use of a particular vehicle. So this request, if it is approved by City Council would fall under those exemptions. There is an avenue for City Council when needed to change the code to consider this request and approve it.”

Administrator Fragoso said she will speak with City Attorney Hinchey about the necessity of a liability waiver.

Ms. Limbach said she has been in contact with all the regimes “because the long-term goal is for us is to work out of each regime” which is how similar situations are handled at beach communities in the southeast.

Council Member Bell expressed the need for a legal opinion on this request and asked Ms. Limbach to come before the full City Council on May 25 to further discuss the matter. Administrator Fragoso suggested that since the request is specific to a time of the year, City Council could consider allowing it this year as a pilot program like the surfing instruction to allow time to monitor and evaluate its success.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend the issue to the City Council meeting on May 25. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Consideration of Law Enforcement Assistance & Support Agreement with Charleston County Sheriff’s Office

Chief Cornett said this is a standard mutual aid agreement that needs to be signed between the City and the new sheriff. He reported that there will be a marine aid agreement coming before the Committee in the future which will allow the Police Department to house and use one of the Sheriff’s Department boats as part of the Metro Marine for the Charleston County area.

He explained the in-water, marked boat would be in the care of the Isle of Palms and “we would be able to utilize that boat for enforcement efforts on the Intracoastal Waterway and we would be able to assist the Sheriff’s Department by responding to calls that come out for Dewees Island or Goat Island.” The agreement will include provisions for insurance, maintenance, and storage. Sheriff Graziano will also cover the costs involved with training three Isle of Palms Officers to operate the boat.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend the approval of the mutual aid agreement to City Council. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion of the City’s position on State Bill S40

Council Member Bell said this is “unnecessary legislation” that targets barrier islands. He said that the passing of S40 will not change anything on the Isle of Palms unless the 2015 Beach Parking Plan is revoked. He would like to see City Council pass a resolution against S40 as a breach of home rule.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for consideration of action on State Bill S40. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Bell made a motion to assign staff and the City Attorney to draw up a resolution in opposition to State Bill S40. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion of preparations for Memorial Day weekend

Chief Cornett reported that all command staff is currently working on the plan for Memorial Day weekend and securing additional staff from outside agencies to work that weekend. He said they may conduct a safety checkpoint one weekend evening. Administrator Fragoso noted that the Beach Service Officers are almost fully staffed this year.

G. Discussion of noise ordinance as it relates to amplified music at different times of the day

Council Member Bell stated that Mayor Carroll asked him to discuss this item in Committee “because there were some requests from front beach as it related to the particular zoning there and the way we treat the noise ordinances across the community.”

Administrator Fragoso noted there are sections of the code that are vague and conflicting. She agreed the language needs to be amended to address the concerns. Council Member Bell recommended staff work on tightening up the language and bring something more specific back to the Committee.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Deputy Chief Smith

Chief Cornett reported that the Isle of Palms Fire Department has been awarded the 2020 Fire Safe Community Award. He said it is the first time the department has received the award and only 80 fire departments across the state received it.

Deputy Chief Smith reported a significant increase (120%) in calls received in April. Significant incidents included a propane leak on Seagrass Lane, a dumpster fire, and a fuel spill of 2100 gallons on April 30.

Council Member Bell asked about the possibility of showing trending data regarding response times. Deputy Chief Smith said that information can be retrieved from Charleston County. Chief Cornett said they are in communication with Charleston County EMS to see if they experience any delays as a result of the restriping of the IOP Connector. He said they will continue to monitor that situation.

B. Police Department – Captain Swain

Captain Swain noted that the Police Department also received an award from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety which recognized the department as the 2020 DUI Agency of the

Year for an agency sized 11-25 officers. The department affected 71 DUI arrests in 2020 and conducted social media and educational awareness campaigns regarding DUI.

Captain Swain reported there were 8 drug-related arrests in April, 6 DUIs (bringing the total to 21 for the year), and 833 parking citations. In addition, there were 12 collisions last month. He said these are typical numbers for this time of the year.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 3:00pm.

8. 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 4:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

DRAFT