

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Conference Room, City Hall

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 in the Conference Room of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmember Bergwerf, Chair Bettelli, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon and City Clerk Copeland; Mayor Cronin and Administrator Tucker were attending a meeting of the Charleston County Council's Finance Committee. 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: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2012 as submitted; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – None**

4. Old Business

A. Update on Wayfinding Signs

Marie Langlois, landscape designer for Stantec, and Rick Day, principle with Stantec, were present to update the Committee on progress with the wayfinding signs. Ms. Langlois reported that staff from Stantec has made multiple site visits to the island to observe the flow of traffic and parking issues on the island; staff members road with patrol officers on Memorial Day to get a firsthand look at a typical holiday at the Isle of Palms. Since that visit, the information gathered has been incorporated into a site analysis; some base mapping and conceptual work has begun. In addition, Stantec has begun coordinating with SC DOT for permitting and what they will and will not allow in their rights-of-way. The plan is to present designs to the Committee at its July meeting.

B. Continued Discussion of Beach Access Parking

Councilmember Bergwerf reiterated her position that the goal is to protect the neighborhoods; she pointed out that proving that parking in the neighborhoods is a problem is as simple as driving through them on a weekend and photographing the vehicles. She reflected on the improvements to parking on Palm with the installation of NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER signs. When she asked Chief Buckhannon about the additional enforcement between Breach Inlet and 10th Avenue, the Chief answered that the additional patrols would begin in July with the beginning of the new budget year. Councilmember Bergwerf also commented to the Chief about the NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER signs that have disappeared – pole and sign; Chief Buckhannon indicated that sign removal is a constant problem for the Department, and he had completed another report on stolen signs earlier today.

Councilmember Bergwerf noted that, once the Committee has received the recommendations from the consultants, the Committee should meet to make specific suggestions to Council on beach access parking.

Based on his perspective, Chair Bettelli has seen more cars than ever on the island on weekends, possible due to the closure of the County park at Folly Beach.

C. Update on Speed Study/Enforcement on Hartnett Boulevard between 29th and 30th Avenue

Chief Buckhannon reported that over a three (3) week period, officers spent four (4) hours, at various times of the day, sitting between 29th and 30th Avenue; one (1) officer issued a warning citation for a very quick takeoff from a stopped position. Due to the shortness of the road between 29th and 30th, catching someone speeding was difficult, but officers are continuing to patrol the area since they have been made aware of the problem.

5. New Business

A. Consideration of Citizen's Request for Parallel Parking on 8th Avenue

Chief Buckhannon voiced his opinion that, on 8th Avenue, like other streets on the island, people try to maximize the number of cars that can be parking in any one (1) area. If the City were to consider parallel parking for one (1) area, the City should consider parallel parking throughout the island – an action that would require SC DOT approval. To single out one (1) street would make enforcement very difficult for police officers.

B. Consideration of Request for Annual July 4th Golf Cart Parade

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the July 4th Golf Card Parade; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Consideration of Youth Beach Volleyball at The Windjammer

Bobby Ross, manager of The Windjammer, was appearing before the Committee with two (2) requests; the first was for a beach volleyball league for young girls between the ages of twelve and eighteen (12-18) running from July 11th through August 15th and the second was for a co-ed tournament August 18th and August 19th.

If the number of girls registering for the league is not sufficient to support a league, he would run a beach volleyball camp; play would be on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to dark. A fee of fifty dollars (\$50) would be charged; the fee would pay for the instructor and insurance. Mr. Ross offered to donate any money remaining at the end of the seven (7) weeks to a local charity.

The August tournament would include more local players than did the June tournament; a fifty dollar (\$50) fee would be charged with remaining proceeds going to charity. The maximum number of eight (8) nets would be setup on the beach along with the one (1) net on The Windjammer property.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to recommend to City Council the approval of a youth beach volleyball league and a beach volleyball tournament on August 18th and 19th at The Windjammer contingent upon the organizers having the appropriate insurance and meeting other requirements of the City; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

D. Consideration of Award of Contracts in Excess of \$10,000

Award of contract to Motorola for maintenance for 2 dispatch consoles in Telecommunications Center for \$10,800.35 for budgeted annual maintenance contracts at state contract pricing.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to award the maintenance contract as described; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reported that the Department reported to ninety-one (91) incidents in the month of May and forty-one (41) EMS calls; the new fire inspector performed thirteen (13) inspections where he found eleven (11) violations.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

The Chief reported that, despite rain on Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day, traffic counts were higher than previous years; he compared the numbers to a July 4th. Dispatchers responded to five thousand one hundred seventy-six (5,176) calls with four thousand one hundred eighty-nine (4,189) calls for the Police Department. During the month of May, one hundred sixty-seven (167) reports were written; twenty-four (24) arrests were made with eight (8) being for traffic offenses. Thirty-five (35) noise complaints were received and two (2) citations were written.

7. Executive Session – not needed

8. Miscellaneous Business

Chair Bettelli reminded everyone of the Disaster Expo at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13th at the Public Safety Building. Chief Graham stated that new evacuation maps would be available as well as new flood maps.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m., Thursday, July 12th in the Conference Room.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m.; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk