



Public Safety Committee
10:00am, Thursday, June 10, 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, Chief Cornett, Deputy Chief Hathaway,
Lieutenant Forsythe

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Jennie Pierce of 9th Avenue spoke in support of the CARTA Beach Shuttle but asked if the drop-off point could be moved elsewhere. She spoke of the bus blocking a pedestrian's view of oncoming traffic and fears there will be an incident in the area. She suggested moving the stop to someplace where there are facilities.

Carly David, 709 Palm Boulevard and property owner at 9th Avenue, also spoke with concern about the CARTA Beach Shuttle stop in that area. She noted there is no covered area for riders to stand if it is raining. She also mentioned moving the bus stop to an area where there are facilities.

4. Old Business

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

Chief Cornett reported that the Police Department continues to enforce the golf cart and low speed vehicle regulations. Two tickets and multiple issues have been issued. He is working to create something that short-term rental owners can post in their homes to make renters aware of the rules.

B. Update on CARTA's Beach Shuttle between Isle of Palms and Mt. Pleasant

Committee members held a lengthy discussion about the CARTA Beach Shuttle. Administrator Fragoso explained the reason 9th Avenue was chosen as the bus's stop was due to its handicapped accessibility, the closure of 14th Avenue to summer traffic, and concerns about

traffic backup on Ocean and Palm boulevards. She has submitted the concerns she has received to CARTA. The Police Department will monitor the stop throughout the summer to note any safety concerns. Chief Hathaway stated that while turning the fire trucks onto Ocean Boulevard is not impossible, it does present challenges that could become issues while responding to a call.

Council Member Bell said he would like to see the bus drop people off in the commercial district. He encouraged City Administration to work with CARTA on how to make the beach shuttle work best for all involved. He asked if CARTA had smaller buses that could be used for the beach shuttle. Council Member Bell expressed the importance of defining what success looked like with regards to the beach shuttle initiative. He said there are potential public safety issues of a bus in a residential area and expressed concern of the lack of facilities at 9th Avenue for riders. He also noted there have been complaints about the MobiMat at that access.

Council Member Ward said he would voice these issues at the CARTA Board meeting next week.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of dog leash rules

Chief Cornett said there have been five documented dog incidents so far this year across the island. He spoke about the difficulty of enforcing the current city ordinance since officers are rarely present to observe any lack of command over a dog by its owner. Police are usually called to a dog incident after it has happened and after people have dispersed from the scene. He said clear, defined leash laws are easier to enforce.

Committee members would like to look at the locations of the recent incidents as well as the fine structure as it relates to animal violations at the next meeting.

B. Discussion of preparations for the July 4th holiday weekend

Chief Cornett stated that the incident action plan for the holiday weekend is in the works. The Golf Cart Parade has been approved. He has asked the Sheriff's Department and Highway Patrol for extra help that weekend.

C. Discussion of additional golf cart parking areas

Administrator Fragoso said staff is discussing with SCDOT ways to make golf cart crossings safer. Staff has identified 46th Avenue as a space that may be suitable for golf cart parking. They will bring a plan to the Committee for consideration.

D. Consideration of approval of purchase of John Deere Gator UTV for Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 [State contract purchase, FY21 Budget, State ATAX]

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso said this item and Item E were meant to be more of a report of the purchase rather than needing Committee approval. Council members Ward and Pounds withdrew the motion.

E. Consideration of approval of purchase of jet ski for Fire Department in an amount not to exceed \$14,000 [FY21 Budget, State ATAX]

Administrator Fragoso said the jet ski has been purchased.

F. Consideration of approval of the Axon body camera, in-car camera video software and data storage [State contract purchase, FY22 budget]

Administrator Fragoso said this item is in the FY22 budget and they are seeking approval now so that it can be purchased as soon as FY22 begins. Chief Cornett said that Axon is booked out through August/September and he would like to get on their calendar as soon as possible. This purchase will replace the entire system currently in place. It will be purchased at the State contract price.

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

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Deputy Chief Hathaway

Deputy Chief Hathaway reported that there were 136 calls for service in the month of May, which is a 74% increase over 2020 and is also still higher than calls in May 2019. Notable Fire Department events in May include a dumpster fire, a motor vehicle accident on the Connector, an outdoor fire due to yard lighting, and a fuel spill.

B. Police Department – Lieutenant Forsythe

Lt. Forsythe said the Police and Fire Departments enjoyed an Employee Appreciation Luncheon at Wild Dunes. He also shared that Sgt. Storen was recognized as First Responder of the Month by the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce.

The May incidents report included 25 drug charges, 12 DUIs, and 1,206 parking tickets. There were 1,379 calls for service resulting in 113 incident reports compared to 133 incident reports in May 2020. There were 8 traffic collisions. Chief Cornett said the drug concerns are being addressed.

There were 24 coyote sightings in May, and Chief Cornett said they are working with the property owner and the trapping company involved in these sightings.

Chief Cornett spoke about the recent purchase of 5 BOLA Wraps for the Police Department. The IOP Police Department is the second agency in the Lowcountry to have these. They are meant to assist in taking people safely into custody without having to use force. Training on these devices will be forthcoming.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 3:00pm.

Council Member Ward would like for the departmental reports to appear after Citizen's Comments in the meeting agendas moving forward.

Council Member Bell encouraged citizens to review the reports provided by the Fire and Police Departments in the meeting packets.

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 11:29am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk