

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m., Thursday, October 4, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Bettelli, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Assistant Dziuban, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon 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 September 11, 2012 as submitted; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

A. **Update on Public Safety Building**

Assistant Dziuban recapped the last meeting attended by Mark Shoemaker of Cole+Russell after a day of assessing the problems that remain with the Public Safety Building which include issues with the HVAC on the first, second and third floors, fuel line leaks, electrical issues and problems with the four-fold apparatus bay doors and the overhead sectional doors. The City has received a letter, dated October 3, 2012, from Cole+Russell outlining their recommendations for resolving the outstanding issues; the recommendations include items they will work with the City to handle, and other items are directed at Mashburn to do. The problem with the letter, in the City's opinion, is that there is no timeline and/or deadline for the completion of the fixes; Assistant Dziuban explained that Cole+Russell needs to inform the City what the reasonable completion time should be and direct Mashburn accordingly.

Councilmember Bergwerf remembered that a discussion has taken place about hiring an independent engineer to evaluate the issues with the building; Assistant Dziuban voiced her understanding that the City would wait to see what progress Cole+Russell and Mashburn made before taking that step due to the expense involved. If these efforts prove to be ineffective, the time may have come to consider hiring an independent engineer. Mayor Cronin added that, if the City hires a construction lawyer who would take the case on a contingency, the lawyer would hire the engineer.

Chair Bettelli stated that the next step would be to contact Cole+Russell asking for a timeline which should be relatively short.

Assistant Dziuban noted that Cole+Russell must craft a document issuing the directives to Mashburn Construction which should include a timeline.

B. Update on “NO PARKING” delineation on 42nd to 57th Avenues

Chief Buckhannon reported that he has spoken with Mark Nesbitt of SCDOT who stated that the signs will be “installed in the next couple of weeks.”

C. Status Update on Wayfinding Signs and Beach Access Parking

Assistant Dziuban reiterated the fact that Council has authorized a second phase of work for Stantec that incorporates beach access parking with the non-traditional signage; Stantec has chosen to tackle these projects with two (2) teams, some members overlap onto both teams. Staff members have met with both Stantec teams; the wayfinding sign program has progressed to a need for an island-wide assessment of where the non-traditional signs would be placed in an effort to get the SCDOT permit by showing the City’s goal to implement these signs over the entire island. One (1) step toward accomplishing that task was taken yesterday as Stantec personnel were on the island doing a sign inventory. At the meeting with the beach access parking team, the Stantec team indicated to City staff that they have completed their study of the materials the City provided, i.e. minutes of Planning Commission meetings, public forums and the minutes of joint meetings with the Planning Commission and City Council.

Chair Bettelli recalled that this phase was projected to take two (2) months to complete; Mayor Cronin commented that it was impossible to predict how long SCDOT would take to issue the permit.

Assistant Dziuban noted that money is in the Court and Building Department FY13 budgets for a new sign in front of City Hall. Since this sign would not require SCDOT approval, staff wants to fabricate that sign as soon as the permit is filed so that, once the permit is issued, the details of color, lettering, etc. will have all been settled to speed up the manufacture and installation of the newly approved SCDOT signage.

5. New Business

Discussion of Transition Plan for Consolidated Dispatch

Administrator Tucker recounted the discussions of maintaining personnel to staff the City’s dispatching services for a yet-to-be-determined time period to ensure that Isle of Palms does not have the disastrous transition that Folly Beach experienced. Public safety personnel from the Isle of Palms and Sullivan’s Island, along with the City Administrator, City Treasurer and Assistant Dziuban met to determine the best method of accomplishing the goal of a smooth and painless transition for residents and to minimize the possibility of mistakes. From that meeting, a budget has been prepared that will be a consideration for FY14 budget preparation; the Administrator added that the City is not deviating from its original plan to train dispatchers to make the move to the Consolidated Dispatch Center in October 2013. Between the beginning of 2013 and October, the City wants to do is to keep the City’s dispatch center staffed for a period of time with its best people to “ghost” listen to calls made to the Consolidated Dispatch Center and to be prepared to intervene if the call appears to be getting off track in any way. The second facet to the smooth transition is a public education campaign for island residents to prepare them for the changes that are to come. The budget attached represents the cost to the

City for keeping four (4) telecommunicators of two hundred nine thousand four hundred seventy-eight dollars (\$209,478) and other ancillary expenses for keeping the dispatch center open for a total of two hundred fifty-two thousand one hundred eighty-three dollars (\$252,183). At this juncture, the level of involvement from Sullivan's Island is unknown, but they are aware of these figures.

The second page of the budget starts with the current budgeted amount and looks into the future five (5) years to FY18. The most expensive budget year will be FY14; this is the year when the City will have expenses both for dispatchers at the Consolidated Dispatch Center and on the island, as well as the public education aspect of transition.

Administrator Tucker explained that these figures are being presented now for members of the Committee to have time to study and digest them before budget preparation begins after the first of the year. The City's staff remains committed to the concept that Consolidated Dispatch should work better and be more efficient than what the City is now doing.

Mayor Cronin asked what would happen with Livability Hotline calls; Chief Buckhannon explained that, when the Livability Sergeant is on duty, he will answer the calls; otherwise the calls will rollover to the dispatch with a lower priority. If a critical situation is unfolding at the Consolidated Dispatch Center, the City's dispatcher could dispatch an officer to the call and coordinate with the dispatch center later.

Chief Buckhannon announced that the City will be going "live" on Tuesday with the same dispatch system that the County has in place.

General discussion followed related to the long-lasting benefit to the residents of having the City's dispatch center staffed, other uses for dispatch personnel, and the confidence in Consolidated Dispatch personnel over time.

Chair Bettelli inquired about how the City would track the number of calls that required intervention by IOP dispatchers; Chief Buckhannon stated no system was currently in place, but that one would be established when the City transitioned.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that, early in the month, personnel responded to a boat sinking, pumped the water out and plugged the hole with a peg. Responding to medical call on 55th Avenue, personnel found a man in cardiac arrest; after working on him for some time, he was breathing on his own and is doing well today. In September, personnel responded to sixty-one (61) calls; thirty-four (34) of those calls were for EMS. Thirteen (13) fire inspections were performed in the month; the fire inspector has been working with Wild Dunes relative to problems with a major alarm system.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

Dispatchers answered thirty-nine hundred seven (3,907) calls; two hundred eighty-five (285) traffic stops resulted in seventy-seven (77) citations being written. In September, three (3) community meetings were held; one (1) at Beachside with eight (8) attendees, a second at the Baptist for 24th-26th Avenues with seven (7) attendees, and the third on the grounds of the post office for residents of 6th-10th with eight (8) attendees. The Chief noted that the fear of crime on the island is very low resulting in people letting their guard down; he stressed that residents and visitors should lock their homes and cars.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Connector Run – 8:00 a.m., Saturday, October 6

Fire Prevention Parade – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 10

Next Meeting Date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, November 8, 2012 in the Conference Room

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk