

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 12, 2007
City Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Present were Chairman Marino, Councilman Buckhannon, Mayor Sottile, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant Administrator Dziuban, and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Call to Order. Chairman Marino called the meeting to order and stated that members of the press and the public had been duly notified in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Sottile moved for the approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2007; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Citizens' Comments:

A. Sonja Buckhannon, 23 Twenty-seventh Avenue, appeared before the Committee to ask that Sullivan's Island Elementary School PTA be allowed the use of the front beach area in April, 2008 for the Taste of the Islands; the tentative date for the event is April 26th, 2008. (Flyer attached) She did state that the event will be more child-oriented than it was last year. Mayor Sottile asked what the proceeds were from the 2007 Taste of the Island; Mrs. Buckhannon reported that the gross proceeds were in the neighborhood of \$63,000 with net proceeds of approximately \$34,000. The Mayor stated that he hoped that Sullivan's Island restaurants would participate in higher numbers next year.

MOTION: Mayor Sottile moved that the Public Safety Committee allow the Taste of the Island to be held on the front beach in April 2008; Councilman Buckhannon seconded.

Administrator Tucker was concerned that the last weekend in April could also be the date of the triathlon; she will confirm that date tomorrow. Mrs. Buckhannon did state that the Taste of the Island date is not final. The Administrator then looked to the Fire Chief and the Police Chief to asked if they knew of any conflicts with that date; they both responded negatively.

Vote: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker asked if Katherine Smith of Half Moon Outfitters could be given a few minutes at this time to promote the 7th Annual Island Giant Kayak Race, which is item E under **New Business**. There was no objection from the Committee.

5. E. Consideration of 7th Annual Island Giant Kayak Race, October 27

Ms. Smith stated that this event would be held at the Isle of Palms Marina, kick off at 7:00 a.m. and be out of the marina by 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. The proceeds from the race will go to the Coastal Conservation League. Administrator Tucker pointed out that another event, the Ecothon, is planned for Sunday, October 28; she asked Chief Graham if there would be a problem for the Fire Department to have two (2) such events back to back, and the Chief said, "No." The Administrator reminded Ms. Smith that she must provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Isle of Palms as "an Additional Insured."

MOTION: Mayor Sottile moved that the Public Safety Committee approve both the 7th Annual Island Giant Kayak Race and the Barrier Island Ecothon; Councilman Buckhannon seconded.

Chief Buckhannon stated that, as long as the participation did not dramatically increase over last year for the Ecothon, he had no problems with the two (2) events. If the Ecothon were to ramp up, he would need to provide officers for traffic direction.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Old Business:

A. Various DOT Inquiries – Update

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that on September 4 she had sent a letter to Robert Clark of SCDOT on the following issues:

- 1) 25th Avenue and Intracoastal Waterway - loading and unloading and parking in that area;
- 2) 41st Avenue roundabout – enough right-of-way for smaller roundabout;
- 3) a legal opinion on rights-of-way encroachments; and
- 4) reduction of speed limits.

As of this date, she has not received a response.

B. Public Safety Complex Timeline

Administrator Tucker stated that the tentative timeline was included in the meeting packets. She had been asked to provide that information at the Ways and Means meeting last month. She announced that the schematic drawings had been received today.

C. Short-term Rental Safety Certification

The Administrator informed the Committee that she had received feedback from the City's attorney about including a safety certification in the short-term rental application; the certification would be a statement for the owner or the agent to verify that they have checked the rental unit to make sure that there were working smoke detectors, that door and windows function properly, that exits are not blocked, etc. Attorney Sottile did believe that such a basic safety statement could be incorporated into the City's application; the purpose of the statement is to put the onus of responsibility fully on the owner/agent. Administrator Tucker and Director Kerr will begin to work on language for the certification to present to the City's attorney to finalize and to have for the Committee at the next meeting. Councilman Marino commented that he thought it should become a part of the application and not a separate document attached to it.

5. New Business

A. Consideration of Time Change Order to Fire Station #2 Design/Build Contract Revised Completion Date of October 5 in lieu of September 28.

Administrator Tucker related that five (5) additional days have been requested associated with some electrical work; additionally she pointed out that this is the very first change order that has been requested on this project and recommended that the Committee grant it.

MOTION: Mayor Sottile moved that the Public Safety Committee recommend to the City Council that it grant the Time Change Order on Fire Station #2; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Lease Agreement with The Citadel

The lease agreement between the City and The Citadel to have the temporary Fire Station #2 at The Citadel site expired June 19, 2007; the Administrator has received an e-mail stating that, if the space is required beyond October 15, the City may need to consider additional compensation to The Citadel. Administrator Tucker stated her concerns that the space will be needed beyond October 15; she anticipates that the personnel will have relocated by then, but the tent and trailers may not be, therefore,

the site will not be restored. She noted that she has not responded to Colonel Tomasik, but she wanted this Committee to be aware of the situation since there may be additional rent demands. Councilman Marino asked Chief Graham if she thought that everything could be removed by November 1; the Chief responded that there was a 75% chance that the work will be done by the second week in October unless there is a major storm. Based on Chief Graham's comments, Councilman Marino asked that the Administrator communicate to the Colonel that the City understands his concerns and is very grateful for his patience through this construction process; that the City is confident that its equipment and personnel will be off of The Citadel's property, possibly by October 15, but some repairs to the site may not be complete until November 1. Councilman Buckhannon also suggested that the Administrator include the fact that the closing date on Fire Station #2 is October 5.

C. Consideration of Ribbon Cutting for Fire Station #2

With a good deal of activity already planned for October, Mayor Sottile expressed his desire to wait until the first or second week in November to hold the ribbon cutting; he felt that, by then, the Fire Department would be completely moved in and Fire Station #2 ready for public showing. Administrator Tucker offered several dates for the Committee's consideration; there was general agreement to hold the ribbon cutting at 3:00 p.m. with the preferred date being Friday, November 9, but November 8 and 16 were alternatives. The availability of the Cole+Russell representatives to attend will be the basis for the final decision on the date; the Administrator will contact them and notify the Committee members of the date.

F. Special Event Permit

By way of history, Administrator Tucker related that the City gets many requests for events on the island and each year the number of requests tends to increase. The contacts to make a request come to the City several different ways, such as

- Contact to either the Administrator, Fire Chief or Police Chief;
- Contact to the Recreation Director;
- Contact to the Administrative office; or
- Show up at a meeting (Council or Committee) to make a request.

Based on the above, the Recreation Committee decided that a special event application - that included guidelines - needed to be developed for distribution to interested parties. Included in the meeting packet is the application for your review that has been compiled using applications from other communities; the Recreation Committee is also reviewing it. Administrator Tucker's additional input was that she feels the City has "maxed out" in what it can successfully manage in the way of events; therefore, she believes that

events should be capped. She would like to see a listing of the events that the City sponsors or endorses, then, based on that list, Council should take an action stating that the City of Isle of Palms will not allow additional runs, Ecothons, triathlons, kayak races, etc. The Administrator will prepare the list for the City Council meeting at the end of the month.

MOTION: Mayor Sottile moved that the Public Safety Committee recommend to the City Council that the special events on the island be capped based on the current listing; Councilman Buckhannon seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Highlights of Department Reports for August, 2007

A. Fire Department Monthly Report – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that one of the more demanding situations of the month was the possible shark bite on August 10, 2007; she stated that the young boy had come by the station in the last week and, after five (5) surgeries, he is expected to make a full recovery. The staff performed twenty-one (21) fire inspections and found forty-five (45) violations. She noted that there had been several persons stuck in elevators; apparently the elevators see more use and, as a result, they tend to malfunction more in the summer season. The Chief noted that there were 134 calls during the month of which seventy-five (75) were EMS calls.

Chief Graham had a long list of projects that are being done at Fire Station #2 as the work draws to a close.

B. Police Department Monthly Report - Chief Buckhannon

For several weeks, the Sullivan's Island Police, the Mount Pleasant Police and the Isle of Palms Police departments worked together on a rash of automobile break-ins, which resulted in the arrest of a gentleman who was stealing credit cards and buying gift cards, which are difficult to trace. In the end the man was wanted also by the FBI who will charge him with Distribution of Guns charges, and he was possibly involved in a homicide in Florida.

In August, there were a total of 4,687 calls processed by the Telecommunications Office, with 3,647 for the Police Department.

Chief Buckhannon reported that there have been 1,707 reports year-to-date, which represents an increase of 54% over 2006. Approximately one-third of the arrests in the month were alcohol or drug related.

Councilman Marino asked the Chief how to legally transport a handgun; he was told that, if he did not have a concealed weapon permit, the gun had to be carried in glove compartment or trunk of the vehicle.

Mayor Sottile commented that the City had nearly completed its first summer with the Livability Court, and he asked to see figures on what types of cases were going before the judge. He stated that, from his visits to the Court, it seemed that the majority of the cases were business license violations and underage drinking, but very few actual livability issues. Chief Buckhannon agreed to get with the Clerk of Court to prepare a report for the next meeting.

Mayor Sottile asked Chief Buckhannon where the City was on the refrigerator magnets with the Livability phone number, and the Chief responded that he was working with the Administrator to ensure that the magnets, brochures, website, etc. were all consistent.

7. Miscellaneous

Possible Donation of Surplus Equipment

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the City has some PASS devices, which are the devices the firemen wear indicating they are not moving, that are going out of service. Although the City would not want to donate them to another fire department, Chief Graham would like to donate them to the Fire Academy for use in training. The Chief added that there are some old air packs that are not in good enough shape for another fire company, but would also be good for training. And, before bulldozing Fire Station #1, the compressor there can also go. If the Committee approves the donation of these items to the Fire Academy, Chief Graham will be sure to get a letter from them relieving the City of any and all liability.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved that the Public Safety Committee authorizes Chief Graham to distribute the surplus equipment; Mayor Sottile seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilman Buckhannon asked both Chief Graham and Chief Buckhannon about their level of staffing. Chief Graham responded that the Fire Department will be losing one (1) person in two (2) weeks; Chief Buckhannon related that the Police Department was one (1) officer down, but that he has a good prospect for a replacement.

The date for the next meeting was set for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 8, 2007.

MOTION: Councilman Buckhannon moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.; Mayor Sottile seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Respectfully submitted

John Marino, Chairman