



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, September 9, 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: Administrator Kerr, Chief Oliverius, Chief Cornett

2. Citizen's Comments – none

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2025

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025 meeting. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation – BCDCOG update on mobility study progress

Kathryn Basha of BCDCOG provided an update on the mobility study being done on the City's behalf by BCDCOG and ExploreCharleston.

Ms. Basha explained that the first phase, now complete, consisted of "making an inventory of all the non-motorized infrastructure that the island currently has, like sidewalks and paths." The data was collected in May and June of this year. This work assessed their condition and identified "connectivity gaps," flood-prone areas, and unsafe locations. Maps were created to solicit public feedback.

These maps are available for the Committee and Council for input and will be presented to the public at a meeting on October 20 at the Recreation Center. This drop-in style meeting will allow residents to identify other areas of concern for COG to investigate. An online survey will launch around the time of the meeting to give residents another option for recording their concerns.

A list of projects will be presented upon completion of the study, and the Committee will be key in prioritizing those projects. Council Member Streetman stressed the importance of heavily advertising this meeting to solicit input from the residents.

5. Old Business

A. Discussion of traffic data at the intersection of 41st Avenue and Forest Trails

Administrator Kerr reported that SCDOT has painted a stop bar at this intersection. He specified, "Their correspondence that came back to me indicates that that office was not aware of the temporary pilot situation that we describe." He added that SCDOT is willing to re-evaluate the situation if the City requests it.

Chief Cornett presented data from the intersection, stating: "I can tell you that those numbers are still consistent with the numbers that we see today [...] even before the stop sign went up. And after the stop signs went up, the average speed is between 22 and 23 miles per hour on 41st Avenue, which is compliant with the law." He also confirmed there has been no significant increase in collisions and believes there is nothing negative about the sign being there.

Since SCDOT sees this stop sign as permanent and the data indicates its effectiveness, Administrator Kerr does not see a reason for this discussion to continue past the Committee.

B. Update on Breach Inlet signage

Chief Oliverius said the sign designer recommended producing a proof on a metal substrate before ordering the nine planned signs. He said, "We should be getting that real-time proof back by the end of this week or early next week."

Once the proof signage is approved, they will be placed at all beach access paths from 5th Avenue to Breach Inlet. The signs on Sullivan's Island will be the same; only the specific fine amount will differ between the islands.

C. Discussion of changes to the noise ordinance/nighttime noise levels

Council Member Streetman thanked Mr. David Cohen for his help in drafting the redline ordinance in the packet. He likes all that he has read except for the 55 dB level suggested for nighttime noise and would like that to be discussed more with the full Council.

Council Member Bogosian reiterated his belief that it is up to City Council to set the vision of what they want for the community. He believes "nighttime should be sacred," and one should not hear unreasonable noise outside their home at night.

Mr. Cohen explained that 55 dB is a common level seen in noise ordinances. He shared some examples of noise that would register at approximately 55 dB.

Administrator Kerr said he would ask the City Attorney to review the ordinance. Chief Cornett pointed out that two Front Beach businesses would be in violation of this ordinance every weekend as currently written. Council Member Bogosian asked if a "carve out" is needed for Front Beach businesses.

Council Member Bogosian would like the matter to be further discussed at the October Committee meeting and then moved to the City Council workshop agenda in October.

D. Discussion of e-bike and motorized scooter regulations

Chief Cornett presented research on e-bike regulations in other municipalities. He explained that State law allows municipalities "to regulate the use of bicycles and to require registration and licensing." He noted enforcement challenges with minors, as jurisdiction falls to Family Court for most offenses, and the Family Court docket is already overloaded. He also mentioned that Representative Bustos intends to raise this issue at the next legislative session.

Chief Cornett presented a safety brochure and highlighted some areas that could be enacted on the Isle of Palms. He proposed a potential solution permitted by State law: requiring the registration of all bicycles to verify compliance, educate owners, and create a registry. The downside of that is the volume of registrations and administration that would be required.

The Committee expressed concern about "teeth" in the State law especially with regards to the safety of children using these types of transportation.

Committee members liked the brochure presented by Chief Cornett. He intends to visit the local businesses that rent such bikes and scooters to share the brochure and encourage them to pass along this knowledge to their renters. He would like to work with the businesses before putting an ordinance in place.

Chief Cornett also noted that electric scooters, lacking pedals, are likely not classified as bicycles under state law and would require a specific municipal ordinance.

E. Discussion of scope of future traffic study

Council Member Anderson said that the Town of Mt. Pleasant's Transportation Committee would like to be involved in a traffic study with the City and hopes staff will speak with them about that. Administrator Kerr said Mayor Pounds is speaking with Sullivan's Island about participating in a study.

Council Member Bogosian would like to know who intends to participate at the October Committee meeting.

F. Discussion of public safety-related matrix recommendations

Chief Cornett said he is finalizing the golf cart brochure and will bring that to the October Committee meeting. Administrator Kerr said he will have the public safety-related recommendations color coded and updated prior to the next meeting.

5. New Business

Discussion of marina boat ramp safety

Chief Cornett will make a recommendation to recognize the people who jumped in the water to help those in the most recent incident of a car ending up in the water at the marina.

Chief Cornett shared new safety measures at the marina boat ramp are under consideration, including the installation of reflective, spring-mounted delineator posts between the ramp's three

lanes. The addition of low-illumination amber lighting is also discussed, as power is available nearby.

Scott O'Toole, Marina manager, said one reason this could be happening is due to the slow calibration of the GPS to the driver's location prior to the driver leaving the marina. White lines and safety reflectors have been added to the area, but the evening of the most recent event was quite rainy and dark.

Administrator Kerr said the ramp is City property. Staff will proceed with adding safety measures within their existing budget and will submit a request to Council if the budget is exceeded.

6. Miscellaneous Business

Administrator Kerr shared an update regarding the crosswalks at 43rd and 46th avenues: "Those owners, a handful of those owners reached out to the DOT. DOT reached out to us, kind of talked us through what they had planned to do in response to those inquiries. They noticed that there is a lack of the ADA kind of rumble strips, we call them. So they are... proposing to add those new ADA landing strips on the ocean side of Palm, 43rd, 46th, and then add the, they call it the ladder style crosswalk, I guess that's white lines with the perpendicular lines, and they would put that out to bid, so they wouldn't do it internally, which they can turn around quicker if it's internally, they were going to go out to hire a third party, so they told us to expect that work within about 60 days, and that's now probably been three weeks ago or so, so another month and a half or so they should be making those improvements."

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 11:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk