



**Public Safety Committee  
10:00am, Thursday, March 3, 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 Anderson, Hahn and Streetman

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

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

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 10, 2022 and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion.**

Council Member Anderson corrected the last name of the traffic engineer to Bihl. She also said her job is to “advise the Isle of Palms and review the SCDOT study” at the end of the minutes.

**VOTE: The amended minutes passed unanimously.**

**MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2022 and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.**

**3. Citizens' Comments**

**4. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

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

Interim Chief Briscoe shared a “Pet Finder” sticker that Fire Marshall Stafford gave out to residents who attended Doggie Day at the Recreation Center last month. Administrator Fragoso said the Fire Department is increasing its participation in special events to help distribute fire education materials.

Chief Briscoe said the department is in good shape. He told the Committee that the IOP Fire Department is one of 200 out of 46,000 departments in the United States that holds the Class 1 ISO rating and has done so since 2017. He was very complimentary of the department. He believes the City should continue to look into mutual aid with the surrounding fire departments.

**B. Police Department – Chief Cornett**

Chief Cornett reported that IOP Police Department took second place overall in last month's Polar Plunge and thanked the residents and City Council for their support. They held a virtual Coffee with a Cop last month and it will be a live event this month. He shared that Officer Ambus was recognized by the Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce as the Officer of the Month.

He pointed out that all statistics were lower in February than they were last February. The department still has 3 vacancies for officers. Chief Cornett reported that he has received numerous applications for BSOs and is conducting interviews.

**5. 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 there is not a lot to update at this time. Friday's kickoff meeting will be attended by City staff, SCDOT staff including the consultant hired by SCDOT to conduct the study, and the traffic engineer consultant representing the City. The meeting will cover both scopes of work but focus mainly on the first one.

She also reported that they have met with the operational staff and Executive Director of the County Park to discuss changing the way they receive payment at the park. They are looking into mobile pay apps but don't believe they will be ready for use this summer. They have agreed to split the cost of a Charleston County Sheriff's Deputy with the City this summer who will assist with the ingress and egress from the County Park.

Administrator Fragoso said conversations with County Park staff will continue, but she noted they seem resistant to change. Council Member Hahn asked what the City's legal options are if PRC does not take responsibility for the situation. Administrator Fragoso said that they can look into legal options. However, she shared that PRC is focused on good customer service and providing good information to those who come in the park. She also said the staff who man the parking lot is young and not trained to help angry people. She is unsure how effective the deputy sheriff will be. Any encouragement from elected officials would be helpful.

Committee members discussed options such as increasing the weekend parking rates and honor systems for paying. Administrator Fragoso stated that they have been speaking with the Town of Mt. Pleasant who will also speak with PRC about coming up with a solution since it causes traffic problems into Mt. Pleasant.

**6. New Business**

**A. Discussion of proposed letter to SCDOT concerning the recent modifications to the IOP Connector**

Council Member Hahn said the draft letter is currently being worked on and will be presented to and discussed by City Council at their March meeting.

**B. Discussion and consideration of FY23 Operational Budget for Police and Fire  
[Strategic Plan Priority 3, Goal b]**

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the increases in the Fire Department's FY23 budget including salaries and retirement, \$2400 for additional administrative expenses for the new Fire Chief, funding for meeting and seminar attendance to allow for professional development, funds to strengthen and support the Fire Marshall's role, vehicle and fuel expenses which will continue to be monitored throughout the budget process, IT expense for a digital dashboard to assist with daily reporting, a contract for foam to be used in fires, and \$3000 for the purchase of additional fire safety educational materials to support the community. She also reviewed the items being purchased in part or in full for the department using tourism revenues.

The Police Department Operational budget also showed increases in salaries and retirement as well as fuel and vehicle maintenance costs. In addition, there is an \$18,000 increase in insurance premiums directly associated with the Public Safety building and liability for the officers and an increase in funding for recruitment efforts. She noted there is no change to the BSO wages and benefits as 2019 is the first year those positions were fully staffed. They will monitor these costs closely to see if the hourly rate needs to be raised to attract more people. She then reviewed those capital outlay items that will be covered in part or full using tourism revenues.

Chief Cornett said the LPRS will be used for parking enforcement specifically. He explained how they will work on the LSVs used to patrol the parking lots.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

Council Member Hahn asked about an email recently received from a resident about stop signs needed at 25<sup>th</sup> and Waterway Boulevard. Administrator Fragoso said she would discuss the matter with Chief Cornett and make a request to SCDOT for them to look at it and make recommendations.

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, April 7, 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 11:12am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk