



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
4:30pm, Tuesday, May 2, 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 (via phone), Ward, Streetman, Anderson (via phone), Popson (via phone), Miars, Pierce, and Mayor Pounds

Absent: Council Member Bogosian

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Chief Cornett, Chief Oliverius

2. Citizen's Comments

Mr. Stuart Tessler, 3 49th Avenue, said he is not in favor of Ordinance 2023-05 without significant modification. He believes the language surrounding weddings on the beach to be ambiguous and wonders why weddings would be treated differently than any other function on the beach. He also believes requiring a beneficial purpose to the event is a form of censorship. He believes requiring people to submit a request 60 days in advance of an event is excessive. He would like City Council to defeat the ordinance.

3. Purpose – Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-05 – to require a permit from the Isle of Palms police department for events or gatherings on public property, including the beach that are expected to involve more than 50 people

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to discuss, and Council Member Pierce seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Fragoso read the changes made to the ordinance. Council Member Miars asked the significance of the dates March 1 through September 9. Administrator Fragoso clarified, "I think that the intent would be that between those dates the City is saying ahead of time that we would not approve any permits for events that would include a walk, run, or a race on the beach." Additionally, the dates indicate the busy season for beach activities.

Mayor Pounds said many of the changes were based on Mr. Tessler's comments submitted prior to the meeting.

Administrator Fragoso said the change from 25 to 50 people comes from case law that defines what a gathering is. She noted that weddings will be treated like any other event on the beach. Chief Cornett said 50 is a manageable and enforceable number.

Council Member Miars asked how the Police Department would be handling the enforcement of this ordinance. Chief Cornett answered, “The group would have to gather first for us to be able to say that they were unlawfully gathered without a permit. Once they were gathered and we could tell that it was a group that was in violation, if they did not have a permit, we would just ask to see that permit. Typically, I think these are going to be such few numbers that I’ll know if a permit’s been issued or not...If we do see a group that gathers and they don’t have a permit, then we would ask them to disperse. We could charge individuals. Our first method would be to disperse unless they had the permit. And to educate. At the end of the day, I don’t think there is any intent to tell people they cannot gather. It is just that we want them to be able to do so and that we have the resources we need to find the person in charge if we do have incidents that are getting out of control or maybe litter left on the beach, which is what we typically see from large groups, and they could address that and we can contact them to make sure they clean it up.”

MOTION: Council Member Pierce made a motion to approve the ordinance as amended and to waive the reading. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk