



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, March 5, 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

Terri Haack, speaking on behalf of the Wild Dunes Resort, asked the Committee to consider returning the maximum decibel level in commercial areas to 75 decibels during the day and 55 at night. Regarding violations, she asked the Committee to consider "alternative methods for measuring commercial violations and the number of repeated violations and remove language that threatens business license removal except in extreme cases."

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion and consideration of changes to the noise ordinance

Council Member Bogosian said he met with Chief Cornett, Captain Swain, Mr. Bobby Ross, Mr. David Cohen (of the Planning Commission), and the Wild Dunes Resort to discuss possible changes to the noise ordinance. He believes 70 decibels is a reasonable noise level. He would like the suggested decibel levels for the GC-2 district eliminated and replaced with the definition of excessive noise as used in other parts of the ordinance. He also suggested changing the violations required to trigger the revocation process from 5 founded complaints to 3 convicted violations for businesses but not for short-term rental violations.

Committee members discussed the merits of those suggestions. Council Member Anderson would like the decibel level in the commercial district to be raised to 75 decibels but leave the 5 founded complaints in the penalties section of the ordinance.

Administrator Fragoso expressed concern about having different penalty standards for businesses and short-term rentals.

Council Member Bogosian said he would like to have First Reading of the proposed ordinance at the March City Council meeting. He would then like to have David Cohen attend the April Public Safety Committee meeting to help clarify the ordinance and make changes prior to Second Reading at the April City Council meeting.

Council Member Bogosian said he would like to see “the exemption to GC-2 and take out that last piece on the revocation of the licenses” in the draft presented to City Council.

Council Member Anderson said, “I would like to see the commercial area (other than GC-2) maximum decibel level raised back to 75 decibels.”

Administrator Fragoso will have the City Attorney make the changes to the draft ordinance and have it ready for discussion at the City Council Workshop next week.

5. New Business

A. Review of Police and Fire Department’s FY25 operational budget

Administrator Fragoso shared that the bulk of increase in operational expenses throughout the budget comes from payroll increases, an 11.8% increase in health insurance costs, and increases in property and liability insurances.

She highlighted the additions to the Police Department’s operational budget including new badges, K9 expenses, patrol vehicle replacement, and taser replacement.

She shared that the cost of the Deputy Sheriff the City hires to direct traffic on summer weekends has increased 38%. She is going to speak with the County about sharing that expense.

Chief Oliverius gave an update on the paramedic program. He said the program is on track to begin in June as originally planned. He is working on the DHEC licensure and the medical control staff is in place. He is interviewing a paramedic/firefighter on Friday, training is ongoing, and equipment is arriving on schedule.

Administrator Fragoso shared the additions to the Fire Department’s operational budget including funds to repair the elevator at Fire Station 2, the City’s share of Jaws-of-Life equipment, jet ski replacement, and training mannequins.

She noted those expenses in each department that are being paid with tourism funds.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 11:00am.

7. **Adjournment**

Council Member Bogosian made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk