



Public Safety Committee
3:00pm, Thursday, April 8, 2021
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 Pounds and Ward

Absent: Council Member Bell

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. Administrator Hanna, Chief Cornett, Chief Hathaway, Lt. Forsyth

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Council Member Pounds made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 meeting, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments

Glenda Nemes, IOP resident and speaking on behalf of the Barrier Island Preservation, noted numerous parking violations she saw recently and on the way to the meeting. She recounted a story from the previous evening regarding the difficulty excessive traffic caused for her and friends having dinner on the island. She said mail carriers have reported that it takes longer to deliver the mail. She also has been told by cleaning services that they will be charging more to provide their services on the island due to the extra time it takes to travel to and around the island.

Laura Levins, Wild Dunes, also spoke with concern about traffic on the island. She shared that in the time that IOP population grew by 10%, the population of Mt. Pleasant grew 40%. She is opposed to increasing the amount of parking on Palm Boulevard and expressed concern that State officials do not have to deal with the consequences of adding more parking for beach visitors. She asked City Council to "not cave to outside special interests."

Ted McKnight, IOP resident, would like to observe the meeting with SCDOT when they come to take measurements next week. He spoke with concern about the parking between 53rd and 57th avenues, noting that the 4' setback and bad sight lines need to be dealt with immediately. He said that numerous signs will need to be added to the area to make sure parking is done correctly, including parking in designated spots only, parking forward, not backing out into traffic, not driving on sidewalks, and not blocking or obstructing driveways. He also suggested an

educational campaign encouraging people to take off the beach whatever they brought with them. He would like to see a public reminder to stay off of private property. He noted later in the meeting that at many places along the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard the width is less than 35’.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion of parking on the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard between 22nd and 40th avenues

Administrator Fragoso noted the proposed parking plan from SCDOT for angled parking includes parking stops to delineate individual parking spaces, which will prohibit people from driving on the sidewalks. She also stated that the plan pushes vehicles further from than 4’ from the roadside. The onsite meeting with SCDOT will help to ensure angled parking is implemented safely. Work on the sign plan continues and encroachments are being dealt with as well.

B. Update on golf cart and low speed vehicle regulations

Chief Cornett said their education and enforcement campaign for golf carts and low speed vehicles mimics the City of Charleston’s efforts. This week’s focus has been on informing owners about the need for registration. Ticketing will begin next week. Council Member Ward expressed concern about underage drivers driving golf carts and the safety of small children as passengers in golf carts. Chief Cornett said the officers will be heavily enforcing all golf cart and low speed vehicle regulations.

5. New Business

A. Consideration of replacement of tables and chairs for the Public Safety Building’s training room in the amount of \$21,816

Deputy Chief Hathaway said the proposal is to replace the tables and chairs that are currently in the training room which are original to the building. In addition to public safety training, the room is used for City staff, community gatherings, and acts as the MEOC during storm events. Staff recommends the bid from Herald in the amount of \$21,816.00. As this is an unbudgeted expense, monies to pay for this purchase will be taken from the contingency funds left over from the Public Safety Building Rehabilitation Project.

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

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Deputy Chief Hathaway

Chief Hathaway reported there were 69 calls in March, which is a 27% increase from March 2020. Total calls year to date are up 9%. Fire Department staff participated in meetings with SCDOT regarding parking changes. They responded to two structure fires, one on Sullivan’s Island and one on Intracoastal Court, and a motor vehicle accident at 41st Avenue. They are expecting a busy summer season.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett stated that different members of the Command Staff would be providing the monthly reports in upcoming meetings. He reported that Police Department staff participated in Read Across America and the Polar Plunge. The Police Department has successfully retained its CALEA accreditation.

Engineer Rourke and Officer Ayer were recognized as Employees of the Quarter.

He reported there were 10 drug charges, 5 DUIs, and 767 parking citations in March. There were 944 calls for service in March, which is lower than the 1,112 received last March. DUI violations are on track to exceed the number logged in 2020.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 10:00am.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Pounds made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk