

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
5:00 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2013

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2013 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Vice Chair Bergwerf, Mayor Cronin, Administrator Tucker, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business. Councilmember Bettelli's absence was excused.

1. Vice Chair Bergwerf 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 August 5, 2013 as submitted; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. **Old Business**

A. **Update from SCDOT**

Administrator Tucker referenced a letter from Robert Clark, SCDOT District Engineering Administrator, on the two (2) issues that SCDOT was reviewing for the City. SCDOT has determined that the stop sign on the Waterway Boulevard approach from 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue should be removed and they will add a stop bar marking to delineate the revised one-way stop control. Based on several field reviews, SCDOT does not recommend placing stop signs in the 4000 block of Palm Boulevard.

B. **Rick Day – Stantec – Consideration of tasks associated with implementation of parking program**

Mr. Day distributed a draft scope of services for Committee members to review; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting. The tasks listed are as follows:

- Task 1 – Isle of Palms on-street parking review – an analysis of all island roadways to determine where parking can be accommodated with a four-foot (4 ft.) buffer requirement off the pavement.
- Task 2 – Isle of Palms on-street parking field verification – detailed field reviews of the potential parking areas that have adequate width to accommodate the implementation of the four-foot (4 ft.) buffer requirement off of the pavement and identification of existing obstructions in the right-of-way of the potential parking areas and sight-distance clear zones.
- Task 3 – Parking Permit Program Implementation – development of an implementation plan for the introduction of a Parking Permit Program that will be island-wide and apply to residents and visitors.

Mr. Day indicated that Stantec personnel are generating a proposal that will assign the cost to each task that will be ready for the Ways and Means Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator Tucker pointed out that steps in Tasks 1 and 2 could be taking place simultaneously with work toward the implementation of the parking permit program.

Vice Chair Bergwerf repeated that the goal of the parking management program is to manage the existing parking and not to increase parking. She also commented that many island property owners have encroachment permits for landscaping in the rights-of-way; she asked Mr. Day how they would handle that issue. Mr. Day stated that would require research on Stantec's part, but the property owner would have to be able to produce the encroachment paperwork.

**C. Correction of police vehicle contract award – vendor change from Vic Bailey Ford to Benson Ford Mercury**

Administrator Tucker explained that in August City Council, a contract had been awarded to Vic Bailey Ford for two (2) patrol vehicles, but they did not have the state contract; Benson Ford Mercury did. The action being requested is a housekeeping item to change the vendor to whom the contract award was made.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin move to change the vendor award from Vic Bailey Ford to Benson Ford Mercury; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. New Business**

**A. Removal of Encroachments in the Rights-of-way**

This subject of the removal of encroachments in the rights-of-way has come out of the roll-out cart ordinance relative to the blue recycling bins stating that efforts should be made for them not to be clearly visible from the road, except when out for collection. She displayed several photographs of roll-out carts and recycling bins housed in corrals in the rights-of-way and noted that the corrals were originally designed to house the old metal garbage cans that stood approximately three (3) feet tall. These corrals were not issued encroachment permits by SCDOT; therefore, as a first step to clearing encroachments from the rights-of-way, staff is proposing sending a letter to residents with corrals explaining the new ordinance and its implications to their residence. The letters will first go to residents on the south end of the island where the corrals are most prevalent and obviously in the rights-of-way; the letter states that the corrals must be moved back onto private property.

Mayor Cronin and Vice Chair Bergwerf supported staff mailing out the letters.

**B. Contracts in excess of \$10,000**

- 1. Award of a contract to Jones Ford in the amount of \$27,437, state contract pricing, for the budgeted purchase of 1 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck**

Administrator Tucker stated that this vehicle will replace a 2003 pickup in the Fire Department.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to Ways and Means the award of a contract to Jones Ford as stated; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Award of a sole source contract to Motorola Solutions for the annual service agreement for the Fire and Police Departments for portable and mobile radios.**

Administrator Tucker explained that this is two (2) contracts that total thirteen thousand four hundred seventy-six dollars (\$13,476); each contract is over budget – the Fire Department is over by three hundred fifty-seven dollars and twenty-four cents (\$357.24) and the Police Department is over by two hundred forty-one dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$241.38). The reason for the over-budget status is that there has been a change in the number of “walkies” since the budget was prepared.

Chief Graham added that these contracts are under state contract pricing.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to Ways and Means the award of contracts for the Fire and Police Departments’ annual service agreements for portable and mobile radios; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Award of a 3-year contract to Zambelli’s for up to \$27,000 per year for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks show**

The Administrator stated that this annual event is funded with state ATAX funds and that the City repeatedly contracts with Zambelli’s because of their safety record. The new contract represents an eight percent (8%) increase, but the City will receive a five percent (5%) discount if the contract is signed by November 2013.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to Ways and Means the award of a 3-year contract to Zambelli’s for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks shows; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Highlights of Departmental Reports**

**Fire Department – Chief Graham**

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, personnel responded to a call for a swimmer in distress in the area of Dewees Island; after ninety (90) minutes, the swimmer was found on the Isle of Palms and in no distress. On August 27<sup>th</sup>, personnel responded to a report of a large dumpster on fire near a home in Ocean Point; upon arrival, crews found the dumpster with an active fire inside, but not threatening to any adjacent buildings. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, personnel responded to the 900 block of Ocean Boulevard for an individual who had been pulled from the water and was having trouble breathing; he was placed on oxygen and a full assessment was done before he was transported

from the beach and transported by EMS. In August, personnel responded to one hundred thirty-nine (139) calls; ninety-four (94) were EMS calls. The Chief noted that the call report from Charleston County does not indicate the seriousness assigned to the calls; she indicated that she would look into why the report has been changed. The new Fire Inspector performed twelve (12) inspections in the month and found fifty-two (52) violations.

In addition to the monthly report, Chief Graham informed the Committee that she has made a presentation to the Personnel Committee relative to a pay evaluation for the Fire Department and the need for one (1) additional person per shift (3 employees) at Fire Station 2. She distributed a handout with staffing information for the Fire Department; a copy is attached to the historical record of the meeting. While they are waiting for the Chief to gather information on wages and benefits from other local departments, the Personnel Committee unanimously passed a motion supporting the hiring of the additional personnel. Due to the number of calls and the seriousness of calls, personnel from Station 1 are sent to assist personnel from Station 2 that functions now with one (1) less person than Station 1.

Chief Graham reported that, based on the information she has received from neighboring departments, the Isle of Palms has the lowest salary scale. Administrator Tucker noted that the entire Charleston area is growing and the larger departments are staffing up; in addition to a higher wage, the other departments are offering better opportunities for advancement. Chief Graham stated that she has learned the eight (8) members of the Department have interviewed with another department; she received one (1) resignation today and is expecting another any day. Although she feels very good about the new hires, they are joining the Isle of Palms' Fire Department with training, but little actual experience.

Administrator Tucker commented that the salary expense for the new employees can come from tourism funds since most of Station 2's calls are tourist-related, but such an action will require a budget amendment.

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to recommend to Ways and Means the addition of one (1) person per shift at Station 2 as quickly as possible; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **Police Department – Chief Buckhannon**

Chief Buckhannon reported that on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a complainant reported that two (2) white men had stolen a golf cart from the Boardwalk at Grand Pavilion; on August 16<sup>th</sup>, the Police Department received information that the Mount Pleasant Police Department had located the stolen golf cart in a wooded area in their jurisdiction. After being processed for evidence, the golf cart was returned to the owner; a latent print was lifted from the cart. In weekly follow-ups with all eight (8) rental companies involved with the property identification program, the companies advised that the project had been placed on hold due to a lack of staff and the level of activity at this time of year. The single Meet and Greet in August drew only three (3) residents; Mayor Cronin encouraged Chief Buckhannon to continue the events despite the low turnouts. In August dispatchers responded to four thousand nine hundred seventy-five (4,975) calls; three thousand eight hundred seven (3,807) were for the IOP Police Department. There were four hundred eleven (411) traffic stops that generated one hundred seventeen (117) tickets. The

thirty-nine (39) arrests were for either liquor law violations or traffic offenses. Officers responded to seventeen (17) noise complaints and wrote ten (10) citations.

Since the subject is scheduled to be on the September City Council agenda, Mayor Cronin asked Chief Buckhannon if extending the hours that the parking kiosks are operational and the parking lots are kept open has had the desired effect on the crowds that were descending on the island on Sunday evenings as the lots closed and the kiosks were not checked. The Chief responded that it had been "a tremendous help" especially on Sunday when these crowds came to the beach. With the extended hours, the Chief has not needed to have as many extra personnel working.

There was a brief discussion of the presentation to the Keenagers about the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center and the City's transition on October 1. Both the Mayor and Administrator Tucker agreed that the Keenagers had been a tough crowd for the Dispatch Center staff present. The Keenagers expressed a need for more EMS on the island and the future need for paramedics on staff with the City. The Administrator indicated that she was not sure that the message was conveyed to them about how the change would affect them or that the City is going to keep a dispatch presence on the island to monitor 911 calls to intercede if they feel a misstep is occurring.

#### **6. Miscellaneous Business**

Administrator Tucker noted that the Fire Prevention Parade is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and that the Barrier Island Ecothon will take place on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### **7. Adjourn**

**MOTION: Mayor Cronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m.; Vice Chair Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland  
City Clerk