

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

5:00 p.m., Monday, May 13, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 13, 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, 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. Also in attendance were City Attorney Halversen and Chris Deters of Thurmond, Kirchner, Timbes and Yelverton.

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 8, 2013 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **3. Citizens' Comments – None**

**MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to reorder the *Agenda* to address Item 8 next; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **8. Executive Session**

**MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to go into Executive Session at 5:02 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee returned to regular session at 5:12 p.m., and the Chair announced that the Committee had not taken a vote or any other action while in Executive Session.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to follow the attorney's recommendation to proceed to resolve the problems with the diesel fuel line at the Public Safety Building; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. Old Business**

#### **A. Discussion of Roll-out Cart Ordinance Amendment.**

Administrator Tucker recounted that the intent of this amendment had originally been to have the County's recycling containers and the City's roll-out bins treated the same, but, once it was pointed out that the City has highly visible recycling and roll-out containers that violate the existing ordinance, that issue was also to be addressed. Pursuant to discussions on the Committee level, the consensus was that the corrals in the right-of-way have outlived their usefulness as well. The amendment included in meeting packets tries to address all three (3) issues.

The Public Works Committee discussed the amendment at their meeting last week, but they chose to take no action and commented that they do not want a change in the roll-out cart ordinance. One member of Public Works stated that he could not support any ordinance that would exempt the City from adhering to it as other residents must.

Councilmember Bergwerf noted that a member of the Public Works Committee had reported on the City's being out of compliance with the visible containers, but they do not want to act on it.

The most infractions were at the Recreation Center; therefore, since the Public Works Committee meeting, the Administrator requested that Director Page gather information on how much it would cost to have their containers out of sight and to have alternate containers on site. The Recreation Department would incur a cost of approximately three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to come into compliance with the City's roll-out cart ordinance, as well as a difference in the deployment of personnel to collect the garbage from the alternate containers and place it in the roll-out and recycling containers.

Mayor Cronin suggested that the amendment only deal with times when the recycling containers are allowed in the right-of-way and that any changes to the corrals in the right-of-way and to the visibility of the containers be considered after more deliberation.

The Chair stated that he sees the recycling containers in the right-of-way as a quality of life issue and agreed with the Mayor about adding the recycling containers to the ordinance. On the subject of the can's visibility, Chair Bettelli said he thought it was about what one can see when driving by a residence with a container pulled back from the road and partially hidden by a garage, bushes, etc. – in other words, the letter of the law versus the intent of the law. He pointed out that the garbage carts and recycling containers are visible at the Recreation Center to encourage their use; therefore, the Chair would like the exemption to the City to stay in the amendment and that church properties should also be exempt.

**MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the amendment to Section 3-2-8 without the sentence "Corrals used for storing garbage carts and recycling containers shall not be located in the right-of-way of a street or road and shall be properly screened in accordance with this section" and the addition of church properties; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Discussion of Beach Access Parking, 21<sup>st</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenues**

Chair Bettelli suggested placing a white chalk stripe down the land-ward side of Palm to match the stripe on the ocean-side of Palm Boulevard.

Mayor Cronin noted that, on the ocean-side of Palm, the City has legal four-foot (4 ft.)-off-the-pavement parking; on the other side, vehicles must have all four (4) tires off the pavement. Since that right-of-way is so broad, most vehicles park perpendicular to the roadway and well off the pavement.

Chair Bettelli asked Director Page how drawing the line on both sides of the street would impact the Recreation Budget. She indicated that she did not see this as having a material impact on the budget with a cost of about one hundred dollars (\$100) per week, but she pointed out that the land-ward side will require more chalk since perpendicular lines will have to be drawn at the corners with the "No Parking Here to Corner" signs.

Chief Buckhannon thought the line would confuse visitors, because they would think that parking is four feet (4 ft.) from the pavement on both sides of the road. Chief Graham added that visitors would think the parking is now parallel, rather than perpendicular.

Administrator Tucker indicated that she had asked a representative from SCDOT earlier in the day if they would object to putting the chalk line on both sides of Palm Boulevard, and they had no objections. On the other hand, there was no discussion about the mechanisms that the City would have to put in place for enforcement.

Mayor Cronin suggested that the City first go through the enforcement step before drawing the line; he remarked that the original law for four feet (4 ft.) off the pavement was an act of special legislation only for the Isle of Palms.

Chief Buckhannon voiced his opinion that such action is not necessary today; Mayor Cronin asked for confirmation about what was needed before proceeding.

Director Pitts stated that there would be problems with residents and the placement of roll-out carts for pickup if the four foot (4 ft.) parking is implemented. Currently these residents are serviced by a pickup truck as it moves down the right-of-way.

### **C. Review of FY14 budgets for Fire and Police Departments**

Councilmember Bergwerf reiterated her opinion that the Fire and Police Departments should be paying for the wellness activity at the Public Safety Building. The Councilmember asked which budget paid for employees who participate in activities at the Recreation Center; the Administrator replied that the costs are included in the Recreation budget.

Administrator Tucker reported that this subject had been discussed thoroughly on the staff level; the problem is that the individual needs to be classified as an instructor, and the only department with that employee classification is the Recreation Department. The alternative of making the individual a part-time employee of the Fire Department is not possible because he does not have the skills required in the Fire Department, but the supervision and structure are in place at the Recreation Department.

The Administrator repeated her earlier email comments that no other Committee has made a change to this version of the budget. Issues related to the Affordable Healthcare Act and the classification of employees as it relates to health coverage may affect the final budget; the Administrator will be studying this issue over the coming week to make a recommendation to Council.

**5. New Business**

**A. Consideration of Modification to Section 6-2-5 of the IOP Code to allow for chickens as pets**

Nadine Dief of 31 Twenty-first Avenue approached the Committee to allow her to raise two or three (2-3) chickens at her home to have fresh eggs for her family. She stated that she has done some research on how other communities handle chickens and would be happy to share that data with the Committee.

Director Pitts indicated that Sullivan's Island does allow residents to raise chickens.

Chair Bettelli commented on the recent outbreak of bird flu and voiced concern about the potential health risk. The Chair said that the Committee would review her information as well as learn more about what other communities in the area are doing.

**B. Consideration of Dispatch Agreements with Sullivan's Island**

Administrator Tucker explained that, with the transition to the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center (CCCDC) on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the dispatch agreement between the City of Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island has to be revised, and two (2) agreements will be needed to replace the existing agreement. The present agreement allows the Isle of Palms Police Department to be the public safety answering point for Sullivan's Island. When the transition is made, two (2) things will happen, i.e. the first item is that both the City and Sullivan's Island will be responsible for the personnel expense for the three-year (3 yr.) term that an expense is paid to Charleston County; therefore, an agreement is needed to obligate them to Sullivan's pro-rata share based on call volumes. Second, the City plans to keep a presence in the IOP dispatch center to answer the non-emergency lines, to monitor calls made to the CCCDC to intervene if something is going awry with a call, and to respond to the ten (10) minute hits on warrants; Sullivan's Island will need to pay its share, based on call volume, of this expense. The goal is to have these agreements in place by July 1, and the dollar amounts cited in the agreements tie to the FY14 budget.

**MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend to City Council the approval of the dispatch agreements between the City of Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island as written; Mayor Cronin seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. Consideration of Wellness Activity at Public Safety Building**

Administrator Tucker reiterated the fact that, through the Employee Wellness Program, employees can participate in Recreation Department programs at no cost to the employee. Until now the participation level has not generated a hardship on the Recreation Department's budget for instructors, but a program called BOSU has taken the Fire Department by storm with participation over ninety-five percent (95%) and the Police Department is ready to jump on board as well. If this program is to continue into FY14 at the current level of participation, the Recreation Department needs an additional eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000) for this instructor to remain a Recreation Department instructor holding an off-site wellness program for employees only at the Public Safety Building. An additional feature to this off-site program is

that the instructor has tailored the workout to work-related activities, meaning that the employees are seeing personal health improvements and the City has more fit personnel.

The Administrator noted that the Recreation Committee had acted favorably on continuing the program.

**MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to recommend approving the off-site wellness program for employees only at a cost of \$18,000 for FY14; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**D. Report on Meeting with SCDOT**

Administrator Tucker reported that she and the Mayor had met with Robert Clarke of SCDOT as a prelude to a meeting between City Council and a representative of SCDOT to discuss beach access parking. Other issues discussed with Mr. Clarke were encroachments in the right-of-way, some maintenance issues and regulation bike paths on both sides of Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet to 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mayor Cronin indicated that he would call a Special Meeting of Council to discuss beach access parking with Mr. Clarke. In discussing the work Stantec is doing for the City, Mayor Cronin mentioned their suggestion about a low frequency radio system broadcasting the parking conditions on the island; Mr. Clarke said that SCDOT has such radios in their warehouse to be used in hurricane evacuations and that he thought that SCDOT would lend one to the City for a two (2) year trial.

The Administrator also mentioned that, in her most recent conversations with Stantec, they thought that meetings with individual members of Council would be beneficial to their work. Staff will assist with setting up those meetings and, likely, here at City Hall.

**E. FY14 Charleston County Transportation Committee Request**

Administrator Tucker reported that last year's list, in order of priority, were (1) 42<sup>nd</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Drainage, (2) cycling improvements on Palm Boulevard from Breach Inlet and 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue and (3) improvements to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue as one enters/leaves the island.

Mayor Cronin suggested that the City should repeat its FY13 requests and the Committee agreed.

**F. Contracts in Excess of \$10,000 – None**

Fire Department – Chief Graham

During the month of April, personnel responded to forty-seven (47) calls, thirty-three (33) of which were EMS calls. Chief Graham said that the Consolidated Dispatch call response report had several response times that were greater than twenty (20) minutes and will require some research to determine the cause for delays. The Chief pointed out that the Fire Department

responded to fewer calls in April 2013 than they have for the same month in ten (10) years. There were fifteen (15) fire inspections performed in the month that resulted in eighteen (18) violations. Over two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in preventative maintenance was done on Engine 1001, but expenses remain within budget. Chief Graham announced that Battalion Chief Tetor has accepted the position of Battalion Chief for the Awendaw Fire District, and Captain Richard Hathaway had been appointed Battalion Chief, filling the vacant position.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

The Meet and Greet scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> was cancelled at the last minute due to weather; it was re-scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> and was well-attended. Dispatchers responded to forty-one hundred thirty-four (4,134) calls, and thirty-four hundred thirty-five (3,435) were for the Police Department. Sixty-six (66) citations were written from three hundred forty-six (346) traffic stops; one hundred twenty-eight (128) incidents reports were written. The City has experienced seventeen (17) burglaries year-to-date, three (3) of which occurred in April; six (6) of thirteen (13) arrests were for narcotics violations. From the livability report, the Chief noted that there were twenty-five (25) noise violations reported and one (1) citation was issued.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

The next Meet and Greet will be from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the corner of Morgan Cove Drive and Yacht Harbor Court for residents of these streets.

**Next Meeting Date: 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in the City Hall Conference Room.**

**8. Executive Session – earlier in the meeting**

**9. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk