



**Public Safety Committee  
10:00am, Thursday, January 13, 2022  
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 Hahn, Anderson, and Streetman

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Interim Chief Briscoe, Chief Cornett

**2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**MOTION: Council Member Hahn nominated Council Member Streetman as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.**

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman nominated Council Member Anderson as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.**

**VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:**

For Council Member Streetman: Ayes: Hahn Nays: Anderson, Streetman  
For Council Member Anderson: all in favor.

**Council Member Anderson was elected Chair of the Public Safety Committee.**

**MOTION: Council Member Anderson nominated Council Member Streetman as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes**

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.**

**4. Citizens' Comments -- none**

**5. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

**A. Fire Department – Interim Chief Briscoe**

Interim Chief Briscoe highlighted the events and work of the Fire Department in November including five fire calls, 28 EMS calls, two rescue, one HAZMAT, four service calls and 17 calls categorized as other. Notable events included adding chimney bombs to the fire trucks, attending

to a sinking boat, the rescue of a person who had jumped from the IOP Connector, participation in the LOWVELO bike event, and the receipt of fire detectors via a grant. The new fire truck was put into service on November 23.

Discussion ensued about the tie between the increase in calls for service and ATAX revenue, both of which show increased population on the island.

December Fire Department activity included two fire calls, 24 EMS calls, four rescue, two service, and 23 calls categorized as other. Notable December activities included responding to a microwave fire, weekly participation in Good Night Lights at MUSC, fire prevention displays at various community events, responding to smoke inside a residence due to something that had melted on the stovetop, and the promotion of Chris Fasos to Fire Captain.

#### **B. Police Department – Chief Cornett**

Chief Cornett also reviewed the many activities of the Police Department in December including participation in Toys for Tots, Sober or Slammer, and Good Night Lights, and hosting the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Media and Public Relations Course. The class was full, and another class will be scheduled for March.

The annual awards banquet recognized the following officers: FTO Mobley as Officer of the Year, Sgt. Craig Thompson as Supervisor of the Year, Communications Specialist Dawson as Professional Staff of the year, and two certificates merit were awarded to Sgt. Store and FTO Santulli for the efforts in the rescue of someone who had jumped from the Connector in November.

Chief Cornett noted that overall calls for service were down from 2020. Incident reports were also down, but traffic stops were up. He attributes that the create of the traffic unit and increased efforts of the officers.

Coyote sightings were up from 2020, but they are dropping. Staff continues to work with residents about trapping coyotes on private property. Administrator Fragoso noted the information available on the City's website about trapping coyotes.

Gun violations, DUIs, and all drug-related charges were up in 2021. Chief Cornett said the officers have received a lot of training and are proactively addressing DUIs. Committee members briefly discussed the possibility of tracking the tickets issued to non-residents.

Code enforcement violations are also up due to the creation of the code enforcement position.

Chief Cornett intends to host Coffee with a Cop with the first one being virtual and return to hosting neighborhood meetings.

He spoke to the vacancies in the department, adding they are starting to look for BSOs who begin work on March 1.

The Animal Control officer is now certified and is working with DHEC and DNR regarding the animals on the island, especially the raccoons.

Committee members commended both the Fire and Police departments for the work they do and their vast involvement in the community.

**6. Old Business**

**A. Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 2021-16 – an ordinance to include restrictions of vicious or dangerous dogs**

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the history of Ordinance 2021-16 to date. The ordinance includes a definition of dangerous or vicious dogs as well as new penalties for violating the vicious dog ordinance. She said, “The reason that this ordinance was developed is the City was seeing a lot of incidents with dogs off leash, dogs on the beach, dogs that were attacking other dogs or people, and we did not have language in the code that would facilitate the police department enforcing and being able to issue citations” that would deal with the dangerous animal. The new ordinance gives the police the ability to deal with a bite or attack of a dog on another dog or human.

Chief Cornett said DHEC will be notified of animals identified as dangerous or vicious. Such dogs will be restricted to the owner’s property. The ordinance now allows the Animal Control officer to issue a summons without the need for a certified officer. Council Member Anderson said she has heard from dog owners who are in favor of this ordinance.

**B. Update on study of the modification to the IOP Connector, to include assessment of alternative configurations to improve traffic flow, pedestrian and emergency access**

Administrator Fragoso said, “We have provided SCDOT some feedback on the scope of work they had provided to us. The main components of the feedback that we gave was wanting to expand the scope to not only include a study of the current configuration and what other alternatives might be available to ensure that emergency access is a primary component of the IOP Connector while also accommodating bicycles and pedestrians.” The City also asked for assessment of signaled intersections, including timing and capacity. She said it will be a six-month process once the engineers are engaged. Feedback from Council Member Anderson has been provided to SCDOT. The project will also include feedback from local governments and community meetings.

Administrator Fragoso shared that she and Mayor Pounds discussed hosting a meeting with Charleston County, the County Park Executive Director, and Mt. Pleasant in preparation for the summer. They do not anticipate any changes to the Connector prior to the summer season, so the intent is to coordinate better among all agencies. They hope to have the meeting sometime in the first half of February.

Council Member Anderson suggested meeting with the Traffic Department of Mt. Pleasant. She said they are looking at restriping the connector all the way up to the causeway “so it would be good if we knew what they had in mind so that when we go to DOT that gives us more ammunition in terms of what we are going to negotiate with them and how it would tie in.”

Council Member Streetman noted that Isle of Palms controls very little of the Connector and that it will take a lot of coordination with surrounding agencies to make it work better.

Council Member Hahn expressed his strong desire for the City to hire its own expert to develop a plan to deal with the Connector and protect the island residents. Chief Cornett said that while he originally had concerns about emergency vehicle response time due to the changes to the Connector, he has not seen an incident that resulted in an extended response time.

Administrator Fragoso spoke about the placement of EMS on the island: “In the past, we typically have them stationed on the island for busy weekends, Fourth of July, but as we know those busy weekends are becoming more the norm even those big holiday weekends. So one of our goals this year is to continue to work with them and see what resources can they provide to us so that we can ensure that we have a unit on the island on site for more than just those holiday weekend so that we can quickly respond.”

Chief Cornett added that a Delta Unit is often on the island to assist in stabilizing a patient until the arrival of EMS. The unit cannot transport patients and there is also no guarantee one can be on the island.

**MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to recommend to full Council that the City hire its own expert to be involved with discussion with SCDOT going forward. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion.**

Council Member Anderson noted that Jennifer Beale, a local traffic engineering consultant, has been hired. Administrator Fragoso added that Ms. Beale has been hired on hourly basis specific to this project to work for the City and with SCDOT making sure that “whatever recommendations or whatever data or conclusions are being made certainly fit the desires of this community and that all alternatives and all the proper data is being looked at.”

Council Member Hahn clarified his motion: “My motion is only that we then bring this issue to the larger council. The larger council can consider hiring our own experts.” After further discussion, Council Member Hahn withdrew his motion and Council Member Streetman withdrew his second. Committee members agreed to have a Special Meeting to discuss the specifics of what success looks like for such an effort before going to City Council with their recommendation.

Council Member Streetman noted that a similar discussion had been had by the previous Council and that it was put aside due to being unable to find an objective party to act on behalf of the City. It would have been an unbudgeted expense and there was no way to know how SCDOT would receive a study paid for by the City.

7. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of adding more turnout gear, protective clothing for firefighters**

Administrator Fragoso said that City firefighters currently only have one set of turnout gear and the City would like to add a second set. She noted it is an expensive item, approximately \$4,000 per set, and will need to work it into the budget.

Chief Briscoe said the department is lacking in its protective gear and he was surprised to learn that City did not have two sets of gear per firefighter. He said gear should be replaced every 10 years. He would like to ask for 15 sets of gear, which is approximately \$60,000. It is possible that part of the cost could be offset by the sale of surplus property. The filing for an appropriate grant closes this month, but those monies could be applied for next year. Chief Briscoe has suggested adding the purchase of 10 sets/year to the budget.

Administrator Fragoso said, “We’re actually starting the FY23 budget process, which begins with a review of capital purchases of FY22 and what’s been completed and what would need to be deferred, if there are any items that could be deferred that may not be as high a priority. We can do that and then used budgeted funds towards this purchase in FY22 with a combination of maybe the surplus property.”

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend for the Ways & Means Committee to add more turnout clothing for firefighters. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. **Discussion and consideration of surplus property: 1002 engine and jet ski**

Chief Briscoe recommends trying to sell the engine truck for \$25,000, and if it does not sell in a month, they will come back to the Committee for approval to donate it to a nearby agency in need. He believes the jet ski will sell easily. Procurement code requires that donations over \$10,000 be approved by Council.

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 10:00am. A Special Meeting to discuss the issues with the Connector will be held before on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 10:00am.

8. **Adjournment**

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk