

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 7, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bergwerf, Mayor Cronin, Chair Bettelli, City Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Department Captain Teter, Assistant 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.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 4, 2012 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

MS Challenge Walk, March 1-3, 2013 – Suzanne Bland, Executive Vice President

Ms. Bland had indicated that she would attend this meeting; the Committee agreed to proceed with the agenda in hopes that she would arrive later.

4. Old Business

A. Status of Consultant's Work on Beach Access Parking

Administrator Tucker reported that City staff has had a couple of meetings with Stantec personnel relative to beach access parking; they had processed all of the documentation provided by the City and had received the legal review. The Administrator anticipates having Stantec staff present at an upcoming meeting to update the Committee on their progress.

B. Update on Medical Equipment Loan Closet

Diane Oltorik provided the Committee with a written report on the activities of the loan closet; Chair Bettelli noted that, in the six (6) months that the closet has been operating, seven (7) requests had been made and only two (2) were not filled. To-date, no one has donated a set of child's crutches; Chair Bettelli indicated that he will issue an appeal in his report at the Council meeting. (A copy of Ms. Oltorik's report is attached to the historical record of the meeting.)

Mayor Cronin stated that he knows a resident who had cause to use the medical equipment loan closet and had been very appreciative of the service.

C. Update on Consolidated Dispatch

Administrator Tucker reported that the City is continuing in its efforts to be prepared for the transition in 2013. In October the City's dispatchers began using the Consolidated Dispatch CAD/Pro Q & A system; this is the same equipment and software that is in the Consolidated

Dispatch Center and that the City's dispatchers will be using when they move. In addition, the mobile data terminals (MDTs) have been installed in City vehicles and are in use. In the short period of time that the new equipment has been in use, staff has learned that the problems that were reported by other municipalities may have been more about learning the new equipment and techniques than anything else.

Captain Tetor explained that once a call is dispatched, all information relative to the incident is on the computer screens in the vehicles; there is no longer a need to request that information be repeated. In addition, the MDTs have embedded GPS systems that provide the most direct route to an incident and the closest hydrants to the scene.

Chief Buckhannon explained that, once in the dispatch center, dispatchers will have separate functions, i.e. a call-taker takes the information about the call and keys it in, while another person actually dispatches fire, police or EMS to the scene. In the IOP dispatch office, personnel are performing both functions, and dispatchers run into problems when dealing with multiple calls.

5. New Business

A. Hurricane Sandy Response

Administrator Tucker explained that, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the City had sent a contingent of people to the area to provide assistance in any way possible; she got reports from those who participated that they had made a difference to the communities where they worked. The City is again getting a group ready to deploy to the New Jersey/New York area; the group would be composed of personnel from Public Works, the fire department, police department and volunteers. The cost to the City for the Katrina effort had been approximately forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), and the Administrator expects a similar or greater expense for Hurricane Sandy. The Mayor and the Administrator have been working to locate a barrier island where they think the most good can be accomplished. The goal is to send a group up as soon as possible for a period of a time before Thanksgiving, have them return and send a second contingent in December or after the first of the year.

Administrator Tucker noted that Chief Graham was activated and is in Nassau County now supporting a hospital staff in a hospital for special needs patients.

Mayor Cronin reported that the City of Isle of Palms is joining other local municipalities in a program announced by City of Charleston Mayor Riley call "Charleston Care: Sandy Relief Program." This program will collect supplies and money for benefit local governments devastated by the storm; donations can be dropped off at fire stations through the area.

B. Discussion of Communication from Sea Cabins related to July 4th

A copy of the letter is attached to the historical record of the meeting.

The essence of the letter is a request for assistance from the City to limit access to their parking areas on July 4th as much as possible. Mr. Crosby, Manager of the Sea Cabins Homeowners

Association recognized that the people who set up and set off the fireworks need their equipment vehicles on site, but he suggested their personal vehicles could be parked in the City parking lot. He conceded the need for the fire truck to be parked in their lot, but questioned that other public safety vehicles needed to be there as well.

Chair Bettelli noted that Sea Cabins has been a good neighbor to the City over the years allowing for the fireworks to be staged on their pier, and he was interested in maintaining that relationship.

Administrator Tucker reported that she and Chief Buckhannon agreed that the City could not provide any City personnel on July 4th for this purpose – all public safety personnel are needed on the island in their assigned positions on July 4th. Chief Buckhannon thought that it might be possible to assign a Charleston County officer or some other person to assist with parking at the Sea Cabins on July 4th.

A couple of items in Mr. Crosby's letter needed further clarification; Administrator Tucker stated that Mr. Crosby's letter would be kept with the pre-planning data for review and that the Chiefs would work with Mr. Crosby in every way possible.

C. Consideration of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000

Award of Contract to Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$103,380 for 5 budgeted Impalas as patrol vehicles at state contract pricing.

Chair Bettelli commented that the FY13 budget had included funds for six (6) replacement vehicles, but an increase in state pricing means that the City can only afford to replace five (5). Included in meeting packets were two (2) schedules; the first shows the financial impact of purchasing six (6) vehicles with a shortfall of three hundred dollars (\$300); the second schedule illustrates the fiscal impact of purchasing five (5) vehicles in FY13. The 2005 vehicle assigned to Captain Caldwell has relatively low mileage since she is an Isle of Palms resident; the Chief opines that this vehicle will last another year. The savings recognized from purchasing five (5) vehicles can be rolled to the FY14 budget.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee the award of a contract to Love Chevrolet in the amount of \$103,380 for the purchase of 5 budgeted patrol vehicles at state contract pricing; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Mayor Cronin commented on seeing Captain Caldwell in a Durango earlier in the week; Chief Buckhannon explained that her assigned vehicle getting routine maintenance.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Since the representative from the MS Challenge Walk has not arrived, Chair Bettelli asked that the Committee consider the request at this juncture in the meeting; he noted that the race event has been allowed on a year-to-year basis up to now. He also commented that this is an event

that has a very low impact on the community and is one of the best organized. He suggested that the event be added to the City's list of annual events.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to add the MS Challenge Walk to the list of annual City-sponsored events; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Highlights of Department Reports

Fire Department – Captain Tetor

Captain Tetor reported that even though that it was October water missions had not stopped; he recounted the rescue of a kite boarder. Year-to-date, Fire Department personnel have assisted five hundred fifty (550) individuals through EMS responses. Since October was Fire Prevention Month, personnel checked and installed many smoke detectors for residents on the island. The Department responded to a couple of small electrical fires and to twenty-four (24) EMS calls. Hose testing was completed in October, and one (1) section failed the inspection; it was under warranty and was returned to the vendor for a coupling replacement.

Mayor Cronin recounted that another senior tennis tournament had taken place in Wild Dunes October 17 through October 19; like last year, the Fire Department stationed first responders close by as a precaution. The Mayor reported that an elderly woman had fallen and been attended to within a matter of minutes by the City's team. Mayor Cronin was told by attendees that there is no other location they go to that provides the level of attention that they find at the Isle of Palms.

In addition, Administrator Tucker reported that Fire Department personnel had assisted the family of the City's videographer when he returned home from a long day of traveling after a long hospital stay.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

In October, dispatchers responded to thirty-seven hundred eighty-three (3,783) calls, and twenty-eight hundred thirty (2,830) were for the Police Department, an increase of five percent (5%) over last year. The nine hundred twenty-six (926) service calls in October represented an increase of eight percent (8%) over the same period in 2011. Ninety-four (94) citations were issued as a result of three hundred seventy-one (371) traffic stops. Two (2) officers completed their training at the South Carolina Academy of Justice and will begin their field training. In the livability area, nine (9) warnings were issued from the eighteen (18) noise complaints, and ten (10) warnings were issued for roll-cart violations.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 8 in the Conference Room

Administrator Tucker stated that she and the Mayor will be attending meetings of the Charleston County Finance Committee and County Council on Thursday, November 8, 2012 relative to

Greenbelt Funding for Live Oak Park. Dickie Schweers has expressed his support for this initiative.

8. Executive Session – not necessary

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn at 5:55 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk