



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
10:00am, Tuesday, August 1, 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 Ward and Anderson

Absent: Council Member Hahn

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Captain Swain, Battalion Chief Hathaway

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2023

Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes. Both Council members Ward and Anderson requested Mr. Clouse refrain from personal attacks in his comments.

4. Old Business

Council Member Ward said items B and C from the agenda will be postponed until a later meeting to give staff time to review the proposals for paid parking.

A. Presentation and discussion of noise study conducted by the Wild Dunes Sweetgrass Inn

Ms. Terri Haack of Wild Dunes shared some details of the noise studies conducted recently at the Sweetgrass Inn. She said, "The draft ordinance states that a violation occurs when sound readings exceed the limit continuously for a period of 30 seconds or when the sound reading exceeds the limit for less than 30 seconds but occurs more than six times within two minutes. This will take a trained person to validate the results when called to take a reading. Are we prepared to ensure that these complicated readings will be accurate? Is there another way? The red dashes on the report that I provided for you represent the highest sound level within an hour. These sound events are very short in duration and are attributable to a sundry of sources within and without the property and do not represent a violation of the noise ordinance as proposed. They give us a representation of the range of variation of the sound for all surroundings throughout the hour. In viewing the results of our study, it's important that the proposed noise

ordinance levels of 75 decibels for commercial properties, including Islander 71, remain at 75 decibels or a bit higher for amplified music. This will allow commercial properties to operate within the guidelines for the surrounding neighborhoods to be protected. This will also reduce the need to ask Council for a variation for most group activities at Sweetgrass Inn and pool area. We do want to be a good neighbor, and we respect the families who live around Sweetgrass Inn. We have taken many steps to mitigate noise from the resort pool and the sixth floor. I would encourage you to reach out to the owners of businesses on Front Beach regarding the proposed 85 decibel restriction. It is my understanding that 85 decibels may be too restrictive for some businesses on Front Beach. Adherence to this important noise ordinance in all of the proposed decibel restrictions must be enforced equally throughout the City.”

Council Member Ward asked Ms. Haack to attend the next City Council meeting to share this information with the entire Council. Ms. Haack said she could come to the August 22 meeting but was unsure she could attend the August 8 meeting.

5. New Business

A. Approval of vehicle replacements and purchases for Police Department

- i. Ford SUV Police Vehicle - \$48,626 (State contract) [FY24 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, Police Department, \$52,000]**
- ii. Dodge Durango Police Vehicle - \$41,790 (State contract) [FY24 Budget, Muni ATAX Fund, Police Department, \$52,000]**
- iii. Dodge 1500 Animal Control – \$40,167 (State contract) [FY24 Budget, Hospitality Tax Fund, Police Department, \$48,000]**
- iv. Dodge 1500 Code Enforcement Vehicle - \$37,413 (State contract) [FY24 Budget, State ATAX Fund, Police Department, \$46,000] – Vehicle for new Code Enforcement position**

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the purchase of the Ford SUV. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso explained the intended use of each vehicle. Council Member Ward then withdrew his motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson withdrew her second.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the purchase of all four vehicles. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of replacement of 6 Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) for Fire Department - \$36,000 [FY24 Budget, General Fund, Fire Department, IT Equipment, Software & Services, \$36,000]

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Approval of overhead fans for apparatus bay at Fire Station 1 in an amount of \$65,025 [FY24 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, Fire Department, Building Maintenance, \$126,620]

Battalion Chief Hathaway said these large fans will allow for better airflow that will help dry equipment faster and keep birds from flying around the bay.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and approval of design of new emergency vehicle beach access at the IOP County Park

Administrator Fragoso reminded Committee members of the impetus of this project and explained the effort to design the project has been a collaborative one between the City and the County Park staff. She shared some details of the design, and said that while some small changes are anticipated, there has been general agreement among the stakeholders on the project.

After receiving approval from City Council and PRT, she hopes to secure a contractor by November so that a Notice to Proceed can be issued in January, and the project completed prior to the start of the next beach season. She said permits would be needed if the project goes beyond the critical line, but she does not anticipate that being the case.

Battalion Chief Hathaway said the new path will hold mules, ATVs, and an ambulance.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of the design. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Ward asked Administrator Fragoso to set up a tour of the County's Command Center in North Charleston.

E. Discussion regarding implementing safety measures on 29th Avenue and Waterway Boulevard intersection

Referencing a recent comment submitted by a citizen who counted speeders in the area, Council Member Ward asked what could be done to make the intersection safer. Administrator Fragoso said staff recognizes it is a highly utilized area with a lot of foot traffic near the Recreation Center. Staff has been discussing the placement of a mobile speed sign there to gather more data so that they can make the proper recommendations. She reminded the Committee of the joint effort by the City and the CVB to conduct a walkability study that will identify locations for sidewalks and crosswalks to enhance the island's pedestrian infrastructure.

She said, "My recommendation would be that we put up a speed radar in that location for a few weeks, gather data, go back to SCDOT and see, according to their standards, what traffic calming measures we can consider and implement and request their approval for. And then ultimately include that specific location and make sure that walkability study looks at that

particular issue and it is included in the recommendation for the better walkability infrastructure there.”

Captain Swain said that area is the second most enforced area on the island and appreciates citizens pointing out the need for additional enforcement.

Council Member Anderson suggested including the City’s traffic consultant in the study of this area and timing it, the walkability study, and SCDOT’s design recommendations for Palm Boulevard to encourage comprehensive solutions. She also suggested the City’s traffic consultant could assist with the preparation of the RFP for the walkability study. Administrator Fragoso noted that the contractor selected for the walkability study will need to work closely with SCDOT since the State owns the roads.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Council Member Anderson said, “I would just like to say that if anyone has an ethics concern by anyone on City Council they are free to submit an application to the South Carolina Ethics Commission for an opinion that they can receive and present. I have submitted a record and a question to the Ethics Commission and received a response from the Commission that I have posted, and anyone else can do the same. But I will not be submitting another question at this time.”

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 10:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

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Public Safety Committee 8/1/23; Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 18 since 4/13/2022)
Regarding Noise Ordinance; Nuisance.

Requesting for the **twelfth (12th) time** (twice in writing) to provide us written assurances regarding enforcement of **§ 9-2-5 (b)(c)**. **"Amplified Music"** is unlawful and the core of the very nuisance which has been created.

Could someone please tell me the reason we are not getting written assurances?

At CC meeting 7/25/23 we pointed out a number of missing facts Mrs. Anderson failed to disclose to the Ethics Commission regarding her conflicts of interest. We respectfully requested she readdress and disclose the missing facts to the Ethics Commission. Looking forward to an update from the Ethics Commission and Mrs. Anderson's revised letter.

Today's agenda under Old Business: The presentation and discussion of the noise study conducted by the Wild Dunes Sweetgrass Inn. Looking forward to the noise abatement implementations which are suggested in the study.

While we are on the topic, we had a noise disturbance from the Sweetgrass Friday night; called IOP Police (not using the 911 line, which we never have). There was a group under the portico having a party; we could hear the music in our house (yes, TV on/doors/windows closed). Now, a number of you in here have been to our house. The explanation we received from the officer was the group provided their own amplifier and music. The officer stated he did not issue a ticket because "it was not a resort event". The officer did tell the group to turn down their music. The officer also stated as he was leaving the hotel, another group was coming in with their amplifier. I believe he gave the group a preemptive warning. The officer was very polite when I spoke with him on the phone and I did not argue with him.

Mrs. Haack, is this a new program you are offering? Instead of the socially accepted b/y/o/b (bring your own bottle), the hotel now offers a b/y/o/a (bring your own amplifier)! Mrs. Haack, we would appreciate you performing due diligence on this issue; we do not believe you were aware of the "work around" amplified music.

To the administration: what makes the difference whether it is, or is not, an event by the resort? A noise violation (amplified music) is a noise violation. We believe the resort knows better; and if they do not, they should. The resort could not help but hear what we were hearing. They were negligent in not stopping the amplified music from the "non-resort event". Someone owned/provided, and was responsible for the amplifier; issue that person a ticket. Just as our police issue tickets to the driver of the car, not necessarily the passengers in the car.

This "non-resort event" disturbed our livability. After two and a half (2 1/2) years the resort has not learned their lesson.

WILLIAMSON
GREINER
LILLEN
KRAUSE
WIEMANN
KAB