Planning Commission Meeting
4:30pm, Wednesday, September 13, 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: Sue Nagelski, Ron Denton, David Cohen, Jeffrey Rubin, Marty Brown, Sandy Stone, Tim Ahmuty

Staff present: Director Kerr, Zoning Administrator Simms

2. Approval of minutes

Ms. Nagelski made a motion to approve the minutes as amended of the July 12, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Mr. Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

4. New Business

Discussion of noise ordinance issues with Police Department representatives

Chief Cornett explained that the current noise ordinance is not objective and presents a problem when trying to defend tickets in court. He shared year-to-date noise complaint data with the Commissioners. He stated the majority of noise complaints are related to amplified music and loud voices.

He and his officers have been taking readings around the island and the average decibel level from readings taken in August was 64 dba. He would like to see decibel levels in the new ordinance so that his officers have objective evidence to present in court.

Mr. Cohen expressed concerns about the proposed noise ordinance. He said it is not practical because the Police Department will not be enforcing the ordinance on everything that creates a noise violation, like lawn equipment.

B. **Discussion of task from City Council regarding noise ordinance**

Director Kerr said the City Council would like for the Planning Commission to discuss whether or not there is an issue that requires changing the City code, to discuss whether or not the noise ordinance should include decibel levels, and if there should be decibel levels, what should those levels be.

Mr. Cohen said he had no issues with including decibel levels in the ordinance as long as they are well defined. He suggested that in order for a ticket to be issued there needs to be a complaint made and a decibel level measured and recorded. He noted that an individual's background environment determines what they hear.

Director Kerr will set up equipment for the next meeting to help understand decibel levels. Mr. Cohen will add some "technical polish" to the proposed noise ordinance.

C. **Discussion of stormwater recommendations from drainage masterplan**

Director Kerr reviewed the changes to the City's development standards suggested by the Drainage Master Plan. These will be discussed more deeply at the next meeting.

D. **Discussion of City Council/Planning Commission workshop request – 9/26/23**

Director Kerr shared with the Commission that City Council would like to discuss the Commission's recommended changes regarding short-term rentals prior to the City Council meeting on September 26. He said they did not like the recommendation regarding single room rentals, and they would like to further discuss the changes to the occupancy limits on new or significantly remodeled short-term rental houses.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Comprehensive Plan review updated draft**

Director Kerr said another draft is forthcoming.

B. **Update on Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan**

Director Kerr said Seamon & Whiteside has been collecting initial information for the plan and will likely come speak to the Planning Commission in the future.

5. **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 4:30pm.

Mr. Stone made a motion to adjourn, and Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Planning Commission 9/13/23; Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 22 since 4/13/2022)
Regarding NOISE ORDINANCE; NUISANCE.

We understand your mission.

Respectfully, we hope you understand ours.

Our residential neighborhood does not deserve to have decibels dictate our livability. If we tell you we are disturbed, then we are disturbed. If we need to execute affidavits, we will. Charleston and Folly Beach are not governed by decibels. The people in Charleston do not put up with a nuisance.

I will not drag you through our history, however, in previous meetings with the Public Safety Committee, any protection provided to us under the current ordinance, by a 2 to 1 vote, was slaughtered from the criteria. Totally pro resort!

We encourage you to differentiate between noise from a hotel, as compared to noise from a hotel which is located in a residential neighborhood. Noise Duration; 24/7/365.

We encourage you to not allow the hotel a double standard when compared to a residential neighborhood.

Our livability since April 2021 is not what you would prescribe to your Mom and Dad.

Hotel distance from the complainants. Mrs. Williamson 25 feet; Clouse 62 feet. **Illustrate.**

Please let us remind you, over fourteen (14) months ago, we requested a noise abatement study; following up with a second request in November 2022. The resort egregiously decided to make a recipe for more noise (sound study). We encourage all of you to tour the Sweetgrass Inn; you will notice the design projects directly south into a residential neighborhood. An elevated damn is also in place to protect their empire; forcing a potential surge into a residential neighborhood. Aesthetically, complemented by a "we ran out of money" finish on the south side of their property.

I have called the IOP Police over **sixty-five (65) times,** which resulted in five (5) tickets, all from the **Concert from Hell** on November 4, 2022. **A little over 7%**. Does something seem amiss about this?

9/12/23 City Council packet; Livability Statistics August 2023; Noise: **17 complaints; zero (0) citations.**

We know your mission is not enforcement.

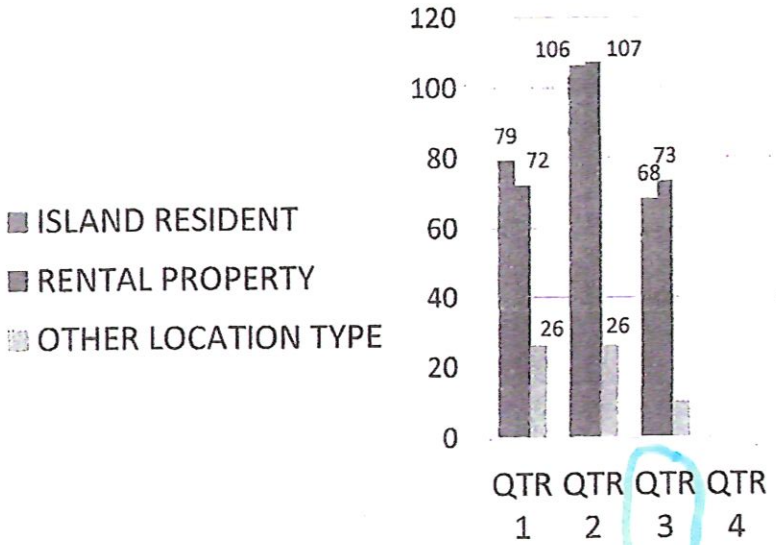
We love the cicadas!

ISLE OF PALMS POLICE DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT
AUGUST 2023

Livability Statistics

LIVABILITY COMPLAINTS	ISLAND RESIDENT	RENTAL PROPERTY	OTHER LOCATIONS	TOTAL COMPLAINTS	CITATIONS	WARNINGS	UNFOUNDED	COMPLAINT DISPOSITION
NOISE	5	7	5	**17**	0	6	11	**17**
FIREWORKS	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
UNKEMPT LOTS	1	1	0	**2**	0	2	0	**2**
RIGHT-OF-WAY OBSTRUCTION	2	0	0	**2**	0	2	0	**2**
BUSINESS LICENSE	6	2	0	**8**	8	0	0	**8**
OTHER RENTAL PROPERTY VIOLATIONS NOT LISTED	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
SHORT TERM RENTAL OCCUPANCY VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
SHORT TERM RENTAL VEHICLE LIMIT VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
ROLL CART VIOLATIONS	18	22	0	**40**	11	29	0	**40**
TOTAL	**32**	**32**	**5**	**69**	**19**	**39**	**11**	**69**
% BY CATEGORY	**46%**	**46%**	**7%**		**28%**	**57%**	**16%**	

Livability Complaint by Property Type



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JULY & AUGUST