



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
9:00am, Tuesday, February 4, 2025
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 Streetman, Anderson, Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Director Hamilton, Chief Cornett, Deputy Chief Tuohy

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Council Member Anderson nominated Council Member Bogosian as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. Council Member Streetman nominated Council Member Anderson as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. There being no second, the motion failed.

VOTE: A vote was taken as follows for Council Member Bogosian as Chair of the Public Safety Committee:

Ayes: Bogosian, Anderson

Nays: Streetman

Council Member Bogosian will act as Chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Council Member Bogosian nominated Council Member Anderson as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. There being no second, the motion failed. Council Member Anderson nominated Council Member Streetman as Vice Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion.

VOTE: A vote was taken on Council Member Streetman as Vice Chair for the Public Safety Committee, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Chris Hagy, 20th Avenue, shared some issues he has experienced with the rental houses surrounding his home. He would like the Committee to consider changing the rollover date for complaints to a rolling year and not January 1 of each year. He would like a clearer definition of the number of cars permitted for one property; he feels the law is not clear. He would also like them to consider making cars parked in an easement a parking violation.

A further discussion of these code enforcement suggestions will be added to the March agenda.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

Update on Coyote Management

Chief Cornett said his department intends to be more communicative of their coyote management efforts this season. They have already been posting on their social media channels and contacting local media. There have been two sightings so far.

He shared they have added money for trapping to their proposed FY26 budget. He also acknowledged that the Coyote Management Plan on the City's website needs to be updated.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Ordinance 2025-01 to amend parking regulations

Director Kerr said these suggested changes will establish a path by which code enforcement can be delegated to a third party for enforcing parking regulations.

Director Kerr said changes to the City's contract with PCI are needed to clarify they do not receive any parking ticket-related income. Council Member Bogosian said he would like clarification from the City's Attorney about the need for those changes.

Chief Cornett said he will implement a training program for those PCI staff writing parking tickets similar to the training received by the BSOs but specifically targeting parking regulations. The management/chain of command details still need to be worked out with PCI.

Council Member Streetman asked about the 4' parking line, and Chief Cornett said he and his staff are continually looking for ways to make a permanently visible parking line to create a safe parking environment.

Committee members were supportive of the changes to 2025-01 but still have questions. Council Member Bogosian would like to know what is legally making the City change the structure of their agreement with PCI. Council Member Anderson would like clarification on the sworn status of PCI staff and their chain of command. She would also like clarity on who is legally allowed to collect fees on behalf of the City. Director Kerr pointed out that changing the fee structure of the PCI contract did not significantly change the monies coming to the City or PCI.

Director Kerr said he would seek clarity from the City Attorney and have that prior to Second Reading at the end of the month.

B. Discussion of adding a second canine to the Police Department

Chief Cornett said that Sandy's handler resigned and that handler's supervisor now has possession of the dog. He said her training and tracking have improved.

He also said he had intended to ask for consideration for a second canine, but then the handler resigned. So until he has that position filled, there is no need for a second canine.

C. Discussion of crosswalk at 42nd Avenue and Palm Boulevard

Council Member Streetman said residents in that area reached out to him about their concerns for people crossing the street in that area, believing the crossing areas to not be well marked.

Director Kerr said a crosswalk could not be added at 42nd Avenue, but he will reach out to SCDOT about the costs and process for improving the crosswalks 43rd and 46th avenues.

D. Discussion of changing arrangement with County Park from shared Deputy to shared BSO

Chief Cornett shared with the Committee his idea to change the staff working traffic control outside the County Park in the summer from a County Deputy Sheriff to a City BSO. With the addition of 1-2 BSO positions, he knows he will always have staff available to manage that area. It is often difficult to secure a deputy. He has spoken to the County and they are in favor of the change and will continue to share in the cost. Should the change be approved, the City's share will drop from \$18,000/year to \$5,000/year. The City will continue to use an off-duty deputy to help with calls.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend to City the change of a shared BSO for traffic control as laid out by Chief Cornett. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion of adding a high-water vehicle to the Fire Department

Deputy Chief Tuohy stated that such a vehicle would be beneficial during times of significant flooding since it is detrimental to the fire trucks to drive in water deeper than 12"-18". They have created and trained a high-water rescue team within the department. He said the truck could be used to assist with other City functions, such as moving equipment.

He said the cost of an upfitted new vehicle would be \$352,000. Upfitting and repairing a surplus vehicle would cost almost as much and there may be safety issues with an older vehicle.

The request for the vehicle will be added to the FY26 budget.

F. Review of 10-year Capital Plans for Police and Fire Departments

Chief Cornett reviewed the requests for FY26 in the 10-year Capital Plan. Director Hamilton said some changes may be necessary depending on the outcome of contract changes with PCI. Council Member Bogosian noted the significant increase in the building maintenance line item. Director Kerr believes that increase was intentional because there had been no planned

maintenance for the previous five years due to the renovations on the Public Safety Building in 2019.

Deputy Chief Tuohy said the Fire Department's requests are the same as last year but now include the high-water vehicle. He said the City did not receive a grant for the fire suppression boat that was in the FY25 Capital Plan. They will reapply this year. He also believes the cost of the boat could come down. Council Member Bogosian would like the department to also look at grants for the high-water vehicle. Rather than make both large purchases in the same fiscal year, Deputy Chief Tuohy said the purchases could be staggered if the grant is approved. He would still like to purchase the supporting high-water equipment in FY26 even if the vehicle is not purchased until a later year.

Director Kerr suggested keeping both the boat and the high-water vehicle in the budget. Since both costs are approximately the same, City Council can authorize whichever purchase is more advantageous to the City at that time.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 11:00am.

Council Member Streetman said he was approached by a resident about a second ADA wheelchair at Fire Station 2. Deputy Chief Tuohy said Chief Oliverius will follow up with more information at the March meeting.

Council Member Anderson had questions about last season's parking outcomes. Director Kerr asked her to email her questions to him.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk