



**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

Submitted by Al Clouse  
4/4/2023

## PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING 4/4/23; Clouse Comments

City Council Meeting on 3/28/2023; we requested assurances in writing, our administration will enforce Noise Ordinance 9-2-5. Still awaiting the requested document.

On 3/6/23 Mrs. Haack stated the first phase of the Sound Study from the resort would be completed the week of 3/13/23. Nothing received at this point.

Since our last meeting on 3/6/23, we have called the police four (4) times; noise and traffic violations. We are not aware of any citations issued. The resort is unable, or unwilling, to police themselves. We contend this further demonstrates Sweetgrass is not concerned regarding residents, City Council or Public Safety Committee.

We believe it is time to hold all parties of a contract accountable for noise violations.

Blocking 57th AVE and the Fire Lane is unacceptable.

On March 21, 2023 we provided a video noise reading regarding the discrepancies between an iPhone app and a standardized sound level meter comparison. As you will recall, the iPhone app was 14 dBA's higher as compared to the Cadrim Sound Meter (complies with IEC651 type 2, ANSI S1.4 type 2 testing standards). We challenged you to perform your own comparison. Our complaints over the past two (2) years are predicated on said sound meter. Frankly, you do not need a noise meter when the external noise from the Sweetgrass penetrates inside your home (when all high impact windows/doors are closed). When you are laying in bed, hearing every note, all the hooping and hollering, unable to sleep.

Mrs. Haack stated on 3/6/23 she is willing to do "whatever is necessary within the confines of allowing Sweetgrass to operate as a hotel". What does this mean? What would this look like? If the answer to the above is status quo; we are not interested. We find it interesting the resort expects the residents to accept their behavior, as compared to the resort changing its behavior. Does the word "hotel" allow one to abuse others?

Mrs. Haack previously commented the roof top bar and the ballroom doors are not open during an event. We have numerous videos demonstrating this is not an accurate statement.

We contend a majority of Council Members, the Administration and Mrs. Haack have not experienced an afternoon at the "Theme Park" during peak season. Followed up by an evening event at the roof top bar or ballroom. Until you experience what we experience on a daily basis, you have no clue what we are exposed to. No clue!! Visiting in off season can give one a sense; a few council members have visited the site.

The noise abuse from the Sweetgrass (a hotel) is very detrimental to our health.

We have presented City Council and this committee an abundance of facts regarding noise and related health issues.

As the majority of surrounding areas are implementing restrictive noise ordinances, we are opening the flood gates.