

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
2:00 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2017

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, April 3, 2017 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, Battalion Chief Smith, Captain Usry 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 Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 3, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

A. Consideration of AirMedCare proposal

Wes McAden, sales representative for AirMedCare, attended the meeting to review the proposal that was in meeting packets; a copy of which is attached to the historical record of the meeting. He reminded the Committee that his company offers two (2) plans, the Municipal Site Plan and the Business Plan. The Municipal Site Plan would protect the citizens of the City from having out-of-pocket expenses for helicopter transport in a medical emergency; the company would accept whatever the individual's health insurance pays as payment in full. If a resident is uninsured, the company would accept the Medicare Allowable Rate as full payment. Participation in the Municipal Site Plan would also allow residents to become full members in the program for thirty-five dollars (\$35) per year per household. The cost to the City would be the result of multiplying the number of eligible households based on the most recent census times a factor of twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50); for the City the cost would be seventeen thousand nine hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$17,929) per year. The Business Plan provides full memberships with the pricing based on the number of employees; the City qualifies for Tier 1 pricing and a rate of fifty-five dollars (\$55) per year per membership which can be employer pay or employee via payroll deduction. With Business Memberships, the City would have the option for the Annual Census Plan; the City would pay one (1) rate based on the total number of employees for one (1) year with the pricing and employee count audited annually. Employing this option, the City would own the membership as opposed to the employees.

Mr. McAden noted that other local communities participating in the program are Seabrook, Edisto, Kiawah and McClellanville; he also stated that no one is ever denied service.

Responding to Councilmember Carroll's question, Battalion Chief Eagle said that the City might call for a helicopter two or three (2-3) times a year; on holidays like July 4th and Memorial Day when the traffic is backed up, a helicopter may be needed to get someone to a hospital because an ambulance would take too long to get to the patient for transport.

Administrator Tucker stated that she would like to see an example of an invoice for service illustrating that the insurance payment was actually payment in full. Since the plans are for municipalities, and many are covered by the State Health Plan, the Administrator asked what a typical payment was for a state employee.

Mr. McAden indicated that he would try to get this information for the next meeting.

The Administrator asked what information could be provided to the City showing that the residents are not getting billed for any balance due after the insurance company has paid.

Mr. McAden said that the information falls under the HIPAA regulations.

Captain Usry asked if the City could get a report by address thus not divulging the identity of the person involved.

Mr. McAden indicated that he would find out what information could be shared with the City.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to take the proposal to the April Ways and Means Committee meeting; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED on a vote of 2 to 1 with Councilmember Carroll casting the dissenting vote.

B. Update on efforts to remove encroachments from the rights-of-way

Captain Usry reported that personnel were still working with the original fifty-eight (58) residents who received letters; several residents have sought assistance with applying for encroachments permits from SCDOT. In conversations with SCDOT, Chief Buckhannon and Captain Usry have gotten the impression that the permits will not be issued.

C. Update on golf cart parking at Front Beach

Captain Usry informed the Committee that SCDOT has denied the application for an encroachment permit for golf cart parking on the grassy spot across from The Windjammer. Since a change in personnel is in process at SCDOT, the Captain indicated that the City might re-submit the application.

D. Update on progress on overgrown lots

One (1) property owner has cleared his lot on Wills Way and the other owner is slowly making progress on the remaining two (2) lots.

5. New Business

Discussion of parking kiosks at Breach Inlet

Captain Usry reported that the parking area at Breach Inlet across from The Boathouse restaurant belongs to SCDOT; it has eleven (11) lined spaces and is used by the restaurant for valet parking in the evenings.

Responding to Councilmember Bergwerf's inquiry, the Administrator did not know if SCDOT would be interested in giving the property to the City, but she was relatively confident that they would approve the City's installation of parking kiosks.

Chair Bettelli said that the kiosk and installation pad would cost approximately thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000).

Councilmember Bergwerf asked Captain Usry to contact SCDOT and to ask about the possibility of installing a kiosk there; she opined that the parking meter might dissuade some people from parking and swimming at Breach Inlet.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Battalion Chief Smith

Highlights of the month of March included the report of an automobile that struck a house in the area of 21st Avenue and Palm Boulevard; upon arrival, officers found the driver to be in full arrest. After performing CPR, including use of the automated external defibrillator, first responders regained the pulse and the patient was transported. The report of an outside fire on Carolina Boulevard turned out to be a grease fire in a small propane grill; firefighters extinguished it with a dry chemical fire extinguisher. Personnel responded to seventy-two (72) calls in the month; of that number, thirty-six (36) were EMS calls. Inspector Stafford performed twenty (20) inspections; he also took Shift B on a tour of the Palms Hotel and Shift C on a tour of the Citadel Beach House. Personnel received an average of forty-five (45) hours of training in the month. There were no extraordinary vehicle maintenance expenses in March. Promotions announced were Battalion Chief Hathaway to the training officer for the Department, Captain Eagle to Battalion Chief and Engineer J.T. Hall to Captain. As in other months, personnel performed various activities for residents and visitors from station tours to the installation of child safety seats to assisting an elderly resident down four (4) flights of stairs.

Captain Usry stated that the Police Department's monthly report would be sent to Council at the end of the week.

The Captain also thanked Chair Bettelli, the Mayor and City Administrator for their support of the Police Department at the CALEA Conference held in Mobile, Alabama the previous weekend; the IOP Police Department was awarded their fifth (5th) accreditation and Chief Buckhannon received the Ergon Bittner Award that is presented to Chief Executive Officers who have commanded a CALEA Accredited agency for fifteen (15) or more continuous years.

Captain Usry informed the Committee that the CALEA Accreditation has been changed to a four (4) year cycle with an annual review of the Department's paperwork. Sergeant Sharon Baldrick has been named the Accreditation Manager for the Isle of Palms. The Police Department will hold a second Meet and Greet of 2017 at 3:00 p.m. today at the Public Safety Building. On April 8th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., the Department will hold a Child Safety Seat Inspection and Installation Station in conjunction with a Snack Drive for students at Sullivan's Island Elementary School; the event will be at the Island Center.

7. Miscellaneous Business – None

Next Meeting Date: 2:00 p.m., Monday, May 8th in the City Hall Conference Room.

8. Executive Session – not necessary

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk