

Public Safety Committee Meeting 10:00am, Tuesday, April 4, 2023 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, Ward, and Anderson

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Chief Cornett, Chief Oliverius

2. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – March 6, 2023

Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2023 meeting, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

4. Old Business

A. Presentation from parking management vendor

Tina Reid and Jared Glass of Pivot Parking gave a presentation to the Committee about their company and the services they could offer to the City as its parking vendor. Their presentation, which includes two proposed fee structure options, is on the City's website.

Committee members asked numerous clarifying questions about the scope of the work Pivot Parking could do on the island. Chief Cornett noted that the police officers and the code enforcement officer will continue to enforce the rules surrounding parking at short-term rentals.

Administrator Fragoso said that if passed by City Council, any contract with Pivot Parking would be in place for the 2024 season.

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to have Pivot Parking give this presentation to City Council at next week's workshop. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of changes to the noise ordinance

Administrator Fragoso reminded the Committee that there was a motion at the last meeting to pause further work on the noise ordinance until the report from the sound engineer hired by Wild Dunes had been received. To date, that information has not been received. She added, "I think

there is a desire from the community for action, and we have talked about the challenges that the existing ordinance presents for enforcement when noise complaints are issued. So I would suggest that we bring this before Council and at least get the process started so we can have a new ordinance in place that we can enforce through the season. Because we feel a little like our hands are tied with the current ordinance. We've talked about the challenges of enforcing that and we need a different resource to be able to have our officers respond. So my recommendation, as we move forward, I think we have talked about having something in place for about 6 months so we can try it, see what works, see what doesn't, what changes need to happen. But I think we need to get some momentum going because the situation continues to take place. And you can certainly, in some areas, understand the frustration of the adjacent residents."

Council Member Anderson suggested making changes to the section about requests for noise ordinance variances. Council Member Ward expressed concern about the 75-decibels level in the current draft of the ordinance, believing it to be too high.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to recommend to City Council changing the parameters in the noise ordinance variance request section to five days instead of 15 hours. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion.

Council Member Anderson noted that no one is entitled to those variance requests and City Council still must approve all requests.

VOTE: A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Anderson, Hahn Nays: Ward

The motion passed 2-1.

C. Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 2023-04 – an ordinance to increase from two to four the number of resident parking decals that may be issued to non-resident property owners

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend the ordinance to full Council for approval, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso clarified, "For some context, so right now, if you're a non-resident property owner, taxed at 6%, you can request a decal, and you have to show proof of residency and vehicle registration. Vehicle registration, oftentimes because they don't live here full-time, the vehicle is not registered to the license, but the police department does verify that the owner of the vehicle is the same owner of the property because they have to show proof of ownership as well. I've heard some concerns from folks that believe that this might open up more decals that could be distributed to family members and friends. There is no way for us to stop that, right? When we issue a decal, they have to prove, show proof of residency, and then the vehicle registration, each decal is assigned to a specific residence and owner. So we do have ways of tracking that by the number on the decal. But that would be the way that it would continue to be enforced. Right now, residents who live here do not have any limits on the number of decals as

long as all vehicles are registered to the residents. So that is the main difference between the non-resident decal, non-resident property owner decals and full-time residents."

VOTE: A vote was taken with all in favor.

5. New Business

Discussion of Fire Safety Checklist acknowledgement form for short-term rental application

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the changes made to the Fire Safety Checklist since the City Council meeting. She explained the rollout of the checklist: "We anticipate rolling this out after this renewal process. We are in the middle of renewals now through the end of April. So any new applications coming in after April would be required to fill out this form and acknowledge, and as you can see on that second page at the bottom, they are either acknowledging that it is in place today or will be in 90 days. So we are giving them a three-month grace period to get those things confirmed because they would have to put eyes on it before they apply."

Administrator Fragoso said staff is discussing the possibility of performing spot checks to ensure people have met the requirements of the form. Current staffing levels do not allow for the Fire Department to ensure all properties are complying with the requirements.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 10:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Hahn made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane City Clerk