

**Public Safety Committee**  
2:00 p.m., Monday, November 6, 2017

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 6, 2017 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Carroll, Chair Bettelli, Administrator Tucker, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon 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 were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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

**MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2017 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **Citizens' Comments**

**Request for City-sponsored event status for Citadel Brigadier Foundation 5K planned for 7:30 a.m., Saturday, September 29, 2018 – Suzanne Chisolm**

Ms. Chisolm stated that she was on the board for the Citadel Brigadier Foundation and was seeking permission to hold a 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Citadel Brigadier Foundation at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, September 29, 2018; the funds raised will be used for athletic scholarships. The event will begin at the Citadel Beach House, go to Breach Inlet and return to the Beach House; all activities related to the event will be held at the Citadel Beach House. They plan to have minimal signage and will be responsible for all clean-up related to the event. They hope to draw three hundred (300) participants and will cap the number at five hundred (500). Since they have hired a race management company, they anticipate minimal strain on the City's public service personnel, other than traffic control. She said that they would have event insurance, and Administrator Tucker stated that the City would require its being named as "an additional insured" on the policy.

The Administrator stated that, if the race management company was a for-profit corporation, it would need to acquire an Isle of Palms business license.

When Chief Graham offered first responder assistance, Ms. Chisolm said they would be pleased to have them if it was not too much of a strain on the Fire Department. The Chief explained that they would prefer to be on-site so they could react quickly if needed.

**MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the Citadel Brigadier Foundation 5K Walk/Run as a City-sponsored event for Saturday, September 29, 2018; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Administrator Tucker advised Ms. Chisolm that the event would go before City Council on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for final approval.

Councilmember Bergwerf, speaking as a resident of the City, thanked Chair Bettelli for his many years of service to the City as a good citizen, a member of the turtle team and Councilmember.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **A. Update on efforts to remove encroachments from rights-of-way**

Chief Buckhannon reported that, year-to-date, sixty-two (62) property owners have been notified that the right-of-way encroachments in front of their homes must be removed if they do not have an SCDOT Encroachment Permit. Twenty-one (21) property owners have not come into compliance; some have started the removal process, and others who have not responded were sent a second notice in the past two (2) weeks.

##### **B. Status of overgrown lots**

Chief Buckhannon stated that twenty-six (26) properties have been identified year-to-date; of that number, all but eleven (11) have been corrected by the property owners, three (3) are in the process and the remaining eight (8) are working with the City to arrive at a solution.

Councilmember Carroll asked if these lots were in a concentrated area or were spread over the island; the Chief responded that they were all over the island.

##### **C. Update on banning balloons from the beach**

Chief Graham stated that she thought this item was resolved when it was found that the problem is covered in the City's pollution ordinance; she thought that the need now was public education via the website, schools, etc.

##### **D. Update on parking at the Rec Center**

Chief Buckhannon confirmed that the parking spaces have been lined and numbered, and the vehicles at issue have been moved. In recent days, new vehicles have appeared and one (1) of the boats has re-appeared; these vehicles belong to the residents across the street from the Rec. He said that the situation was going to be a moving target as long as the owners are moving the vehicles every forty-eight (48) hours, which was one (1) of the reasons for numbering the spaces.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked if there was a need for signage saying "no parking overnight". In her opinion, such signage would solve the problem.

The Chief stated that state law states forty-eight (48) hours and, if Council wanted to be more restrictive, they would need to make the decision. When asked about vigilance, he replied that the area might not be checked every day, but officers were checking it. He opined that, with "no overnight parking" signage, the same issue would exist.

If the decision were made for "no overnight parking," the Chief reminded the Committee that it must be posted and placed in a conspicuous location. He added that a source of contention on the island has been the number of signs.

Chair Bettelli added that, if a vehicle was parked too long, the City would incur the expense of having it towed.

Administrator Tucker noted that, without signage, an officer could not issue a ticket. She suggested that, if the City wanted changes to that section of the parking ordinance, the changes should include no overnight parking and no storage of equipment, boats, trailers, etc.; in addition, the Administrator proposed that the two (2) spaces at the Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park be limited to park visitors only. Since no signage was there, the Administrator said that these spaces were becoming problematic in that employees of the shopping center occasionally use them.

The Administrator opined that the circumstance would get worse since people are always looking for a free places to store things, and, as the population increases and the parking becomes more restrictive, the demand on those open spaces that are lighted and secure will be greater.

Administrator Tucker stated that benches, a picnic table and bicycle rack were recently added to Mayor Carmen R. Bunch Park.

## **5. New Business**

- A. Consideration of an award of a sole source contract to Parkeon for 6 parking kiosks with coin and stacker boxes in the amount of \$70,457.10** (Pg. 29, Im 313 – State Accommodations Taxes, Public Restrooms/Front Beach/Breach Inlet, Capital Outlay - \$84,000)

**MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to recommend to the Ways and Means Committee the award of a sole source contract to Parkeon for 6 parking kiosks in the amount of \$70,457.10; Councilmember Carroll seconded.**

When Councilmember Bergwerf asked if these kiosks were replacements or additions, Chief Buckhannon replied that they were replacements for six (6) kiosks at Front Beach; he noted that a total of eleven (11) kiosks are on Front Beach, excluding the parking lots, and the remaining five (5) were scheduled to be replaced in the next budget cycle.

**VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- B. Discussion of replacement of Zodiac rubber boat** (deferred FY17 and FY18)

Chief Graham stated that the Zodiac rubber boat currently in use is a 2006 model of military grade rubber; it has sprung multiple leaks and the seams are coming apart; she opined that the City should not invest a lot of money in it. She has found a replacement boat for approximately four thousand dollars (\$4,000). The Chief asked for the Committee's approval to put a request before the ATAX Committee to fund the purchase of a replacement; she also reported that the motor on the boat is in good condition, and the Chief plans to use it on the replacement.

The Committee gave unanimous approval to Chief Graham to seek funds from the ATAX Committee to replace the rubber boat.

## **6. Departmental Reports**

### Fire Department – Chief Graham

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, personnel responded to a mutual aid request from Mount Pleasant for a structure fire; the crew responded with Rescue 1001 to provide an air supply. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, personnel responded to a call of swimmers in distress; they reported having been caught in a rip current, were exhausted and turned over to Charleston County EMS. Personnel responded to an animal bite on October 16<sup>th</sup>, personnel flushed and bandaged the wound; the victim's husband took her to the hospital for further evaluation. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, crews responded to a call of a structure fire at the Sea Cabins; crews extinguished a fire on the stove and found no fire extension before returning to the station. Personnel responded to eighty-three (83) calls in October; of that number, forty-eight (48) were EMS calls. The Chief reported that all pre-incident surveys were current and renewals will begin in January 2018. In the fourteen (14) fire inspections done in October, fifty-two (52) violations were found.

Administrator Tucker interrupted the Chief to inquire about the status of the elevators in the Public Safety Building; the Administrator explained that the City received a "Cease and Desist Order" from the state relative to some inspections and other things that needed to be done.

Chief Graham stated that the Cat 5 test that was missed should be done every five (5) years, and she added that she was surprised that the test was missed because the expense was in the FY18 budget. At this point, the purchase order is in the approval process; the test will be ordered today, but it might not have happened for a couple of weeks. Therefore, the City is requesting an extension from the Labor, Licensing and Regulation Department to allow time for the test to be done. In the interim, the elevators are not operational.

Personnel received an average of thirty-nine (39) hours of training in October. The most significant item on the vehicle maintenance report was the test on the breathable air compressor and replacement of SCBA adapter at Station 2 for approximately one thousand dollars (\$1,000). A class in Basic First Aid and CPR was held for the Coast Guard and a group of Boy Scouts, and personnel assisted with the Connector Run and the SEALKids Swim. Public relations activities in October were the typical ones, i.e. station tours, replacing smoke detectors, changing out batteries in smoke detectors, etc.

Chair Bettelli thanked Chief Graham for her service in Puerto Rico; he stated that "it was gratifying to know that we have people of your caliber serving the City."

### Police Department- Chief Buckhannon

When a house-sitter went to the home under his care, he found two (2) people inside who did not have permission to be there; they had begun gathering items they intended to steal. Despite jumping from a window to escape, the subjects were apprehended by police. On the night of October 17<sup>th</sup>, an officer observed that a vehicle had crashed into a dumpster; a witness provided the officer with a good description and noted that the driver had a small child with him. The subject was located and placed under arrest, and the child was turned over to the Department of Social Services until family could be located. While the subject was detained inside the officer's vehicle,

he kicked the door causing it to bend and not close completely; he also tore the headliner and rendered other damage to the vehicle, totaling twenty-eight hundred dollars (\$2,800). He was transported to the Al Cannon Detention Center. In the month of October officers issued one hundred eighty-one (181) "Property Security Check" notices and seven (7) "You County have been the Victim of a Crime" notices. Communications Specialists responded to forty-six hundred fifty (4,650) calls in the month; of which, forty-one hundred (4,100) were for the Police Department. Thirty-two (32) traffic tickets were issued as a result of three hundred eight (308) traffic stops. Of the twenty (20) arrests made in the month, six (6) were for underage drinking. The Animal Control Officer wrote three (3) citations and secured sixteen (16) animals, including a seagull and a wood duck. In the Criminal Investigation Division, eight (8) cases carried over from September, the officers were assigned seventeen (17) cases, and sixteen (16) cases were closed, leaving nine (9) cases to be carried over to November. Sixteen (16) noise complaints were made; three (3) received citations, seven (7) received warnings and six (6) were determined to be unfounded. Eleven (11) coyote sightings were reported in October.

**7. Miscellaneous Business**

**Net Meeting Date:** 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in the Conference Room.

Chief Buckhannon stated that the City continues to trap coyotes in areas where activity has been spotted.

**8. Executive Session – not needed**

**9. Adjournment**