

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2016 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Carroll, Chair Bettelli, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Bettelli called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

Discussion of encroachments in the rights-of-way

Chief Buckhannon stated that the momentum to remove unlawful encroachments was lost due to Hurricane Matthew, but officers were now back on track. They had generated files on twelve to eighteen (12-18) of the more hazardous encroachments, and staff is now working together to develop the letter that will be sent to the property owners. The Building Department is getting copies of the plats to accurately show the property lines.

5. **New Business**

Consideration of City-sponsored event status for the South Carolina Aquarium's 2017 Turtle Trek

Since Stephanie Gabosch, Advancement Events Coordinator for the South Carolina Aquarium, was running late for the meeting, Councilmember Bergwerf reported that the 2017 Turtle Trek is scheduled at dusk, approximately 5:30 p.m., on Saturday, September 23, 2017, starting at the County Park; they will be on the beach approximately two (2) hours and finish at *The Windjammer*. They were very pleased with the results of the 2016 event; they had the capacity number of participants at four hundred (400).

Upon Ms. Gabosch's arrival, she reported that the first Turtle Trek was held September 9th and generated fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000) toward the construction of the sea turtle hospital. In the after-action meeting with the staff of the County Park, a date was set for 2017, as noted above, and the event was given permission to increase the number of participants to five hundred (500). The selection of a date later in September was in hopes of having fewer beach-goers on the beach when the event is starting. Ms. Gabosch reported that representatives of the Aquarium and the Surfrider Foundation held and participated in a beach sweep prior to the run that drew a healthy number of participants; therefore, they would like to repeat that activity in 2017. She

thought the 2017 beach sweep could focus on the "Lights Out" movement, or could, possibly, bring shovels to fill in holes and flatten sand castles.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to recommend the designation of the 2017 Turtle Trek sponsored by the South Carolina Aquarium and to be held on September 23, 2017 as a City-sponsored event with 500 participants; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Bettelli stated that he would coordinate communication between the IOP Exchange Club and Ms. Gabosch because the Exchange Club would be hosting a walk/run event shortly after the Aquarium's Turtle Trek, and they might want to include information on their event in the Turtle Trek packets.

As she was leaving, Ms. Gabosch stated that the goal for 2017 was seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000), and Councilmember Bergwerf announced that the turtle hospital was a five million dollar (\$5,000,000) project that was almost funded.

Chair Bettelli asked the Committee members to think about whether the loading zone(s) at Front Beach should also serve as parking for "to go" food pickups and parking for golf carts, motorcycles and bicycles at Front Beach for discussion at the next meeting.

Administrator Tucker cautioned that Front Beach is a public road and, therefore, the City would have more flexibility in what it could legally do in the municipal lots.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department

Since the meeting is so early in the month, the Committee was given the monthly report in draft form. Among the activities of October, Chief Graham reported that personnel reported to a sink hole on Hartnett Boulevard; upon arrival, the crew found a crew from the Water and Sewer Commission working; they also responded to a possible structure fire on Lauden Street that turned out to be the result of electrical issues experienced since Hurricane Matthew. At a motor vehicle accident on the Connector, the crew found one (1) patient ready for transport by Charleston County EMS; the IOP Fire Department provided a driver and a member of the IOP crew to assist with patient care while enroute to the hospital where the patient died as a result of the injuries. In the month of October, personnel responded to a total of eighty-three (83) calls, of which thirty-four (34) were EMS calls. Fifteen (15) pre-incident surveys were done in the month; fifteen (15) fire inspections were done that found one hundred nineteen (119) violations. The IOP Fire Department received medical in-service training that covered the introduction to and administration of Narcan for drug overdoses; the Department is the first in the state without medical transport to receive the training. Of particular notice for vehicle maintenance was the eight thousand dollar (\$8,000) expense for the replacement of a radiator assembly, coolant hoses and flushed cooling system. Engineer Eric Bolen terminated his employment with the City on October 24th; Firefighter Curtis Helm was promoted to engineer; and Shawn Hogan started his career with the department at the end of the month. All personnel assisted with preparation for Hurricane Matthew and were on duty during the storm event; personnel were also called in for

post-storm activities. For three (3) days, IOP personnel assisted Edisto Beach with post-storm cleanup.

Police Department

Chief Buckhannon reported that officers assisted with the Connector Run and were happy to report that there were no issues. For Hurricane Matthew, officers blocked re-entry to the island on Saturday after the storm from about 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. on Sunday to anyone other than residents and business owners and their employees. As in the past, officers assisted with the Halloween Carnival at the Rec Center, and it was a great event. The Chief announced that the CALEA on-site assessment is scheduled to begin on Monday, November 28th and run through Thursday, December 1st; members of the CALEA team will do many interviews. The City is again trying for the Gold Standard award, which is why the visiting team will do more interviews and fewer file reviews. Assuming all goes well, the hearing will be between March 20th and 22nd, 2017 in Mobile, Alabama.

Councilmember Carroll stated that all of the residents he knows have had “glowing comments” for both the Police and Fire Departments for the work they did before, during and after Matthew; he added that the re-entry had been “a tremendous success.”

Administrator Tucker commented that fuel management had also gone well; it was a surprise response that the City had to manage. Had it not been for the management of it, things could have gotten “ugly.”

Chair Bettelli noted that the test of a good group is how, “in trying times, they step up to the plate and show how great they are.”

Chief Graham stated that, although she hates to see a municipality that has been damaged from a storm event, she always learns something. Edisto Beach did not allow people back on the island until the third day after the hurricane; according to the Chief, things then started to get dangerous. There were still problems with the roads, the electric companies were trying to restore electricity, and cars were everywhere. She voiced strong support for keeping people away from disaster areas until such time as no one would be in danger.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 5, 2017 in the Conference Room.

8. Executive Session – not necessary

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:
Marie Copeland, City Clerk