

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:30 p.m., Thursday, November 10, 2011

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Loftus, Chair Bettelli, City Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Chief Graham, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban 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.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to reorder the agenda to discuss the medical equipment loan closet; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chair Bettelli expressed his satisfaction with the revised guidelines Mrs. Oltorik had produced for the Medical Equipment Loan Closet; he asked that she generate a report on activity for the loan closet on a quarterly basis beginning in April 2012.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend approval for the Medical Equipment Loan Closet to City Council; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Councilmember Loftus stated that he thought that this was a great concept and showed initiative on Mrs. Oltorik's part.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 6, 2011 as presented; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments – None

4. Old Business

Update on Off-season Parking on Front Beach

Chair Bettelli recalled that Front Beach parking was briefly discussed at the October meeting and that Chief Buckhannon had been asked to study the issue of hotel guests filling parking spaces needed by local business patrons. The Chair suggested that Committee members be aware of trends in parking in the Front Beach area during the off-season.

Chief Buckhannon stated that, over the past month, he has made it a point to count the number of cars parking on Front Beach early in the mornings that appear to have been parked overnight since they are covered in dew; the average number of cars is twenty-five (25). Since these

vehicles are typically parked in the central area and since there are approximately one hundred forty (140) metered parking spaces on Front Beach, the Chief does not think anything needs to be done. One business owner suggested that cars on the street entice people to the Front Beach area because appearances are that there is activity in the area.

5. New Business

A. Update on Medical Equipment Loan Closet – discussed earlier

B. Mutual Aid Agreements between IOP and Sullivan’s Island and Mount Pleasant

Administrator Tucker noted that the City has a written mutual aid agreement with Charleston County regarding police services; the City renders and receives mutual aid from Sullivan’s Island and Mount Pleasant without a formal agreement. Chief Buckhannon has recommended that the City should formalize mutual aid agreements with both Sullivan’s Island and Mount Pleasant, and these are the agreements included in the meeting packets.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the mutual aid agreements with Mount Pleasant and Sullivan’s Island, to proceed with legal review and to forward City Council; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Councilmember Loftus asked Chief Buckhannon why these agreements were necessary; Chief Buckhannon stated that the South Carolina Supreme Court had arrived at case law that suggests, if no written agreement is in place, officers were acting independently of what the law dictates. The state law about rendering mutual aid refers to assistance following a disaster. According to the Chief, the guidelines that the City will follow are clearly defined in the mutual aid agreement as submitted, and nothing will change in the way that the City responds to requests for mutual aid as a result of these agreements.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discussion of Proposed Signal 30 Award

Chief Graham reported that, in the first week of October, a person suffered a heart attack at the tennis courts in Wild Dunes. The original 911 call appears to have been placed by a receptionist, but the Mayor took control of the call and was calmly given instructions on how to give CPR to the victim. While the Mayor was on the phone providing information for the 911 operator and ensuring that EMS was in route, a guest was performing CPR and using the defibrillator; the victim was breathing on his own before Mayor Cronin completed the call. Chief Graham has since learned that the man who revived the victim was an off-duty fireman. Despite the fact that the award might have to be mailed to the recipient, the Chief is of the opinion that the award is well deserved and appropriate.

Chair Bettelli agreed that the actions were life-saving and warrants the recognition.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend to City Council the presentation of a Signal 30 Award to the person who delivered CPR at the tennis tournament; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

D. Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000

1. Annual Contract for \$21,510 to T-2 Systems for Ticket Writing Devices

Administrator Tucker explained that this service contract is included in the FY12 budget; the dollar figure referenced is the three (3) year total for the contract. The contract is for the software interface for the court system and the handheld ticket devices. The contract has gone through legal review, some changes were made and the Administrator thinks it has been sent back to the vendor.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend approval to the Ways and Means Committee of the T-2 Systems 3-year contract in the amount of \$21,510 based on the City's contract changes; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2. Award of a Contract to Martel Electronics in the Amount of \$13,575.70, state contract pricing, to Purchase Digital In-car Video Cameras, included in FY12 Capital Budget

Chair Bettelli remarked that this purchase was part of the City's ongoing program to replace the VHS cameras in patrol vehicles.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked whether this purchase would put digital cameras in all police vehicles; Chief Buckhannon responded that the City has seven (7) total cameras and that this purchase replaces four (4). The purchase in FY13 will complete the conversion to digital.

Assistant Dziuban noted an error on the agenda; the purchase is for four (4) cameras, not three (3) as stated.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend to Ways and Means the approval of the purchase of 4 digital in-car video cameras from Martel Electronics as described; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Administrator Tucker asked to add that the T-2 Systems contract was also a sole source contract because changing vendors would mean replacing the City's existing equipment and systems.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that personnel reunited two (2) small children with their grandparents on October 8; the children were discovered by the newspaper delivery person. Chair Bettelli suggested that the Chief obtain the name of the carrier so that a letter could be sent to the newspaper recognizing his/her efforts to get the children to safety.

The Fire Department responded to sixty-five (65) calls in October; thirty-three (33) of them were EMS calls. On the EMS Response Time report, Chief Graham noted that the times will be truly accurate once the new interface with the consolidated dispatch center is activated. When asked about lengthy response times, Chief Graham explained that 911 calls are given letters that indicate the seriousness of the call; the response to less immediate calls may be delayed for life-threatening ones. On the calls with the notation "EMS did not respond," the Chief commented that calls can be terminated in route if the problem is not very serious or the victim refuses to be transported. The Committee asked that the notation be change to "Cancelled in route."

In October, fifty-seven (57) fire inspections were completed and twenty-five (25) violations were found. There was no significant vehicle maintenance during the month. Boat One has been taken out of service, and the Chief is trying to get a delivery date for the new one. As reported last month, the foundation for the radio tower on 41st Avenue was poured on October 6th, and the tower was erected on October 11th. Charleston County Council approved seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) for Phase 3 for the radio system upgrades.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

On October 2nd, seven (7) mailboxes were vandalized; no suspects have been identified. Since the break-ins to vehicles have continued, the Department issued a public service announcement for residents and visitors to secure their vehicles. For the month of October, the telecommunicators received three thousand five hundred eighty-six (3,586) calls; two thousand nine hundred nine (2,909) were for the Police Department. Officers performed eleven hundred nineteen (1,119) building checks and eight hundred thirty-nine (839) special patrol requests. Of the two hundred seventy-nine (279) traffic stops in October, sixty-nine (69) received tickets. On the subject of vehicle break-ins, year-to-date this year, thirty-nine (39) incidents have been reported, but only eight (8) break-ins were reported for all of 2010. A total of twelve (12) arrests were made; one (1) was for narcotics. Firearms training for the Department was completed in October. Two (2) officers complete the twelve (12) week course at the academy on Friday and will begin eight to twelve (8-12) weeks of field training next week. One (1) officer completed the six (6) weeks basic training at the academy, and he is completing his second week of in-field training. From the Livability Report, Chief Buckhannon reported on sixteen (16) noise complaints.

Councilmember Loftus asked about the regulations on amplified music; the Chief explained that amplified music must be off by 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and off by 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings.

7. Executive Session – not needed

8. Miscellaneous Business

Chair Bettelli thanked Chief Graham for another successful Fire Prevention Parade; he added that he was always amazed at the number of people who lined the streets to watch the trucks and other emergency vehicles pass by.

Chair Bettelli announced that the MS 2012 Challenge Walks was scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 2012; he reflected that the walk in 2011 had been a very non-invasive event.

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that, despite the fact that the group had a two (2) year agreement with Wild Dunes, the event was only approved for one (1) year waiting to see the effect on the island. If the event were to proceed in 2012, the Committee should approve the second year.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the 2012 MS Challenge Walk; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next Meeting Date: 5:30 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2012.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m.; Councilmember Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk