



Public Safety Committee
9:00am, Monday, March 2, 2020
City Hall Conference Room
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Buckhannon, Ward, and Pounds

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Asst. Administrator Hanna, Chief Cornett, Chief Graham, Chief Hathaway, Director Kerr

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – February 3, 2020

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

3. Citizens' Comments – none

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to reorder the agenda so the consideration of expenditure in the amount of \$28,690.98 for mobile radio upgrades occurs following Citizens' Comments. Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business

A. Consideration of expenditure in the amount of \$28,690.09 for mobile radio upgrades

Chief Graham explained the Fire Department walkie talkies are needing to be replaced. She said the current radios are no longer serviceable at the depot. The current contract ends on 6/30/2020. She said, "The reason I am bringing this to you now is if we wait until next year, the 25% discount will not apply." The new radios will include over-the-air programming, which allows for automatic updates thereby reducing the amount of time Chief Graham spends getting the radios updated. The new radios will also include a GPS upgrade allowing for better accountability.

She said 40 walkie talkies need to be upgraded and said some budgeted monies can be used towards the expense. She added, "I am looking at replacing some of the mobiles in the leftover money. Between the \$10,000 and the \$7,500 in leftovers we should be able to without doing anything to the budget, absorb the costs of the upgrades."

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

5. Old Business

A. Update on safety camera at Breach Inlet

Chief Cornett reported that Verizon and Technology Solutions are working together on getting the cradle point up and running. The pole for the camera is expected to arrive this week or next.

B. Discussion of implementing paid parking on the designated public beach parking zones

Administrator Fragoso said the installation of paid parking will be in “the public right of way on the shoulders on Palm Boulevard between 21st and 41st avenues on both sides of the road, the non-ocean side of Palm Boulevard between 41st and 57th avenues, and the sections closest to the ocean on the avenues between 3rd and 9th” and create approximately 560 spaces. She said visitors will be able to pay for their spots via an app which eliminates the need for additional kiosks. However, people without the app or a phone can still pay via a kiosk in the Front Beach area. In addition, the Public Works staff is identifying the rights of way that need additional fill to make them flush with the road. She is also reaching out to SCDOT to see if new or modified encroachment permits are needed. Additional costs for the project include, but are not limited to, updated signs and updates needed for the sign plan. The Public Safety Department is reviewing what they may need for parking management and enforcement. Administrator Fragoso said staff will present a comprehensive plan including an education component to the Committee for implementation in 2021. Council Member Ward expressed concern about residents having to pay for parking.

C. Discussion of enforcement of encroachments on the rights-of-way

Committee members and staff discussed the City’s enforcement of encroachments on the rights-of-way. Chief Cornett pointed out that compliance is more important than writing tickets. Administrator Fragoso added that residents with encroachments will be given the opportunity to produce an encroachment permit before they are removed. Encroachments on the public rights-of-way create a safety hazard for emergency vehicles and those trying to clear the roadways for them as well as impede the City’s ability to provide ample public parking for beach visitors as required by the federal government to receive beach renourishment funding. Council Member Buckhannon requested that both police and fire staff identify those encroachment areas they deem to be public safety hazards.

D. Discussion of pedestrian crossing at Palm Boulevard and the IOP Connector

Chief Cornett shared the department’s intent to create videos educating the public about the laws regarding crosswalks. Council Member Buckhannon asked if a button stopping the left turn arrow coming off the connector is available, and Chief Cornett said he would reach out to SCDOT.

E. Update on Public Safety Building relocation process

Administrator Fragoso said there will be a meeting Thursday to start the construction mobilization process. The staff of Public Safety should be moved into the trailers by next week.

6. New Business (continued)

B. Discussion of Police Department's organizational structure

Chief Cornett reviewed the suggested changes to the organizational structure of the Police Department with Committee members. Administrator Fragoso gave a brief overview of a proposed code enforcement position within the Police Department that will be presented to the Personnel Committee. This position will combine two currently budgeted part-time positions to focus on business license enforcement.

C. Discussion of CALEA accreditation

Chief Cornett discussed the options for accreditation (CALEA, SCLEA, or no accreditation). He said that SCLEA is the less expensive option (at the moment), but also requires adherence to many more standards than CALEA. He noted that those departments that are CALEA certified are also SCLEA certified but not the other way around. However, accreditation requires a lot of internal management, pulling officers from their work. Chief Cornett said that being accredited helps with insurance costs and in lawsuits and litigation. Council Member Buckhannon believes accreditation is needed but some of the costs involved can be eliminated.

D. Discussion of coyote management

Administrator Fragoso shared the City has spent \$24,365 since 2016 on coyote removal. She asked the Committee to consider if the expense is still needed as the trappers have indicated they have seen less and less evidence of coyotes on the island.

E. Discussion of recommendations from Planning Commission related to short-term rental regulations

Director Kerr reviewed the recommendations proposed by the Planning Commission regarding short-term rentals. These recommendations will appear before City Council as the First Reading of two new ordinances this month. He also reported that the software package purchased by the City to locate unlicensed short-term rental businesses is operational. However, continued use of the software will be determined by the revenue it generates as the cost of using it increases significantly next year. Committee members support the recommendations proposed by the Planning Commission.

7. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Battalion Chief Hathaway

Chief Hathaway reviewed the calls for service and notable events for the Fire Department in February.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett said he will send his monthly report to the Committee when it is compiled. He reported the recent call regarding a potential explosive turned out to be a sprinkler head but

ended up being a good training exercise for all on the call. He also spoke about the new training facility at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Monday, April 6, 2020 at 9am.

9. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk