



Public Safety Committee
10:00am, Wednesday, April 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 Anderson, Hahn and Streetman

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Chief Oliverus, Chief Cornett

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2022 and Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Al Clouse of Wild Dunes and speaking on behalf of the Williamsons and the Grymans spoke to the Committee about his concern for the ongoing noise ordinance violation at the Sweetgrass Inn. He has attempted contact with the general manager for over a year and has called the police numerous times. He and his neighbors are very frustrated at the lack of response to these complaints. He said the atmospheric environmental situation of a pool near their homes amplifies the sound created by the Sweetgrass Inn. He has measured the decibel levels, noting that they use round Bose speakers to project the music outwards. He said it is hard to enjoy the outside areas of their home due to the high levels of noise.

Mr. Jim Owens, 2805 Palm Boulevard, spoke with concern about the speeding on Palm Boulevard, specifically between 5:30am and 7:00am going towards Wild Dunes. He would like to see more police visibility in that area, either a mobile visibility sign or a ghost car. He also would like to see more BSOs out writing tickets.

4. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Chief Oliverus

Chief Oliverus reported there were 64 calls for service in March. He spoke highly of the way the Fire Department handled the structure fire call at Port-o-Call on March 29 and the rescue of a wind surfer on March 31. He said it was “an amazing example of teamwork and training.”

He briefly spoke about the importance of the analytic trends that help the department know how, where, and when to deploy resources.

He said he is currently reviewing policies and procedures and working on health and safety issues. He has spent 24 hours with each shift so that he can get to know staff better personally and professionally.

Council Member Anderson suggested more communication with the public residing near calls such as the fire at Port-o-Call so they are informed as to what is or was happening.

Chief Oliverus spoke briefly about the importance of training and the mandatory 20+ hours per month required of each City firefighter.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett said there were 816 calls for service, which was higher than February 2022 but lower than March 2021. 127 parking tickets were written and there were 306 traffic stops. He reported on the significant increase in DUS and DUIs compared to March 2021. There are three vacancies in the department, with one conditional offer outstanding. There four open BSO positions, with two conditional offers outstanding.

Chief Cornett said that if COVID cases stay low the department will consider offering free breathalyzer readings to patrons of Front Beach bars.

The white parking line along Palm Boulevard will start again in mid-May.

He also noted that calls for animal control were higher in the first quarter of 2022 than they were in the same time period last year. There were 3 coyote calls in March. Council Member Hahn suggested breaking out coyote calls in the next report.

Council Member Anderson encouraged citizens to review the statistics from Public Safety in the meeting packet on the City's website.

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 reported that SCDOT has begun collecting data for the first phase of the study. She said a meeting is being scheduled between the engineers, including Jennifer Bihl, the City's traffic engineer "to go through all the data that was selected and identify if additional data is necessary to make sure that it is consistent with the expectations we articulated in our kickoff meeting."

She added that the scope of work does include community feedback and input opportunities, but she doesn't know what that will look like yet. Meetings with the Town of Mt. Pleasant will be coordinated during the course of the corridor study.

Administrator Fragoso said that SCDOT did make some adjustments to the timing of the signals along the corridor which will go into effect before the season starts.

6. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of Capital Outlay requests for Public Safety Departments FY23 budget [Strategic Plan Priority 1, Goal b]**

- i. **Exhaust system (both stations) - \$200,000**
- ii. **Refurbishment of gym equipment (both stations) - \$75,000 (shared between PD & FD)**

Chief Oliverus explained the need for and the workings of the exhaust systems requested for both fire stations. He spoke of their importance to employee, visitor, and environmental health. These exhaust systems have been installed in Mt. Pleasant and City of Charleston and are considered best practice. He said there is a grant the City can pursue next Spring that could cover 75% of the costs.

Both Administrator Fragoso and Chief Oliverus support the upgrade to the gym equipment in both stations as part of their ongoing commitment to employee health. The cost would be split \$50,000 from the Fire Department and \$25,000 from the Police Department.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend to the Ways & Means Committee that the full cost of both requests be added to the FY23 Budget. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Consideration of approval of sole source purchase of Purvis Station Alerting System for Fire Station 1 & 2 in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 [FY22 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, Fire Department, Maintenance & Service Contracts, \$94,305, pg. 19, ln. 41]**

Administrator Fragoso stated that while this particular expense is not in the FY22 budget, the funding will come from the 1% of insured value that is laid aside in each budget year. It is a one-time purchase and will be installed before the end of the fiscal year. Chief Oliverus explained what this system will do and said this will put the department on par with the other departments in the County. It will call out the most appropriate resources based on the call type.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend the purchase to the Ways & Means Committee for approval. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, May 5, 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 11:03am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk