

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bergwerf, Mayor Cronin, Chair Bettelli, Administrator Tucker, Fire Chief Graham, Police Captain Usry, Building Director Kerr, 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 January 8, 2013 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

A. **Consideration of Extended Hours for Parking Kiosks**

Administrator Tucker explained that this item was now a non-issue in light of the decision by the Real Property Committee not to exercise the alternate in the parking lots lease to remain open until 8:00 p.m. If the Committee had decided to keep the lots open later, the parking kiosks on Front Beach would need to mirror those hours, and Chief Buckhannon had said that having Beach Services Officers enforcing the meters until 8:00 p.m. would not be a problem.

Chair Bettelli related that he had discussions with Front Beach businesses when this subject was discussed last year, and they had indicated that they preferred to have the kiosks not enforced after 6:00 p.m. because they thought that locals tended to come to Front Beach then.

B. **Consideration of a Change Order to Stantec in the amount of \$12,450 for detailed design services, inclusive of Court and Live Oak Park, bid documents, bid assistance and construction management.**

Administrator Dziuban explained that this item was the composite of three (3) separate amounts; the largest piece, totaling sixty-nine hundred fifty dollars (\$6,950), should have been a part of Phase I, i.e. Stantec's work tasks to get the signs on the street. Since they could not anticipate how City Council would respond to their plan for wayfinding signs, the costs for bidding and construction oversight were not included originally. Stantec anticipates having the SCDOT encroachment permit tomorrow, Wednesday, February 13th; once they have the permit, they will be ready to bid out the fabrication of the signs approved in 2012.

In addition to the wayfinding signs, Stantec has quoted twenty-seven hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750) each for design of a sign for the municipal court and for design of a sign for Live Oak Park, which is required in the Greenbelt agreement. Although these are not wayfinding signs, they need to conform to the style that the City has committed to for signage island-wide.

In the FY13 budget, five thousand dollars (\$5,000) has been set aside for the municipal court sign; the cost for the sign for Live Oak Park is an unbudgeted expense.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve a change order to the Stantec in the amount of \$12,450 as explained; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Assistant Dziuban stated that she planned to release Stantec to do this work tomorrow before the Ways and Means Committee meeting in an effort to get the signs in place before the tourist season begins.

Administrator Tucker informed the Committee that the on-pavement directional signage that the City had also requested in the permit application to SCDOT was not approved, which is what Stantec and staff expected to happen.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Laser Use Interfering with Search and Rescue

Chief Graham explained that lasers aimed into the cockpits of rescue vessels has become a very serious problem; when a laser is aimed at a pilot, he/she is blinded by the light and must return to base, be off duty for four to five (4-5) days and only return to duty with a medical release. Myrtle Beach has had such a high incidence rate that they are enacting an ordinance outlawing lasers on the beach. As the technology has been refined, lasers are more available and in a variety of price ranges at a variety of stores. The Chief continued that the sale to minors is being outlawed, and parents are being warned that they will be held accountable for the use by minors. The Chief was seeking approval from this Committee to pursue the adoption of an ordinance for the City in an effort to be proactive rather than reactive.

The Committee wholeheartedly supported Chief Graham's efforts.

B. Consideration of Battery2Beach Route

Director Kerr reported that a cycling advocacy group has put forth the plan for bike paths from Folly Beach, through the City of Charleston, Mount Pleasant and Sullivan's Island and ending at the Isle of Palms. A Citadel engineering professor assigned the task to some of his interns to develop a route that was presented to a committee composed of representatives from SCDOT and Charleston County Roadwise, as well as each local government along the route. Although the project is in more of a conceptual stage, the paths from downtown to the Isle of Palms are established; therefore this could become the first open leg. Director Kerr stated that he was present to determine whether the City was supportive of the project, and, if so, the best route over the island. He noted that a bike lane already exists from the Isle of Palms to Sullivan's

Island, but there is no path from Breach Inlet onto the Isle of Palms. The Director also explained that the right-of-way on Palm Boulevard between 5th and 6th Avenues is reported to be very narrow and the pavement cannot be widened to accommodate a bike lane; one option is to direct cyclists off Palm onto Ocean to the County Park.

Administrator Tucker noted that if Battery2Beach was successful, physical improvements for a bike path on the ocean side of Ocean Boulevard would be needed.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked how such improvements were to be funded, and Mayor Cronin said that they do not know.

Chair Bettelli questioned supporting a bike path on Ocean Boulevard when the City has not gotten the results of Stantec's work on beach access parking; he thought a bike path would preclude parking on Ocean.

Mayor Cronin commented that Ocean Boulevard was safer than Palm because the volume of traffic was significantly lower on Ocean. The Mayor was suggesting that the bike path continue from the County Park onto Palm to 21st Avenue, then to Waterway and end at the marina. He did question that serious cyclists would exit Palm for Waterway.

Chair Bettelli asked Director Kerr if cyclists would have access to the beach on Sullivan's Island, and the Director said they would not.

Mayor Cronin also informed the Committee that an unknown benefactor has donated one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to this initiative to be used within one (1) year for signage along the route, but the City would want any signage on the island to conform to the Stantec model for Isle of Palms. Administrator Tucker indicated that a letter had been sent to Battery2Beach notifying them of the City signage requirements. The question also remained about placing signage where the bike path would be or along existing bike paths.

The Mayor remarked that the City was sending mixed messages in that the request had been made to the Transportation Sales Tax Committee for a bike path along Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue, but, with this program, it is sending cyclists onto Ocean and Waterway Boulevards.

Administrator Tucker asked Director Kerr whether the local governments with bike paths in good condition have approved the proposed route; he stated that both the City of Charleston and Mount Pleasant have approved the route and the signage.

The Committee took no action on the Battery2Beach route at this meeting.

C. Report on Review of Stop Control at 5th Avenue and Carolina Boulevard

Administrator Tucker explained that a new resident with small boys had contacted the City about the possibility of reversing the signage at this intersection; she complained of seeing many drivers rolling through the intersection and never actually stopping. The City referred the matter to SCDOT who determined that the landscaping limited the sight distance for motorists

and should be cut back and that the stop bars at all intersections along Carolina Boulevard be repainted to emphasize the stop control approaches. The SCDOT review did not find any compelling reason to change the current stop control at 5th Avenue and Carolina Boulevard.

D. Consideration of Request from The Windjammer for Volleyball Events

Bobby Ross, Manager of The Windjammer, was seeking approval from the Committee to sponsor volleyball leagues in the spring and summer for girls twelve to eighteen (12-18) years of age. The spring league would be held from April 10th to June 5th from 5:00 p.m. until dark, and the summer league would play between June 11 and August 13th starting at 6:00 p.m. He indicated that, if there was sufficient interest, The Windjammer would also sponsor a boys' league. He assured the Committee that everyone would have the proper insurance coverage and indicated that Laura Togami would direct the programs. As last year, any revenue generated by the leagues will be donated to the City.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to approve the volleyball leagues at The Windjammer; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded, and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. FY14 Transportation Sales Tax New Construction Projects

Administrator Tucker remarked that this was the annual solicitation from the Transportation Sales Tax Committee for new construction projects in the County that is due March 1st; in 2012 the City's first priority request had been for the second phase of drainage between 46th and 52nd Avenues, and the second priority had been for a bike path from Breach Inlet to 57th Avenue. The Administrator noted that this topic is presented to both the Public Works Committee and the Public Safety Committee; the Public Works Committee had decided to switch the priority of the 2012 request based on the general emphasis on biking, and the fact that, at the County level, the Battery2Beach initiative has lots of traction.

Councilmember Bergwerf stated that she found it difficult to put a bike path ahead of a citizen-focused project like drainage.

The Administrator noted that the City has not received any funding for the past couple of years, and she has speculated that the reason is that the City does not yet have the design and engineering work for the project. Mayor Cronin added that it took several funding cycles for the City to obtain sufficient funding for the first phase of drainage.

According to the early, rough estimates, the second phase of the drainage project will cost one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000).

Councilmember Bergwerf countered that no engineering has been done for a bike path, so the City's request could be viewed in the same light as the drainage project. Mayor Cronin recalled that a couple of years ago the County had been on the island to survey a proposed bike path on Palm, so much of the work has been done.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to request funding through TST for the second phase of drainage as a Number One priority; Mayor Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Discussion of Right-of-way Enforcement Related to Recycle Bins

Administrator Tucker explained that the Public Works Committee had discussed this issue for some time at their meeting without reaching a decision; she added they were discussing two (2) issues, i.e. (1) leaving recycling bins in the right-of-way to prevent parking and (2) encroachments in the right-of-way. Advocacy existed in the Public Works Committee for police officers to issue tickets for recycling bins in the right-of-way based on state law, but, if the City were to write those tickets, it must enforce the law uniformly and ticket all encroachments in the right-of-way. The Administrator recounted that, when this subject was discussed in the past, the encroachments in the right-of-way on the island were prioritized based on safety; in the end Council took no action. The Public Works Committee volleyed the issue to Public Safety to consider whether to incorporate recycling bins into the roll-out cart ordinance or to enforce the state statute.

Councilmember Bergwerf stated that the blue recycling bins contain garbage like the green roll-out carts and should be included with them in the ordinance.

Mayor Cronin noted that the ordinance states that all cans are to be out of sight, but even the homes with corrals find that they are not large enough to accommodate the new recycling bins.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to amend the existing ordinance related to roll-out carts to include recycling bins; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Review of FY14 Capital Budgets and Long-Range Capital Plans for the Police and Fire Departments and Consolidated Dispatch

In introducing the budgets, Administrator Tucker noted that the FY14 capital budgets were the first to reflect the increase in the capital threshold from one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and staff's effort to avoid debt by setting aside savings each year in anticipation of the expenditures. This debt avoidance shows prominently in the Fire Department as the purchases of fire apparatus are planned and in both Fire and Police for the replacement of radios in FY17.

Fire Department Capital Budget

2 mobile radio repeaters (1 per ladder truck)	24,000
Re-budget items	
Porta-count machine for SCBA mask fit testing	9,500
New piece of equipment	
Replace larger Zodiac rubber boat (FY17) and motor (FY14)	6,000
Replace Yamaha jet ski purchased in May 2009	11,000

Replace all-terrain vehicle for beach patrol/mission (Purchased July 2010)	13,000
Retainage on Public Safety Building construction contract	15,000
Replace Ford F-150 purchased Nov. 2003	30,000

Assign Fund Balance for Future Expenditures

Replace 1 rescue truck, 2 ladder trucks, 2 pumper trucks	350,000
Radio replacements (Phase II compliance req's in FY17)	133,000

Mayor Cronin voiced his opinion that the re-sale value of the equipment could be considered when determining the equipment replacement costs.

Police Department Capital Budget

Replace patrol car purchased in Feb 2005	23,500
Replace 3 4WH patrol vehicles purchased March 2008	87,000
Replace Front Beach surveillance system purchased Dec 2004 Currently not functioning; will consist of 3 cameras w/feed to server for review	25,000
Replace computer server (3 yr replacement) w/backup system	10,500

Special Projects

Provision for implementation of possible beach access parking alternatives	300,000
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This is a placeholder should Stantec make a recommendation that the City wants to pursue in this fiscal year.

Chair Bettelli asked what this recommendation was envisioned to be; he thought the figure was quite large. Administrator Tucker said the number could be refined as the budget process continues and as Stantec comes forward with their ideas.

Assign Fund Balance for Future Expenditures

Radio replacements (Phase II compliance req's in FY17)	116,667
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Consolidated Dispatch Capital Budget

Charleston Co contracted personnel expense (3 qtrly pymts in FY14)	375,000
8 air cards for Fire laptops	4,800
TriTech & CAD (computer aided dispatch) RMS (records mgmt sys) link software	1,630
Metro Ethernet connection (\$600/month)	7,200
Station alerting system	15,000
Increased Firehouse software maintenance expense	1,665
County-wide accountability system	2,000

Administrator Tucker commented that the station alerting and the accountability systems could be paid by Charleston County.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department Report

Chief Graham reported that personnel had responded to a mutual aid structure fire on Rifle Range Road in Awendaw on January 13th and had extricated three (3) people from a condominium complex in Wild Dunes on January 12th. In January, personnel had responded to nine (9) calls, seven (7) of which were EMS calls. Three (3) pre-incident surveys were performed, and eight (8) fire inspections were done. The Chief related that she had received only positive feedback from participants in the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team training exercise; they have indicated that they would like to return next year. In the month, the Department had an expenditure in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for brakes on the big tower truck. Battalion Chief Maibach was elected 2013 president of the Charleston Area Training Officers Association. Fire Inspector Kunitzer was a member of the fire investigation team on the Awendaw fire.

Police Department Report

Captain Usry stated that burglaries continue to be a problem on the island; four (4) televisions were taken from an unlocked residence on 52nd Avenue, six (6) televisions were stolen from an unlocked residence on Ocean Boulevard, iPads and other electronics were stolen from unlocked vehicles. The Captain announced that AAA had awarded the City one (1) the top five (5) traffic safe communities in South Carolina. In January, dispatchers responded to four thousand three hundred eighty-one (4,381) calls, an increase of seventeen percent (17%) over January 2012. There were four hundred twenty-nine (429) traffic stops, and seventy-eight (78) tickets were issued. Five (5) noise complaints were received in January with two (2) warnings being issued.

Administrator Tucker announced that the first "Meet and Greet" for 2013 would be held Thursday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. for Front Beach businesses; the location has not yet been determined.

7. Miscellaneous Business

2012 Outstanding South Carolina Traffic Safe Community Award from AAA Carolinas

Wounded Warrior Ride – Thursday, March 14th, 2013

Assistant Dziuban stated that this event would consist of bikes on public roads from Breach Inlet to the VFW for dinner; it will not be a City-sponsored event, but the bikers will have a police escort for their route on the island. Dinner is planned for 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Carolina Children's Charities

Chief Graham stated that the official date for the collections is Sunday, March 17th, but, as in the past, the City will collect on an earlier date which has not yet been determined.

Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2013 in the Conference Room.

- 8. Executive Session** to receive legal advice relating to potential legal claims.

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to go into Executive Session at 6:43 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee returned to regular session at 6:54 p.m., and Chair Bettelli stated that the Committee had not taken a vote or any action in Executive Session.

- 9. Adjourn**

MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m.; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk