

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2009

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Public Safety Building, 30 J.C. Long Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Committee members Bettelli and Loftus, Chairman Buckhannon, City Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Captain Maibach, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Chairman Buckhannon called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and the public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. He welcomed everyone to the first meeting in the new Public Safety Building.

2. **Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes**

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of June 2, 2009 and July 7, 2009 as submitted; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments**

Jeff Jacobs, 606 Ocean Boulevard, expressed to the Committee the need to revise the rental signage. He stated the need to reduce the number of livability complaints, and he voiced his opinion that one (1) way to do so was to mandate the quantity, the content and location of the rental signage, thereby ensuring that the guests know what the rules are and the police will know where to look for the sign in every home. Mr. Jacobs remarked that, if there was to be a sign, it should be a legible one, and he held up the sign that is currently being used as an illustration of a sign that is difficult to read. He then distributed a revised sign that was developed by a group of residents, Council members, rental agents and staff. Mr. Jacobs asked that the Public Safety Committee authorize the use of the revised sign. He explained that he used the word "authorize" because he believes the majority of rental agents, most of whom are currently using some form of signage, will begin to use the revised sign on a voluntary basis. In his opinion, what is needed now is continued enforcement by the Police Officers and the final effort would come from the judicial end as it enforces the citations. In the future, Mr. Jacobs would like to see the short-term ordinance modified.

Mr. Jacobs also introduced a new sign that he advocated be placed at porch exits; it addresses the main problem areas, i.e. noise, lights on front beach and smoking materials, because smokers may throw their butts into mulch or pine straw landscaping which creates a fire hazard. At a Council member's suggestion, there is information about the ocean in view of the recent drownings at Sullivan's Island; there is information about the dunes and vegetation, as well.

Mr. Jacobs stated all he wants the residents of the island to live in peace, get a good night's sleep, let people enjoy the island and get along.

Councilman Loftus asked if Mr. Jacobs were proposing that the new second sign should be placed at every exit, even if the exit opened only onto a completely enclosed deck; Mr. Jacobs answered in the affirmative. Mr. Jacobs wants every effort to be made to ensure that the renters are aware of the regulations for which they will be held responsible.

Councilman Loftus inquired of Mr. Jacobs whether a reference could be made to pools and the excess noise persons tend to make later in the evening when swimming. Mr. Jacobs responded that he had spoken with rental agents who indicated that the information distributed to their clients indicates that pools close at 10:00 p.m., and it was purposely omitted from the new rental signage because the writers were not sure of the legalities of the City's regulating when privately owned pools can and cannot be used.

As chairman of the Public Works Committee, Councilman Bettelli suggested that information from the beach debris ordinance stating that items left on the beach overnight will be confiscated should be included in the new signage. He thought that the inclusion of this information would reduce the number of complaints to the City and to the rental agents. Councilman Bettelli had no preference about which sign would carry the information, i.e., the notice inside the house or on the exit doors.

Chairman Buckhannon thanked Mr. Jacobs for the work he had done to generate more visitor-friendly signage for rental properties; he noted, in particular, the advantages of cooperation between citizens, business and the local government.

The Chairman chose to postpone further Committee discussion until Director Kerr arrives from the Planning Commission meeting.

Sandy Stone, 1304 Palm Boulevard, stated that he would like for the Committee to adopt the new signage voluntarily so that it can get into the marketplace; he asked that the signage be communicated to independent owners who rent their properties via email. He indicated that the majority of rental agencies place signage in their properties, but that standardization would benefit all, particularly the independent owners who may not be posting signage currently. Mr. Stone expressed the desire to put the signage in place, get feedback and experience from its use to massage it at a later time.

Mr. Stone stated that he has attended several livability courts over the past two (2) months and has been distressed by the judge's action of setting a bond of one hundred thirty-three dollars (\$133) for violators who do not come to court; Mr. Stone voiced his understanding that violations of the vacation rental act could result in a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500). In his opinion, the low bond amount was not getting the violator's attention and negates the information posted in the rental properties he manages. He recommended that the bond should match the fine of five hundred dollars (\$500); he noted that the persons who do come to court are being fined in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

Brett Carlson appeared before the Committee to thank the City for its support for the Barrier Island Ecothon to be held Saturday, October 25 and to gain approval for a proposed change in route. The course modifications make the Ecothon more eco-friendly as they reduce the amount of gas required to move people and the safety of the participants. The proposed changes are as follows:

The activity will start at the boat ramp at the Isle of Palms marina to launch kayaks for the actual race to begin in the Intercoastal Waterway:

- The kayaks will proceed to the south end of Dewees Island where the kayaks will be beached and the run to the north end of Dewees will begin;
- From Dewees Island, participants will swim to Capers Island, run up Capers to a check point to return the same way; and
- From the boat ramp at the IOP marina, participants will go to a staging area to begin the biking portion of the event that will follow the same course as in the past.

Mr. Carlson stated that he has spoken with both Brian Berrigan, marina manager, and Carla Pope of Morgan Creek Grill to ensure there are no problems with Mr. Carlson's plan. Mr. Carlson stated that the course changes allow the water safety personnel from the event staff and the City Fire Department to focus their attention on the single inlet in the Intercoastal Waterway thereby providing more safety for the participants. The course changes eliminates the pedestrian runners from crossing Palm Boulevard at 42nd Avenue, and the participants are required to heed all traffic signals. Mr. Carlson stated that the U.S.A. Triathlon, which has slightly different rules, would sanction the race; he carries the same, if not better, insurance as in the past.

Administrator Tucker stated that the Barrier Island Ecothon is one of the City's approved annual events, that there is no conflict for October 25 and that Mr. Carlson would only have to appear before a Committee in the future if there are to be changes in the event. In the future, Mr. Carlson should inform the City of the schedule, contact the Fire and Police Chiefs to ensure their assistance and to provide the City with the required insurance.

Jeff Jacobs asked to speak again about the livability court he attended last week; he reported that "virtually every parking ticket that was issued was reduced to either ten dollars (\$10) or fifteen dollars (\$15), and one (1), maybe more, . . . was dismissed completely." He expressed concern that such actions send the message to the City's police officers that their work to enforce the City's ordinances "are for naught." He expressed his desire for someone "to express the fact that citizens have concerns."

4. Old Business

A. Update on Public Safety Building – Change Directive #7 for electrical changes to complete 911 systems

Chairman Buckhannon stated that action on Change Directive #7 would be postponed because more information is needed to make an informed decision.

B. Sprinkler Requirement

Chairman Buckhannon noted that this topic has been discussed several times in the past; Director Kerr has been tasked to research the issue. Included in the meeting packets was an email from the Director with the findings of his investigation; discussion will proceed when Director Kerr arrives at the meeting.

Councilman Loftus requested additional discussion about the 25th Avenue parking. He explained that he was under the assumption that there would be signs limiting parking to two (2) hours on Waterway Boulevard in the vicinity of the 25th Avenue intersection. He distributed a photograph that evidenced how parking has moved onto Waterway since the new signs were placed on 25th, and he stated his opinion that it was not the intent of the right-of-way to provide full-time parking for Goat Island residents. He stated that he has seen as many as four (4) cars parked in the right-of-way there and believes that the parked cars present a safety hazard for emergency vehicles; therefore, he wanted the two (2) hour parking limit to be extended onto Waterway Boulevard.

Chairman Buckhannon voiced his concern "where does the parking stop?" He anticipates that any further action would push the problem elsewhere.

Councilman Loftus countered that there is a point where parking is no longer convenient. He stated that he has also seen Goat Island residents use the area at 28th Avenue where the additional docks are located.

Councilman Bettelli stated that he thought the Committee foresaw the parking problem moving onto Waterway Boulevard once the parking was restricted on 25th Avenue; along Waterway Boulevard, there exists a "right-of-way easement, more so than 25th." He related that, with the decision to place of the NO PARKING signs on part of 25th, the Public Safety Committee had, in a way, brought the problem on themselves.

From conversations with the Highway Department, Chief Buckhannon reported that they were not willing to go beyond the scope of 25th Avenue; the Highway Department did state that should the City go in any direction with limited or no parking, people would move with the signs. The Highway Department did not see it as a safety issue, but more an issue of ripple effect.

Chairman Buckhannon expressed his opinion that no changes should be made, especially since the Highway Department has made its opinion clear.

Councilman Loftus wanted to go on record that the Committee is not taking care of the island's residents, that people from Goat Island are taking advantage of the situation and he feels it is wrong. Chairman Buckhannon responded that, if people from Goat Island were found to be parking illegally or irresponsibly, they would be handled as the situation occurs.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Signage in Short-term Rental Houses.

Chairman Buckhannon repeated that this discussion would be postponed until the arrival of Director Kerr.

B. Acceptance of Donation of Electric Vehicle to Police Department.

Chairman Buckhannon reported that an electric vehicle had been donated to Sullivan's Island and other municipalities, and Palmetto Custom Carts wants to include a donation the Isle of Palms.

Administrator Tucker related that Hal Martens had been the City's principal point of contact, and he is on vacation this week. Eric Boyance has also been involved and was expected to attend this meeting, but he must have had a conflict.

The Administrator reassured the Committee that the acceptance of this vehicle would not represent an expansion of the City's fleet; it would be an additional tool for the Police Department to use.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to recommend to City Council the acceptance of the donation to the Police Department of the electric vehicle from Palmetto Custom Carts; Chairman Buckhannon seconded.

Chairman Buckhannon expressed his concern that this vehicle would become a part of the City's replacement schedule; the Chief stated that there were no plans to do so. He anticipated the vehicle to be used at City events, athletic events and holiday events, like the Christmas tree lighting; he indicated that the vehicle could be a good educational tool because it is different from a golf cart and is considered to be a low speed vehicle (LSV) with a special chapter in state code.

Councilman Loftus asked if there were any type of agreement or obligation with Palmetto Custom Carts resulting from the donation; Chief Buckhannon stated that there was no obligation on the City's part.

Call for the Question: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Consideration of Approval of Charleston County Sheriff's Office Mutual Aid Agreement for Joint Task Force Marine Patrol Unit.

Administrator Tucker explained that this was an endeavor by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office to solidify the City's participation with personnel on their equipment; should there be any type of occurrence where many personnel were required, this agreement would govern the City's personnel on their vessels. Similar agreements are being sent to other municipalities who can contribute personnel qualified to handle marine equipment. The Administrator noted that the agreement was still under review by the City's attorney, but she was seeking approval of the

agreement once the legal technicalities were resolved. The agreement would represent no expense to the City.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to recommend to City Council the approval of Charleston County Sheriff's Office Mutual Aid Agreement for Joint Task Force Marina Patrol Unit; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Eric Boyance and Philip Smith of Palmetto Custom Carts arrived late to the meeting, but Chairman Buckhannon took a moment to recognize them and to thank them for their generous donation to the City. He said that, after City Council approval on August 25th meeting, the vehicle would be put into use.

Mr. Smith said he was happy for the Isle of Palms to have the vehicle and looked "forward to seeing it doing some good things on the island."

D. Consideration of Removing Surplus Right-of-Way on Palm Boulevard between U.S. Post Office and Carolina.

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that the property adjacent to the Post Office had been considered as a site for the Public Safety Building; associated with that, the City wanted to capture the right-of-way for what originally was the extension of Pavilion Drive. The property now belongs to SC DOT; overflow parking for the Public Safety Building would be one (1) possible use for the property in the future – there are no existing plans for its use.

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to recommend to City Council that the City sign the appropriate paperwork to acquire ownership from SCDOT for the surplus right-of-way on Palm between the U.S. Post Office and Carolina; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Award of Contract for Security Gate for Temporary Evidence Storage in the Public Safety Building in an Amount not to exceed \$1,800.

Chief Buckhannon recalled that early in the construction process for the Public Safety Building, a high dollar gate was removed; this item represents that gate at a very substantial savings.

Chief Buckhannon explained that the installation of this gate would allow the Police Department to store large items of evidence received after hours when they cannot be placed in the evidence room. He quoted the original price as fifty-five hundred dollars (\$5,500), thereby generating a savings of thirty-seven hundred dollars (\$3,700). The Chief added that this bid would allow for covering the flood vents with mesh to prevent break-ins to the evidence garage.

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to recommend to City Council the award of a contract not to exceed \$1,800 for a security gate to temporary evidence storage in the Public Safety Building; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Discussion of Lowering Speed Limit to 35 mph on Palm Boulevard between Breach Inlet and the Connector.

Chairman Buckhannon stated that this item was added to the agenda at the request of the Mayor because Sullivan's Island is in the process of lowering the speed limit on Jasper Boulevard to 35 mph across their entire island. The Mayor's opinion was that there would be less confusion for drivers if the speed were consistent; he was fully aware that SC DOT consideration and approval would be required before any changes could occur.

Administrator Tucker reported that there was a discussion about lowering speed limits along Palm Boulevard, including a greater section than noted here, several years ago. The recommendation got to City Council, but did not receive approval.

Councilman Loftus inquired about the pros and cons of those discussions. Based purely on her memory, the Administrator stated that there was some concern that the action would be perceived as an effort to generate more ticket revenue for the City, and not as a necessary safety mechanism. In addition, the people who regularly use Palm Boulevard are often commuting to and from work and that would become a challenge with the volume of traffic.

Councilman Bettelli stated that Sullivan's Island has approval to lower the speed limit from SC DOT. He hypothesized that the approval would likely make the speed limit 35 mph along the entire length of highway 703, and the City would be looking at lowering the speed limit along approximately two (2) miles.

When asked for input, Chief Buckhannon voiced his opinion that it did not make sense for the Isle of Palms to have eight (8) blocks with a speed limit of 40 mph when on Sullivan's Island the limit was 35 mph. He agreed that the changes in speed limit would be confusing for drivers.

Councilman Loftus stated that this was an island-wide issue that should be decided by City Council.

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to take to City Council the discussion of lowering the speed limit to 35 mph on Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to the Connector; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Discussion of Posting Deer Crossing Signs on Palm Boulevard

This issue was also a request from the Mayor resulting from a resident's request. Chairman Buckhannon commented that there are a large number of deer on the island, and the signs could be a warning that, despite the fact that people are on an island, drivers should be watchful of deer crossing the roadways.

Administrator Tucker stated her understanding of the cause behind the request as the fact that two (2) dying or dead deer had been found in the area of 35th Avenue as a result of being hit by vehicles. The concerned citizen who brought the issue to the Mayor was apprehensive about

children finding one (1) of the injured, but dying, deer, which would be most disconcerting, especially, to a child.

Based on his years of experience on the island, Chief Buckhannon noted that more of these accidents occur along Waterway Boulevard and in Wild Dunes, where the deer are concentrated, than in other places on the island.

Chairman Buckhannon cautioned that, if the signs were to go in the rights-of-way, DOT approval would be required. He commented that possibly education would be sufficient.

Chief Buckhannon indicated that he was uncertain what requirements SC DOT had related to the placement of signs in the right-of-way.

Councilman Bettelli suggested that Chief Buckhannon research those requirements to report at the next meeting. Councilman Loftus asked that the Chief also determine the strategic locations for said signs.

H. Discussion of Donation of two (2) Portable Defibrillators to SC Aquarium and of Equipment Exchange with Awendaw Fire Department

In Chief Graham's absence, Captain Maibach explained that the SC Aquarium had requested the units that were replaced some eighteen (18) months ago; they were replaced because the software had reached the end of its life and could not be re-programmed. Captain Maibach noted that the Department was trying to remove the surplus equipment from storage; there are three (3) of these surplus defibrillators in storage.

The equipment exchange with the Awendaw Fire Department consists of the City of Isle of Palms Fire Department giving them some surplus hose for some extra breathing apparatus that are compatible with the ones the Fire Department already has; this is considered to be an exchange of equally valued equipment. Captain Maibach stated that the exchange would reduce the turnover of breathing apparatus and reduce future expenses.

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to approve the donation of two (2) surplus defibrillators to the SC Aquarium and the exchange of fire hose for breathing apparatus with the Awendaw Fire Department; Councilman Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Signage in Short-Term Rental Houses

With the arrival of Director Kerr, the discussion of new signage continued. Director Kerr explained that his purpose for speaking at the meeting was to review what has occurred with the short-term rental ordinance on a staff level, what was done at the ordinance level and what would require more than Committee approval to enact. He reminded the Committee that, when the ordinances were originally ratified, they were given to staff to compose the plaques, applications and other materials that went to all rental property owners or agents in order to

acquire the new short-term rental licenses. Since the plaque most often seen in short-term rental properties was generated on the staff level, to change the text or appearance of the plaque can be done very quickly with a modicum of programming. Should the Committee desire to mandate the location of the plaque in the rental property, an amendment to the ordinance would be required because the ordinance currently states that the placard "be conspicuously posted." An amendment to the ordinance would also be required should the Committee decide to mandate a second placard to be placed on all exits from the residence as suggested by Mr. Jacobs.

Director Kerr stated that his opinion that the plaque that Mr. Jacobs has designed is a good document; he noted that he has taken the newly proposed signage and formatted it be reproduced by staff. In the formatting process, minor changes were made to the document, i.e. the addition of the City's seal and some slight changes to the wording. The Director added that he approved of the stronger tone that Mr. Jacob's signage carries. He pointed out to the Committee that the signage would be specific to each rental unit in that the address and maximum number of guests and vehicles allowed.

Chairman Buckhannon asked if Director Kerr could also format the second sign for doors that Mr. Jacobs has introduced. Director Kerr stated that, since it is a generic form, it could easily be reproduced; it could be reproduced by the individual rental agencies. The Director did remind the Committee that use would require an amendment to the ordinance.

Chairman Buckhannon asked if the smaller sign could be sent to the rental agents and independent rental owners for their use on a volunteer basis; Director Kerr replied that he saw no problem with that. He suggested that correspondence use wording like "we think it is a good idea to place the large plaque on the refrigerator and the smaller ones on all exit doors." He expressed confidence that the majority of rental property owners and agents would use the signs. The Director also noted that, if Sergeant Meekins were to arrive at a rental property as the result of a complaint and the signs were not in the prescribed locations that would not be an offense.

Changes to the larger signage could be accomplished immediately, and Director Kerr could state, in the cover letter, the second sign has been authorized for voluntary use.

Councilman Loftus was concerned that every owner of rental property be provided with the new signage, whether the property is rented through an agency, via the internet or any other resource. Since all rental properties are required to have a license, the task will be accomplished through a mail merge with the rental license database.

Councilman Bettelli informed Director Kerr that he would like to see verbiage relevant to the beach debris ordinance to warn visitors about leaving their tents or chairs on the beach overnight. The Director did not see the addition of that information as a problem.

4. Old Business
B. Sprinkler Requirements

Administrator Tucker reminded the Chair that the topic of sprinkler requirements had also been postponed until Director Kerr arrived.

Chairman Buckhannon commented that the Committee members were in receipt of the Director's email of July 27, 2009, and he asked the Director to give the Committee an update of the sprinkler code or laws in South Carolina.

Director Kerr stated that the intention of the International Code Council is to have a requirement for sprinklers in the residential code, but there appears to be a debate on the subject spearheaded by lobbyists representing builders who are opposing the addition because of the added cost. These lobbyists have been successful in defeating the adoption of seismic requirements that would relate to the stability of structures.

The Director went on to explain the process that starts with the Building Code Congress publishes the codes; the State of South Carolina takes that code book, deliberates over which ones they want and adopt them. According to state law, every municipality in the state must adopt that building code without differentiation; therefore, the Isle of Palms will adopt whatever is adopted by the state.

Councilman Loftus asked how often the state adopted new building codes; Director Kerr responded that the new codes are adopted every four to five (4-5) years. In addition, the state is typically several years behind the codes published by the Building Code Congress; he indicated that the City is three to four (3-4) years away from having a new version of state code.

MOTION: Councilman Loftus moved to adopt the signage offered by Mr. Jacobs as a change to the short-term rental ordinances to be placed on refrigerators in rental properties, as well as the smaller sign to be placed on all exits, including those leading to pools and decks.

Director Kerr pointed out that two (2) of the items Councilman Loftus wanted would required an amendment to the current ordinances and one (1) could be done immediately.

Councilman Loftus said he would like to see the rental agencies adopt the new signage immediately; however, he conceded that there was a sizeable amount of rental property on the island not controlled by rental agencies. He expressed his opinion that the use and placement of the new signage would be a great help to the livability officer and improve the quality of life for residents.

Administrator Tucker summarized the discussion as the fact that, administratively, there are no impediments to the staff's amending the language to that of Mr. Jacob's signage, adding the smaller sign as a voluntary piece of information and getting that done right away. Implementation of these actions does not require action by this Committee or of Council. If there is a desire on the part of this Committee and Council to make it a requirement that the signage be posted in specific locations and for it to be offensive under the ordinance, that will require a change to the code, i.e. the short-term rental ordinance. For expediency, the Administrator suggested that the staff proceed with changing the language of the plaque as has been discussed and distributing the smaller sign for use on a voluntary basis. If there are

amendments to be considered for the short-term rental ordinance, they could be held for the joint meeting of City Council and the Planning Commission scheduled by the Mayor for September. The fact that the Planning Commission has discussed the short-term rental ordinance multiple times in recent months and concluded that no changes should be made to it does not mean that City Council cannot make its own recommendations and put forth an ordinance for first reading that would then go back to the Planning Commission and the public hearing process.

It was the Administrator's suggestion that the language changes be done immediately and the changes to the ordinance be considered as a whole. Chairman Buckhannon agreed that Administrator Tucker's recommendation seemed most practical since Director Kerr was confident that the new notice could be distributed in less than a month. Councilman Bettelli agreed, as well, noting that the rental season was rapidly winding to a close, and he stated that he did not see a need to rush into amending an ordinance to accomplish what the Committee wanted.

Councilman Loftus countered that he did not think action would represent a rush because a great deal of thought had gone into developing the new documents and a lot of discussion has taken place.

Councilman Loftus' motion died for lack of a second.

6. Highlights of Department Reports for July 2009

Fire Department

Captain Maibach reported that the Fire Department had responded to one hundred sixty-one (161) calls and twenty-six (26) missing persons' calls. The Department had assisted Sullivan's Island for several days in searching for a missing swimmer. The Department is anticipating taking delivery of the new truck in a week to ten (10) days; the vehicle is at a dealership in Georgia having the last pieces of equipment installed. At the request of Chief Graham, Captain Maibach thanked Chairman Buckhannon for his donation for the July 4th dinner.

Police Department

Chief Buckhannon's report began with several instances of underage drinking on the island in July. He indicated that both the Police and Fire Departments had participated in the Hurricane Expo hosted by Sullivan's Island. There were thirty-seven (37) livability complaints in July; twenty-four (24) of them were noise violations.

Councilman Loftus commented on a large party held at Beachside where officers were called relative to a parking issue; the residents have communicated to him that they feel that the parking problem should have been considered a livability issue as well as parking violation. The Councilman asked Chief Buckhannon if he had considered including that type of incident in the Livability Report. The Chief responded that the situation described was considered in the liability report; if the call was for a noise violation, it was included in the report as a noise call. Councilman Loftus stated that the call related to vehicles parked on people's property and the

residents felt that to be a livability issue; he stated his opinion that one (1) violation could be counted as multiple infractions.

Chief Buckhannon explained that, based on previously conversations, parking violations were in the statistical array, but that practice was changed because there were so many parking violations that the true livability side became lost in the numbers. He thought that he could establish parking violations as a subset, but he added that he would have to study the issue further to see how to pick them up for inclusion in the report.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Chairman Buckhannon announced that the bid opening for the sale of the 1991 pumper truck would be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 13 in Council Chambers.

Councilman Loftus asked if the second jet ski had been sold since there had been a jet ski purchased recently; the Administrator said she would have to confer with Chief Graham before answering.

Administrator Tucker explained that an ordinance was required to finalize the financing for the new fire truck; therefore, Mayor Cronin has called a special meeting just before the Ways and Means Committee meeting on August 18, 2009 in order to expedite the process. Second reading on the ordinance will be at the Council meeting the following week.

The Administrator commented that the City is preparing for its annual safety audit, which means that City Council must re-adopt the City's safety policy as part of the audit process; therefore, it will be included in the August Council agenda.

Next meeting date: 5 p.m., Wednesday, September 9, 2009 in the Public Safety Building.

Administrator Tucker asked that the members begin thinking of a date for the ribbon cutting for the new building. On the anniversary of Hugo, September 21, there has been informal discussion on the unveiling of the marker for Plant-a-Palm assuming that the plaque arrives. The dates of September 25 and September 30 will be offered to Council for consideration.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilman Bettelli moved to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.; Councilman Loftus seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk