



**Public Safety Committee  
10:00am, Thursday, February 17, 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 and Streetman

Absent: Council Member Anderson

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

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

**MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.**

**3. Citizens' Comments**

Mr. Chris Ahrenhaldt, speaking on behalf of LOWVELO, came before the Committee to discuss the 2022 bike ride and ask for City-sponsored event status. This year's event will be on Saturday, November 5 and will have the same site plan as last year. The LOWVELO team intends to engage more of the local businesses and citizens in the event. They would like to create a LOWVELO "Festival" in the commercial district during the event. They are requesting the same City services they did last year. They intend to have less fencing and hope to make the event more spectator friendly.

Chief Cornett said they have reviewed the plan and have made recommendations back to the LOWVELO team. They are working on making sure they have appropriate staffing through constables and deputy sheriffs. He and Chief Briscoe support the plan.

Administrator Fragoso said conversations about the event have focused on concerns from last year's event, specifically the road closure, involvement of the business community, and timely communications.

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to reorder the agenda and move the discussion of the noise ordinance ahead of the Departmental Reports. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. New Business**

**A. Discussion of noise ordinance and outdoor concerts in the commercial district  
[Strategic Plan Priority 4, Goal a]**

Administrator Fragoso said this conversation began with last year's Public Safety Committee. She hopes the noise ordinance can be adjusted to be more specific and give actionable tools for Public Safety to address noise complaints, much like was done with the dog ordinance. She said that other communities are looking at adding decibel readings to their noise ordinances. She would like to bring clarity to the noise ordinance that supports local businesses while maintaining quality of life for residents.

Mr. Bobby Ross of the Windjammer said that he keeps their microphone at 100 decibels or less for events. He said they have been offering sunset concerts so that events do not go too late into the evening.

Chief Cornett said that he likes that officers have the discretion whether or not to write a ticket but would like the clarity that decibel levels would offer.

Council Member Hahn expressed the need for the City Attorney to review proposed changes carefully, especially with regard to pre-existing situations. He wants the ordinance to be fair to all concerned. Administrator Fragoso said that she will continue conversations with the business owners about this matter, look at the noise ordinances of surrounding communities, have the City Attorney vet proposed changes, and bring something back to the Committee next month.

Brett Jones, owner of several local establishments, said that residents have thanked him for keeping the parties at Front Beach and out of the neighborhoods.

**5. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

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

Interim Chief Briscoe highlighted the events and work of the Fire Department in January. Notable events included a gas leak, possible broken water pipes, possible structure fire on Sullivan's Island, and the hiring of two firefighters, which brings the department to full staffing. He noted that calls across January 2020, January 2021, and January 2022 show an increase. He anticipates 2022 to be a busy year for the island.

He complimented the LOWVELO staff for how well they worked with Fire Department staff, particularly the Fire Marshall, during their event last year.

**B. Police Department – Chief Cornett**

Chief Cornett reviewed the activities of the Police Department in January including the Color Guard for the Municipal Inauguration and the hiring of two new officers who are currently at the SC Criminal Justice Academy.

Statistics for January show calls are down from January 2021, but he noted there were 4 DUIs in that same time period. There were over 100 DUIs tickets written by the department in 2021.

Police department staff reviewed their 2021 statistics and created four goals for the year based on that data: reduce response times, reduce vehicle collisions, increase community policing efforts, and obtain highly qualified applicants.

He stated there are still three vacancies for sworn officers, but that both officers who were in FTO have been released and are on their own. They are ramping up efforts to recruit BSOs to start on March 1. There has not been as much response as he would like despite the amount of online efforts they have made to recruit people. They may need to consider raising the rate of pay if they don't get the response they need for this vital position.

He reviewed some of the reports included in the meeting pack with Committee members.

He invited more participation in the Polar Plunge which will take place this weekend. The IOPPD is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the amount of money have raised (\$25,000) to date, but they have the biggest team participating in the event.

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. Update on study of the modification to the IOP Connector, to include assessment of alternative configurations to improve traffic flow, pedestrian and emergency access and expanded scope for corridor study [Strategic Plan Priority 1, Goal b]**

Administrator Fragoso said, "The Committee had a special meeting last Thursday where the two scopes were very thoroughly discussed, and there were some agreements about the direction that we want to go. Our engineer is sending me today, the traffic engineer, Jennifer Beall, who was at that meeting, is sending me the suggestions that she had made to the Committee, and we will be submitting that to Secretary Hall for an expansion of the scope that is currently in place. The secretary is willing and able to execute a change order to the existing contract to expand the corridor study. As we have discussed, we have a kickoff meeting scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>. We are all confirmed. It is going to be here at City Hall, and we will have representatives from the consulting firm that has been hired, our traffic engineer, and SCDOT as well. So I will be reporting to you all after that meeting how those discussions are going on. Our goal would be to execute, to have SCDOT execute that change order for the expanded scope before that meeting. So they will be using feedback we provide on that. We included in the packet the documents that were discussed last week."

Council Member Streetman said the Connector study scopes are part of the meeting packet should anyone wish to refer to them.

**7. New Business**

**B. Consideration of request from LOWVELO for City-sponsored event**

**MOTION:** Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the LOWVELO event on November 5, 2022 as a City-sponsored event. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. Consideration of resolution 2202-03 authorizing the consumption of beer and wine only, amplified music, and street closure at the Front Beach Festival on March 5, 2022 [Strategic Plan Priority 4, Goals a & b]**

**MOTION:** Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend Resolution 2202-03 to City Council for approval. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**D. Discussion and consideration of FY23 10-year Capital Plan Budget for Police and Fire [Strategic Plan Priority 3, Goal b]**

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the items in the Police Department Capital Plan budget for FY 23 including: replacement of 3 patrol SUVs; replacement of 2 LSV for parking management; replacement of the Front Beach surveillance system; replacement of recording equipment; replacement of a computer server and backup system, replacement of 7 traffic counters at the Connector and Breach Inlet, two license plate readers for mobile parking enforcement; hardware and software for de-escalation and use of force training simulation system; and 1% building maintenance funding.

She then reviewed the items in the Fire Department Capital Plan budget for FY23 including: replacement of 2014 Ford F-150; 2 mobile radio repeaters (only with failure); replacement of two personal watercraft; replacement of RAD-57 medical monitor for carbon monoxide and oxygen (only with failure); replacement of 2 ATVs for beach patrol with ambulatory package for one; replacement of 1 ATV with a small pickup truck; replacement of light tower on Engine 1001; second set of bunker gear for all personnel; 2 bunker gear dryers (one for each station); digital dashboard; replacement of foam setup equipment, replacement of HVAC units (only with failure); and 1% building maintenance funding.

Deputy Chief Hathaway said the purchase of the pickup truck for beach calls will allow for more versatility in their response to these types of calls. He added that a pickup truck has a longer life than an ATV.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:00am.

**8. Adjournment**

Council Member Hahn made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk