

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 3, 2012

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012 in the Conference Room of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bergwerf, Mayor Cronin, Chair Bettelli, City Administrator Tucker, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon, 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.

### **2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to re-order the agenda to move item 5B, Request for City-sponsored Event – Volleyball Tournament at the Windjammer to this point in the meeting; Mayor Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **5. New Business**

#### **B. Request for City-sponsored event – Volleyball Tournament at the Windjammer**

Bobby Ross, manager of the Windjammer, related that he has been hosting volleyball tournaments at the Windjammer for many years; for quite a few years, he would get a permit from the City, but he has learned to hold this event on the public beach, the City has a new procedure that would name the event as a City-sponsored event. The tournament planned for June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> would involve semi-professional players who hold this type of tournament all along the East Coast terminating with a big tournament in Florida. Several courts will be on the beach for the preliminary rounds with the finals taking place on the Windjammer court; he explained that there would be no signs on the beach, no amplified sound, and that the organizers will provide all of the necessary insurance coverage. Mr. Ross said that he is expecting seventy (70) teams that will play from sunrise to sunset; the teams will pay the organizers an entry fee, but they will stay in rooms on the island and eat in island restaurants. Over the course of the summer, Mr. Ross anticipates hosting three (3) additional, smaller events.

Administrator Tucker informed this Committee that the Recreation Committee had moved to recommend that this June event be City-sponsored with the City being named as an additional insured on the liability insurance coverage; she added that Mr. Ross had agreed to a donation to the sea turtle rescue.

Mayor Cronin said that the tournament is in such a confined space that public safety agencies in the City were not impacted; Chair Bettelli said that the Windjammer always does an excellent job at clean-up after an activity.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked Mr. Ross how he kept people from taking their beer onto the beach; he responded that signs would be placed on the boardwalk saying that “NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEYOND THIS POINT,” as well as many other signs with “NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED ON THE BEACH.” He added that, when hosting an event like this, the bartenders do not put beer in cups, and he employs security on weekends during the summer to prevent people from leaving the premises with alcoholic beverages.

Chief Buckhannon asked whether a perimeter would be set up around the courts to prevent people from wandering onto the courts during play; Mr. Ross responded that to do so would be violating the City’s sign ordinance. Chief Graham asked that reflective tape be put on the posts to make them more visible at night.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to City Council the approval of the volleyball tournament on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Windjammer as a City-sponsored event contingent on the organizers having the appropriate insurance and other requirements of the City; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Citizens’ Comments – None**

**4. Old Business**

**A. Review of FY13 Budgets**

The Committee agreed that they had no concerns regarding the FY13 budgets.

**B. Continued Discussion of Beach Access Parking**

Committee members thanked the City Administrator for forwarding the City Attorney’s research and opinion on the City’s options related to managing parking.

In the Administrator’s opinion, one overriding issue is the limitations in regulations the City can establish beach access parking that would not be challengeable. If the City were to pursue permitting or districts, the City would have legal precedence on which to rely. The biggest complication staff has seen when discussing changes was that the mechanisms being discussed have some type of negative impact, or perceived negative impact, on residents, i.e. residents would be required to pay in areas outside of their parking district.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked if SCDOT would be less likely to “hassle” an IOP parking plan if the City chose not to charge for parking passes. As Mayor Cronin understood from reading the law, the cost factor must relate to the cost of the opportunity involved. He stated that residents who live on Waterway Island Drive or Ensign Drive would never be in a district that is impacted, so they would always have to pay for parking; the parking districts would be those composed of areas impacted by the influx of non-resident vehicles. Therefore, some residents would be negatively impacted by this parking management tool.

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that SCDOT looks at golf cart parking and vehicle parking the same way.

Mayor Cronin suggested taking a walking tour of one (1) of the parking districts in downtown Charleston to see exactly how it works; generally, he suggested that the Committee continue to research alternative parking management plans.

### **C. Consideration of Relocating Three Emergency Call Boxes**

Administrator Tucker recalled that the initial discussion to remove the call boxes from the City has progressed to relocating one (1) to Fire Station 2 and (1) to the Public Safety Building, and now the process has evolved to relocating the third to the Recreation Center. Relocating them to these spots would give people a direct line to the City's dispatchers to explain their need at a time when no one is available inside the buildings.

Chief Buckhannon reported that the call boxes are currently in concrete with the lag bolts that go into concrete; if there is a concrete pad, the cost is whatever someone would charge to bolt them in. If the City had to pour a concrete pad, the cost would be five hundred to six hundred dollars (\$500-600); if the pad already exists, the cost would be three hundred to five hundred dollars (\$300-500). Since the phones are cellular and solar-powered, they would be operational.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to relocate the three (3) call boxes as stated; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of CTC Funding Requests**

Administrator Tucker reminded the Committee that this is an annual process for requesting funds for new projects, like road drainage, road signage, striping, improvements to intersections, sidewalks and bike paths. Last year, the City requested funds for the drainage project from 44<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues, the paving of Cassina Avenue, and a multi-use path on Palm Boulevard from 41<sup>st</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues; the City did not get funding for any of its projects. The Administrator recalled that this funding source has been very generous in the past for the 53<sup>rd</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue drainage project.

From discussion, the Committee's consensus list for 2013 projects was as follows:

1. Drainage from 42<sup>nd</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenues;
2. Multi-use path from the base of the Connector through the Palm Boulevard intersection;  
and
3. Multi-use path on Palm from 41<sup>st</sup> to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

**B. Request for City-sponsored Event – discussed earlier in the meeting.**

**C. Request for Speed Study/Enforcement on Hartnett Boulevard between 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

The Administrator noted that this is a short stretch of road on which a resident has complained that people are speeding; this area is close to the Recreation Center. Being responsive to the resident, the Administrator brought the issue to the Committee to determine whether to have the Police Department monitor the street or to request that SCDOT do a speed study.

Councilmember Bergwerf related that, while campaigning, a resident in that area had asked for speed bumps to be added to the street.

Chief Buckhannon explained that the Police Department has the equipment that will allow him to duplicate what SCDOT would do in a speed study, i.e. counting the number of cars that travel down the road and the speed. Due to the shortness of the area involved in this complaint, the Chief said he would like to personally follow-up with the complainant to find out if there is a specific time when the majority of the speeding is occurring.

The Committee agreed to leave the issue with the Chief to determine the best course of action.

**D. Consideration of Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None**

**6. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

Because this meeting is being held early in the month, neither departmental report was ready; they will be distributed to Councilmembers when ready.

**7. Executive Session – not needed**

**8. Miscellaneous Business**

Responding to Councilmember Bergwerf's query, Administrator Tucker stated that the City has not been given the date when the episode of "Army Wives" that was filmed on the island would be shown. The Administrator announced that the show made a contribution to the Turtle Team.

Mayor Cronin related that the City received a "warm and heartfelt" thank you from the school in Ohio to all who were involved "in their care and nurturing" during and after the standoff at The Palms Hotel last month.

The very old jaws-of-life that is good to the City only for parts is going to be donated to a rural department in the state that thinks they can salvage it to use.

The jet dock that is no longer of use to the City is going to be advertised for surplus because it cannot be used with the new boat; it is reported to be in good shape. Chair Bettelli asked if the City would set a minimum bid, and Assistant Dziuban informed the Committee that the City includes in a sale RFP the option to reject all bids.

Mayor Cronin explained that the Sea Oats community has voiced concern about people parking at 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue; they want the City to ask SCDOT to install a “NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER” sign, which can be done. They have also requested that the City repair the landscaping in the right-of-way, which will not happen.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, June 12, 2012 in the Conference Room.**

**9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk