

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
2:00 p.m., Monday, October 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, October 9, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Carroll, Chair Bettelli, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Administrator Fragoso, Police Chief Buckhannon, Battalion Chiefs Smith and Hathaway and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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

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

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

A. **Update on efforts to remove encroachments from rights-of-way**

Chief Buckhannon stated that, with the tourist season over, officers again have time to address the encroachments in the rights-of-way, and sixteen (16) additional letters have been sent out. Of residents notified previously, twenty (20) encroachments have been removed, twelve (12) have been partially removed and the remainder are out of compliance.

B. **Update on clearing overgrown lots**

Chief Buckhannon reported that officers identified twenty-four (24) overgrown lots on the island, and, of that number, eighteen (18) have been cleared and the remaining six (6) lots were newly added.

C. **Update on banning balloons from the beach**

No additional information was provided because Chief Graham remains deployed to Puerto Rico.

D. **Update on parking at the Rec Center**

According to Chief Buckhannon, all of the vehicles have been removed from 27th Avenue, including the backhoe; in addition, the Rec Department has lined off and numbered the parking spaces making them easier to identify by residents and officers.

5. **New Business – None**

6. **Highlights of Department Reports**

Fire Department – Battalion Chief Smith

On September 8th, personnel responded to a report of an outside fire on the Sullivan's Island side of Breach Inlet; when the crew arrived, they learned that a small brush fire was burning beside the beach path on the IOP side of Breach Inlet, and they quickly extinguished it. On September 11th, personnel responded to the report of a boat that had impacted the IOP Connector; the boat had broken from its moorings during the storm and hit the bridge the north side; the crew was unable to gather identifying information from the hull of the boat. On the report of a structure fire on Sparrow Drive, IOP personnel, assisted by the Pine Ridge Fire Department's high water vehicle, accessed the residence and investigated the smell of smoke reported by the residents; the crew also detected a strong electrical smell; power was disconnected and the residents were told to have an electrician inspect their electrical system before turning the power on again. Personnel responded to one hundred eight (108) calls during the month, and thirty-three (33) of them were EMS calls. EMS response times were in-line for the month. All pre-incident surveys are up-to-date. Due to Hurricane Irma, only two (2) fire inspections were performed in September; other inspections scheduled were postponed until October. Training was also reduced as a result of the storm, but all personnel received training on Standard Operating Guideline No. 13 – Incident Response Guideline, the use of the new FH medic version 3 software for report writing, seatbelt and airbag safety for emergency vehicle operators, and hand and power tool safety. Battalion Chief Hathaway reported that, prior to the storm, vehicles received necessary maintenance and repairs to be ready for it; after the storm, vehicles needed minimal repairs. He also reported that the work authorized last month for the 95 foot ladder truck has been delayed as they wait for a part to arrive. Firefighter Steven Helm and Chief Graham were activated for hurricane response to Irma and Maria, respectively. In addition to normal station tours, personnel assisted residents to prepare for and recover from Hurricane Irma. Also provided to the Committee were activity logs and status reports from the hurricane.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether the Department could use a house to be torn down for training purposes, and Battalion Chief Hathaway said that they could possibly use it if enough of the structure remained for the training to be beneficial.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

On September 4th, when officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress, they found seven (7) individuals in the home who were not authorized to be there; all were arrested and the three (3) underage subjects were released to their parents with notice to appear in family court, and the other four (4) were taken to the Al Cannon Detention Center. Responding to a vehicle stop for an equipment violation on September 26th, the officer detected the strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle; when he asked the subjects to exit the vehicle, the driver attempted to throw a bag of marijuana over the side of the Connector. After arresting the driver and passenger, the officer investigated further and found a baggie of cocaine and a handgun, that, when checked through NCIC, was found to be stolen in North Charleston; documents, credit cards and a driver's license were also found that had not yet been reported as stolen in an armed robbery. The Chief recognized all of the Department's personnel who worked during Hurricane Irma to ensure the safety of island residents. Over the course of September, Communications Specialists answered five thousand five hundred sixteen (5,516) calls, of which four thousand six hundred eighty-six (4,686) were for the Police Department. Officers made three hundred forty-

one (341) traffic stops and issued seventy (70) traffic tickets. In the month, officers wrote one hundred forty-two (142) reports. The Animal Control Officer wrote five (5) citations; he secured nineteen (19) animals, and thirteen (13) dogs and two (2) cats were returned to their owners. Ten (10) livability calls were answered with six (6) receiving warnings and four (4) received citations. Fifteen (15) coyote sightings were reported in September, and the City caught its first coyote in a trap.

When Councilmember Carroll asked whether the juvenile break-ins were related to the vehicle break-ins, the Chief responded that they were not.

7. Miscellaneous Business

SEALKids Swim rescheduled – 9:45 a.m., Saturday, October 14th at The Windjammer

Next Meeting Date: 2:00 p.m., November 6, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room.

8. Executive Session – not needed

9. Adjournment

MOTION” Councilmember Bergwerf moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk