



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
9:00am, Tuesday, March 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, Chief Oliverius

2. Citizen's Comments

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025

Council Member Streetman noted a change need to be made to the second of the motion for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting as amended. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Ordinance 2025-02 to amend parking fees

Director Kerr said after City Council set parking fees in January, staff discovered “there was a section of the code that actually established parking rates. So our resolution and this existing code were not aligned. So what this ordinance will do is it will reference Council resolutions as the tool to set parking fees.”

He further clarified the revisions: “Where the current code has the actual dollar amounts for each, it will now say ‘as set by resolution approved by City Council.’”

Discussion ensued about the non-resident parking passes. The matter will be added to the April agenda for further discussion.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to recommend to City Council the approval of Ordinance 2025-02. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion of cameras in STR units

Chief Cornett said SLED is currently investigating the allegations made by Congresswoman Mace. Prior to that, there was one similar incident in 2023, but no charges were filed. The Chief then detailed the State ordinances regarding voyeurism, sexual extortion, stalking, and harassment. He would prefer to use these ordinances when handling such matters over a City ordinance as the fines and punishments are stronger.

Regarding cameras at STR units, Chief Cornett said what is permitted depends on the rental company. Most permit exterior cameras to confirm arrival and departure times but not inside the units. He encouraged people to report any cameras found inside units.

Chief Cornett said, “South Carolina does not have a very solid legislative bill about what short-term rentals can do inside of their homes. Some states do. South Carolina doesn’t. They leave most of that up to the municipalities to develop those ordinances.”

He said a person’s right to privacy follows them into their homes and hotel rooms, so a violation of that could be considered civil violation. This topic will be discussed with the STR group made up of rental agencies on the island.

C. Discussion STR code enforcement

Committee members discussed the portions of the City code related to STR enforcement that need revisiting, specifically the 5-strike time period, the number of cars permitted at a property, and cars parking on an easement or on a neighboring property to skirt the car limit.

Council Member Bogosian would like the Committee to review the parts of the City Code related to short-term rentals and livability. He would like recommendations from Chief Cornett and the Code Enforcement officers. Director Kerr will send the appropriate sections of the code to Committee members well ahead of the next meeting so they can prepare their suggestions and questions.

Chief Cornett said he has made a conditional offer of employment for one Code Enforcement position and anticipates being able to make a second one shortly thereafter.

D. Discussion of surfing instruction applications

Director Kerr referenced the five surfing instruction applications in the packet along with their requested locations, noting these location line up with where they held instruction last season. Staff is auditing the applications to ensure they have met the requirements. These requests will go before the full Council.

E. Discussion of Aviation Authority Mutual Aid Agreement

Chief Cornett said this is a standard mutual aid agreement with a law enforcement partner. This particular agreement is updated following changes to the Aviation Authority board and staff.

F. Review of Operational Budgets for Police and Fire Departments

Director Hamilton said both operational budgets assume a 2.5% COLA and a 3% merit increase. The Police Department Operational Budget shows a 7% increase over last year, with the majority of the increase coming from wages and salaries. The phone system is being changed in the Public Safety Building to match the one in City Hall; she is waiting for the final quote.

Council Member Bogosian said a FY25 budget forecast would be helpful to have ahead of the budget workshop.

Director Hamilton noted that insurance costs are flat, but she anticipates some increase due to the plans selected by employees. She also pointed out that funds have been added to coyote management, HAZMAT services, and investigative fees. She noted a savings in part-time wages following the suggestion by Chief Cornett to replace the off-duty deputy sheriff in the summer with two BSOs. The cost of the HVAC unit for the Public Safety Building is a separate line item and not included in the 1% building fund.

Director Kerr reported that she confirmed with PCI that “they [the City] are not responsible for any maintenance on the kiosks. However, if the City would like to continue to use cash in any of the meters once those meters fail, the City is responsible for replacing any meter. So that would need to go into our capital items every six years or so.”

Director Kerr added that the City purchased two kiosks last year and expects them to last 5-6 years. Chief Cornett said reports show increased usage of the app and a decreased use of cash.

In reviewing the Fire Department Operational budget, Director Kerr said that, like the Police Department, the assumption is that not all positions will be filled 100% of the time throughout the year. The budget reflects a 5% decrease in wages and salaries. The remainder of expenses are relatively flat.

Funds have been added for a conference, Tower 1002, IT equipment, and software. Chief Oliverius explained how the LMS software has created efficiencies within the department and will likely keep them from having to add staff in the future. Director Hamilton pointed out savings in medical & lab costs as well as in paramedic supplies.

Discussion ensued surrounding the new wellness and resilience program as well as a provision for body armor for the first responders in the Fire Department. The purchase of new body armor will be moved to a later budget. The high-water rescue vehicle is in the budget but if the grant for the fire suppression vote is awarded, that money will go towards the boat. Chief Oliverius said they continue to look for grants for the high-water rescue vehicle.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Council Member Streetman asked for an update about the ADA wheelchair for Fire Station 2. Chief Oliverius said staff continues to discuss ways to make that a reality since that station is not staffed all the time. They are looking into the costs of a chair and a walker. The expense is in this current budget, and he will provide an update in April.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 11:00am.

7. **Adjournment**

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk