



Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, April 2, 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, Chief Oliverius, Chief Cornett

2. Citizen's Comments

Mel Miles, property owner and owner of Exclusive Property Management, came before the Committee to speak about his concerns with the proposed noise ordinance. He does believe there should be an objective measurement for noise violations, but he also believes noise concerns are not an island-wide concern. He thinks most of the noise. He shared decibel-level data for noises such as pool pumps, HVAC units, and the ocean.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 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

Administrator Fragoso agreed with Council members Bogosian and Anderson's suggestion that the noise ordinance be more specific about amplified sound and speech. She said, "Making it specific to noise from an amplified source or speech eliminates the confusion that there seems to be about a complaint being generated by a pool pump or a generator. If that is something that we don't want to count towards a potential violation, then that would be the way to do it. Maybe to reinsert that section recommended by the Planning Commission."

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the decibel levels in the proposed ordinance and then shared a slide detailing decibel level suggestions by zoning district and by land use. She also reviewed the current zoning map.

Chief Cornett shared that Wild Dunes' security handles with most of their noise complaints before it becomes a police department issue.

Council Member Bogosian would like the next draft of the ordinance to include the previously removed language about speech and music, expanded definitions, and noise limits by zoning district.

Council Member Ward asked what problem is being solved by the implementation of the ordinance. Chief Cornett said that while they do not have a large number of calls regarding noise complaints, it is helpful to have an objective ordinance to explain to people why they are getting a ticket. He added that most people will comply with requests from the police to stop the noise-related behavior leading to their interference.

Administrator Fragoso added that the ordinance is in response to the community's calls for more enforcement regarding noise. The Police Department asked for something objective to use when handling noise complaints. Administrator Fragoso noted that decibel limits are an agreement with the community about what is considered reasonable and acceptable. This ordinance is "an effort to facilitate enforcement."

Council Member Ward expressed concern again that the ordinance treats short-term rental license holders differently than homeowners/full-time residents.

Administrator Fragoso will also include language in the next draft about Chief Cornett's ability to deny requests for events that are not in the public interest. The next draft will be discussed at the City Council Workshop on April 9.

B. Discussion of identifying violations that could trigger revocation of short-term rental license

Administrator Fragoso reviewed the proposed list activities that could lead to strikes/founded complaints against a business license. Chief Cornett noted that some of these violations could be removed from the list since they are addressed in other ordinances.

Council Member Bogosian suggested deferring conversation about these violations until after the noise ordinance is passed.

Council Member Anderson suggested adding some sort of mitigation effort to the business license revocation process so that business license holders have the chance to rectify the situation. Chief Cornett said that the Code Enforcement Officer does work with property owners and managers to correct issues. He added that the property management companies have been very proactive in dealing with complaints.

C. Discussion of concepts for improving parking, crosswalks, pedestrian infrastructure on Palm Boulevard

Administrator Fragoso shared the 6 concepts for Palm Boulevard developed by SCDOT. She said next steps include sharing the concepts with City Council, seeking public feedback on the concepts, and then working with SCDOT on engineering, surveying, and securing funding. She would like City Council to narrow down the options before taking the concepts to the public. Implementation of the selected concept will happen over several years and in phases.

D. Discussion of parking enforcement transition

Administrator Fragoso shared a monthly report from PCI detailing their efforts in March. She and Chief Cornett meet with them weekly and will continue to do so for the next several months. She said concerns about lack of enforcement on Palm Boulevard have been addressed. She pointed out that 100% enforcement cannot be expected at all times due to the fluidity of beach parking.

The monthly report will be shared with Council in the workshop packet. Year-over-year data will be shared as more information becomes available.

E. Review of Police & Fire Department's FY25 Budget

Administrator Fragoso pointed out that most of the monies in the 10-year capital plans for both Police and Fire are related to vehicle or apparatus replacement. Vehicles are now replaced every six years. Chief Cornett said the radio replacement will be necessary to do all at once and the City needs to keep up with the County as they make changes.

Administrator Fragoso said the second draft of the budget assumes leases for the new fire trucks. Chief Cornett will review the vehicle replacement schedule to see if it can be evened out over time so that there is not such a large expense in one year.

5. New Business -- none

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 11:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk