



Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, February 13, 2024
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Ward, Anderson, Bogosian

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Chief Oliverius, Chief Cornett

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2024

The minutes of the January meeting will be voted on in March.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion and consideration of changes to the noise ordinance

Council Member Bogosian said he would like the March meeting to focus on finalizing changes to the noise ordinance so that it can be discussed at the March Council workshop. He would like to have an ordinance passed by May. Administrator Fragoso said the next quarterly meeting with the business community will be on Friday, and she will bring their feedback to the Committee in March.

Director Kerr pointed out that the new draft of the ordinance removed the reference to dropping the decibel levels by 5 dbas for voice and music, "and then to counterbalance that are increasing by five all of the noise levels." Council Member Ward said he has heard from business owners that the proposed decibel level for GC-2 is too low. Council Member Bogosian intends to discuss the matter with Mr. Ross, Chief Cornett, and Wild Dunes before the next meeting.

Noise monitoring devices in short-term rentals was briefly discussed.

Discussion ensued about making distinctions between violations in residential versus commercial areas. Chief Cornett noted that the person committing a violation in a rental property is issued a ticket and the property gets a strike against it as a founded complaint.

Administrator Fragoso said she would like to find a way for the City to treat short-term rental license violations differently than violations against a commercial establishment. Council Member Bogosian would like penalties that will deter non-conforming behaviors. Administrator

Fragoso cautioned again against removing the City's ability to pull a business license in light of repeated violations.

B. Update on outsourced parking management transition

Administrator Fragoso said the transition with Municipal PCI is going well. She said they will have a 24/7 call center, a dedicated website, and new signage to reflect all changes. She said the City and Municipal PCI will use this year to educate residents on securing residential parking passes so that Municipal PCI can fully take over and digitize the process next year. Municipal PCI will also be pursuing unpaid parking tickets older than 90 days. They will begin working on March 1, 2024 and will have an office in the Public Safety Building.

Administrator Fragoso said the City will still hire 2-3 BSOs to focus on beach services for the season. She also reported that two new parking kiosks have been purchased recently taking only cards. The goal is to move away from cash to a text-based parking system.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of amendments to the short-term rental ordinance to list type of violations that could trigger license revocation

Administrator Fragoso shared a list of violations and penalties found in the City of Folly Beach's short-term rental ordinance. Council Member Bogosian suggested that staff bring a list back to the next meeting of major and minor offenses.

Discussion ensued about lowering the number of complaints that trigger the license revocation process. Director Kerr pointed out that several properties do get 3 complaints per year. Chief Cornett added that they work with the properties to help them to be proactive and comply with the City ordinances.

Director Kerr said, "We'll go through this list to try to kind of categorize each and come up with a policy that adds clarity but that doesn't change how we've historically operated. That that would be a starting point for you all to say okay, let's modify" the number of strikes potentially.

B. Review of Police and Fire Department's 10-year capital plan

Administrator Fragoso shared that the Public Services & Facilities Committee asked for an additional column on the 10-year capital plan that shows the FY25 request as currently envisioned in FY24 and what changes were made from last year's version to the current request."

She then reviewed the capital requests from the Police Department which included vehicle replacement purchases, radios, taser upgrades, half the cost of the access control system for the Public Safety Building, and technology upgrades to the MEOC/training room.

The Fire Department is requesting approval for a letter of intent to purchase a new ladder truck in FY26. The trucks take two years to build. Chief Oliverius explained the need for the new truck and how current trucks are used in light of the need for this replacement. Administrator Fragoso pointed out that no capital outlay is needed at this time and the money is due upon delivery of the truck. Chief Oliverius said they could trade in the old truck to help reduce costs.

Administrator Fragoso reviewed Fire Department capital requests for FY 25, which includes 25% of a rescue boat. The remaining 75% of the cost will be covered by a FEMA grant. The City will also pursue cost sharing options with the County on the 25% portion. Chief Oliverius said that several of the water rescues they conducted last year could have benefitted from such a boat. The boat will also increase the City's fire suppression capability. The boat will be in the water at all times. The current boat could be sold or given to the Police Department.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 11:00am unless jury trials will be taking place that week.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk