



Public Safety Committee Meeting
9:00am, Tuesday, July 17, 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

Ryan Killian, 219 Forest Trail, came before the Committee to express his concerns about residents feeding raccoons near his home, which he says is dangerous to his family with young children. He said he has asked the neighbors to stop feeding them and they have refused. He said he has trapped and relocated some of the animals, but it is very expensive. He asked the Committee to consider an ordinance that would prohibit the feeding of wild animals.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2024 meeting. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to suspend the rules of order and change the order of the agenda to move the discussion of traffic to the last item under New Business. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business -- none

5. New Business

A. Discussion of proposed ordinance prohibiting feeding wildlife

Administrator Fragoso said she fully supports the passage of such an ordinance. She said in the proposed ordinance wildlife is defined as any animals that have not been domesticated. Council Member Bogosian asked if the ordinance includes the feeding of birds, and Chief Cornett said no. The ordinance does define waterfowl in the definition of animals that cannot be fed. He will also look to the County's ordinance about the feeding of feral cats so that they are in adherence with County laws. He said that addressing the cat and raccoon problem will ultimately help the coyote problem. He also said it does not make feeding your dog outside illegal. The intent is

specific to the prohibition of feeding wild animals. The fine could be as high as \$500 and or 30 days in jail.

Council Member Ward said he would not support an ordinance that prohibits the feeding of feral cats.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend the ordinance to City Council for discussion and consideration with the addition of information about feral cats. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and consideration of approval of taser upgrade five-year subscription – Year 1 Cost not to exceed \$18,171 [FY25 Budget, Police Department, State ATAX Fund]

Chief Cornett said the current tasers are no longer being supported and the new tasers have increased technology and safety features. This subscription service will replace broken tasers at no cost and will provide training and annual certification.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve and recommend this purchase to City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and consideration of approval of drone hardware and eight-year software subscription – Year 1 cost not to exceed \$23,000 [FY25 Budget, Police Department, Hospitality Tax and State ATAX Funds]

Chief Cornett said congressional law no longer allows for the use of foreign-made drones. The higher expense in the first year of this subscription covers the cost of the drone. He gave details on how the drone has been and will be used for public safety.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve and recommend this purchase to City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and consideration of issuing letter of intent for purchase replacement of 2003 95' Ladder Truck in FY27 (18–21-month lead time for construction) in the amount of \$2.225 million

Administrator Fragoso said the FY27 budget assumes the City will incur debt for the purchase of this truck. A letter of intent from the City is needed now to ensure the City's place in the production line. The letter will also save the City from price increases. Chief Oliverius detailed the need to replace the ladder truck.

No down payment is needed with the letter of intent, but some portion of the money will be due about 14-15 months into production and then the remainder due at delivery.

Chief Oliverius said ISO requires certain pieces of fire equipment to maintain ratings and lower insurance rates. The ladder truck is necessary in an area with wind-driven fire potential and numerous elevated occupancies.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to recommend to City Council the issuing of a letter of intent for the purchase of a ladder truck to replace the 2003 95' ladder truck in FY27. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion and consideration of sole source contract with Schindler for elevator replacement in Fire Station 2 in an amount not to exceed \$68,000 [FY25 Budget, Fire Department, Capital Projects Fund]

Administrator Fragoso said Schindler is the only company that can provide this service. A full memo explaining the need for sole sourcing will be presented at the City Council meeting. The current elevator was damaged by flooding, which should not be a concern moving forward thanks to the drainage work done along 41st Avenue.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve and recommend this purchase to City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion of Fire Department restructuring proposal for command staff

Administrator Fragoso explained that Chief Hathaway will be retiring at the end of October. No new positions will be added to the Fire Department, but a restructuring will “provide a little bit more of a seamless transition when it comes to the addition of the EMS program.”

Chief Oliverius said this restructuring will increase efficiencies, allow for more operational ownership, and improve operations. Administrator Fragoso referenced the organizational chart in the meeting packet.

Chief Oliverius said that following Council’s approval of the plan he will advertise for the new positions internally first and will use a panel of outside assessors to help with the selection process. He would like the positions filled by September so Chief Hathaway’s successor can take advantage of his institutional knowledge.

Administrator Fragoso added that this restructuring allows for the unique ability to move up in a small department.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve and recommend the restructuring to City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Traffic Report

Council Member Anderson’s notes regarding her traffic observations are attached to these minutes. She believes regular traffic updates and discussion are needed to continue to improve traffic flows on the island. This discussion is to be focused on traffic flow on the Isle of Palms Connector. She believes a signal timing study at the Rifle Road intersection is key in helping traffic flow off the island especially when traffic is backed up due to a summer afternoon thunderstorm. It is important to have data to share with SCDOT when requesting a change.

Chief Cornett noted that the Town of Mt. Pleasant has always been quick to help during heavy traffic times by placing extra officers at the intersection with Rifle Range Road and allowing for special signal timing during the summer.

Chief Cornett spoke about the department's goal to reduce collisions. He said there has been a noticeable reduction in traffic collisions on the island. Between May 1 and July 16, there were 42 collisions in 2022, 41 collisions in 2023, and 28 in 2024. Most collisions happen around Palm Blvd. & 14th and the front beach area. Most are fender benders.

The traffic discussion will continue at the next meeting.

6. Miscellaneous Business

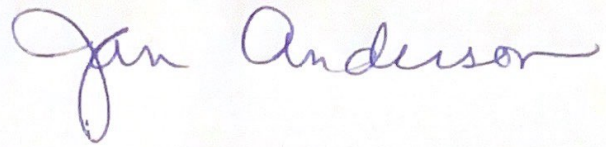
The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Wednesday, August 6, 2024 at 11:00am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Anderson made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk



2024 Traffic Observations, IOP Connector (SC 703)

The theoretical capacity of a two-lane two-way road is about 24,000 vpd (vehicles per day) usually reported in an average annual daily traffic volume (aadt). Capacity at intersections is usually the limiting factor on urban streets and is measured in vehicles per hour (vph). A single lane at an intersection has an ideal capacity of 2000 vph but many factors affect that capacity.

Factors affecting roadway capacity:

- 1) Peaking characteristics: Traffic on the island is atypical, having no unique am (7-9) or pm (4-6) peak periods but rather increases gradually in the morning until 10 or 11 am, remaining high until late afternoon when it gradually decreases. So we get more efficient use of the roads throughout the day.
- 2) Day of the week: weekday traffic flow is usually highest during am and pm rush hours; island traffic is highest during off-peak times on weekdays and on weekends. This creates a signal timing opportunity different from Mt Pleasant's needs.
- 3) Directional distribution: traffic flow is more balanced on and off the island than for off-island roads. This is also more efficient use of roadway.
- 4) Proportion of heavy trucks (18 wheelers): the volume of heavy trucks is low which also business and contributes to maximizing capacity. Most of our "Trucks" are pickup trucks and vans. Only construction supplies are delivered by heavy trucks.
- 5) Driveways: Vehicles entering and exiting driveways slow traffic and may cause delays. Fortunately there are no driveways on the Connector, maximizing road capacity.
- 6) Parking: vehicles parking and unparking can reduce roadway capacity. There is no parking along the Connector, maximizing capacity.
- 7) Signal green time allocated to an intersection approach is the single greatest factor affecting capacity. There are two intersections at each end of the Connector (at Rifle Range and Palm Blvd) that affect the Connector's capacity. Because signal time is split among four or more separate phases, Connector capacity is reduced by as much as half or more at Rifle Range Rd. and possibly by a third at Palm Blvd. Additional through and turn lanes added at intersections increase capacity.

Traffic Data

- 1) Traffic volumes on the Connector consistently exceed 20,000 vpd throughout the year, and are over a theoretical capacity of 24,000 vpd throughout the summer season. Volumes have been record over 29,000 vpd every Saturday in June 2024.
- 2) Intersection capacity is harder to calculate without turning movement volumes and signal timing data but it is clear that the volumes cannot be processed through the two intersections as the signals are timed today. A signal timing study for these intersections will allow the intersections to function more efficiently and somewhat relieve congestion.
- 3) If the connector is restriped to include one lane onto the island and two lanes off of the island, the additional lane will increased stacking capacity and improve flow off of the island and through the Rifle Range Rd. intersection.
- 4) If the two signals are interconnected, then traffic would flow more smoothly off of the island. However, the limiting factor today is the capacity of the Rifle Range Rd. Intersection to process island traffic.
- 5) It appears that 2024 traffic volumes on the Connector are similar to 2023 volumes which may indicate that the road has reached its limit. When roadway capacity is reached, any increases result in gridlock and throughput is seriously impaired. We have experienced that condition several time this summer when it has taken more than an hour to get on or off the island.
- 6) It appears that delays increase when one-way volumes on the Connector exceed 1100 vph which is occurring as early at 11 am on our busiest days.
- 7) The highest volumes on and off of the island occur during weekday off-peak times and on weekends. In contrast Mt. Pleasant traffic volume is highest on weekdays during am and pm rush hours. There is an opportunity to capitalize on this difference in need at the Rifle Range Rd. Intersection by reallocating weekday off-peak signal time (10 am - 4:30 pm) and on weekends to benefit island traffic without jeopardizing traffic flow on other approaches.