



Public Safety Committee
10:00am, Thursday, May 5, 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: Chief Oliverus, Deputy Chief Hathaway, Lt. Forsyth, Fire Marshal Stafford

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

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

3. Citizens' Comments -- none

4. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Chief Oliverus

Chief Oliverus gave an overview of department efforts in April. There is currently one vacancy which he anticipates being able to fill soon as they have had 15 applications for the position. Life-saving awards have been put in for the crew who rescued the surfer last month and the crew who saved a patient in cardiac arrest recently. He also spoke of the many opportunities members of the Fire Department had engaging with the community including numerous events at the Recreation Department.

Department personnel recently voted on updating the department patch. They are also currently trying out new daily uniforms. Cody Marlow was promoted to engineer. Engineer Chris Schwartz will be working on the department's social media presence. Chief Oliverus and Chief Cornett have discussed the possibility of sharing a public information office to maximize their social media efforts.

Department staff has been engaging with vendors and other departments regarding the upgrade to the fitness centers at the Public Safety Building and Fire Station 2. He also spoke about some recent training exercises in conjunction with area departments, Charleston County Parks & Recreation, and Charleston County Emergency Management.

Chief Rourke reached out to area departments regarding PPE and was referred to some gloves that are a better value and perform well.

He and Deputy Chief Hathaway have met with all City departments to understand their needs. Chief Oliverus will also continue to assess administrative operations to identify places to improve efficiency.

Committee members commended the Chief on his collaborative efforts within the City as well as among area fire departments.

B. Police Department – Lieutenant Forsyth

Lt. Forsyth highlighted the events of the police department in April including Coffee with a Cop, National Drug Take Back, a pinning ceremony, and the Easter activities at the Recreation Center.

There were 13 drug charges, 109 traffic citations, and 10 DUIs in April. Year to date there have been 13 marine calls for service. 37 of the traffic citations written were speeding violations. Lt. Forsyth attributes the large uptick in the number of speeding tickets to the increased volume of people on the island. He expects that those numbers will increase when they open staff vacancies are filled. There are still 3 officer vacancies, but they have an offer pending for a recent college graduate. There are still vacancies for BSOs, but he added that they are ahead of where they typically are this time of year with regards to hires.

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]

Council Member Anderson reported she, Administrator Fragoso, and Jennifer Bihl met with SCDOT and CCPRC to discuss the City's issues with the ingress into the County Park. CCPRC will be testing an app this summer that would allow people to park and pay, but it likely will not be ready to use this summer. The parking rate structure was also discussed. Council Member Anderson remarked that CCPRC does not see the traffic issue as big a concern as the City does.

She said, "We did talk with them about what happens when the park is full and how traffic queues on the road. So one of the things we will be discussing hopefully with the Police Department here is to get some signage from SCDOT – no standing along 14th Avenue – and then enable the Police Department to actually enforce that by asking people to move on." This effort will include information about where other parking might be available.

Council Member Anderson reported that CCPRC did agree to put a variable messaging sign on the Mt. Pleasant side of the Connector that indicates when the parking at the County park is full.

The data collection phase of the IOP Connector study is now complete. The SCDOT consultant came up with some quick fixes including looking at the signal at Palm and the Connector. Going forward, the SCDOT consultant will present eight alternate configurations to the IOP Connector. Those alternatives will come back to the Committee to sort through and select the most feasible

options and then bring those options to the public for comment. Those options will be available sometime in July.

B. Update and discussion about potential changes to the noise ordinance

Lt. Forsyth said they are still collecting data from coastal communities to see what they are doing with regards to noise ordinances. They are also waiting for Mt. Pleasant to complete its trial of their new noise ordinance so they can review its effectiveness.

Council Member Anderson would like any proposed changes to address the hours of the day the noise ordinance will be enforced and a table of acceptable decibel levels for various types of noise. Lt. Forsyth noted that City of Charleston and Folly Beach do not use decibel levels in their noise ordinances “because there are so many variables with the decibel levels and the readings as well.”

Of the livability complaints made this year to date, only two have been for noise.

Chief Cornett and Lt. Forsyth will bring their recommendations back to the Committee.

C. Consideration of Mutual Aid Agreement with National Park Service

Lt. Forsyth said this is a standard mutual aid agreement.

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement with the National Park Service. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and consideration of adopting Chapter 1 of the International Fire Code

Fire Marshal Stafford explained to the Committee the need to adopt Chapter 1 of the International Fire Code into the City. He said Chapter 1 “establishes the limits of the code and it describes how the code is to be applied and enforced.” This adoption will just be updating the code and not making changes to the way things are currently being done.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to recommend to City Council the adoption of Chapter 1 of the International Fire Code. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion regarding the division of transportation issues into different departments: traffic, roads, and transportation planning

Council Member Anderson said that parts of transportation concerns “seem to be siloed” in different departments and she would like to have a discussion “about this and start with what we know and that is for the police department next time to identify clearly what their responsibilities are with respect to the general, what I call transportation, what their duties are, what the requirements are, and any suggestions as to what we might be able to do better, to improve the way it’s handled in this City.”

She would like to include the Public Works department and the Real Property Committee in future discussions to “find out what their duties and responsibilities are and if there is overlap, how we can better do those activities so that we end up with the uniform process.”

6. New Business

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 at 10:00am.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk