



Public Safety Committee
11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2024
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

Public Comment:

Citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address and topic to Nicole DeNeane, City Clerk, at nicoled@iop.net no later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. Citizens may also provide written public comment here: <https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

Agenda

- 1. Call to order** and acknowledgement that the press and the public have been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
- 2. Citizen's Comments** – All comments have a time limit of three (3) minutes.
- 3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes** – September 9, 2024
- 4. Old Business** – None
- 5. New Business**
 - a. After action review of beach parking season with PCI and consideration of recommendation for next season
 - b. Discussion of adding a second canine to the Police Department
- 6. Miscellaneous Business**
- 7. Adjournment**



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
9:00am, Tuesday, September 10, 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

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2024

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

Discussion of proposed ordinance prohibiting feeding wildlife

Council Member Bogosian noted that the proposed changes to the ordinance include exceptions for feeding birds and feral cats. Council Member Ward said he would like the ordinance to address only the issue of feeding raccoons. He believes the ordinance to be overboard. He said the feeding of deer and squirrels is not addressed in the ordinance.

Chief Cornett said he spoke with the City Prosecutor about the current and proposed ordinances. He said the current ordinance would require him to call in expert witnesses to prosecute a case. He would prefer the new ordinance for prosecutorial purposes. Chief Cornett also said that limiting feeding of wild animals is supported by the Director of the USDA.

Council Member Bogosian said residents have asked for something to do be done. Administrator Fragoso reminded the Committee of the increase coyote activity this year, adding that this new ordinance could be part of the City's comprehensive coyote management plan.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend the ordinance to the City Council with the changes noted in the draft. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Bogosian, Anderson

Nays: Ward

The motion passed 2-1.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Police Department proposal to change Police Captain position to Deputy Police Chief

Chief Cornett said he is making this change in title to match other City departments and neighboring agencies. He said this is a change in title only. There is no pay increase or additional responsibilities being added to the position.

Administrator Fragoso said the Administration Committee will also review this change.

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to approve the proposed change. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration of approval of implementation of new building access control system for Public Safety Building [FY25 Budget, Capital Projects Fund, State ATAX]

Administrator Fragoso said this expenditure is in the FY25 budget. An updated total to include the purchase of a system that protects both the Public Safety Building and Fire Station 2 will be available at the workshop. The price is within the budget.

Chief Cornett said the current system is at the end of its useful life and was original to the building. The new system will keep the City in compliance with current safety measures and will also protect the room housing the City's servers.

Council Member Bogosian noted the sales tax on the invoice and asked if the City is exempt from paying sales tax. She said she would look into it.

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

C. Consideration of approval of training room IT upgrades [FY25 Budget, Hospitality Tax and State ATAX Funds]

Chief Cornett said these upgrades will help with better presentation options for training as well as enhance the capabilities of the City's EOC. Administrator Fragoso pointed out that the City attempted to have these upgrades done during the Public Safety Building renovation project, but they could not be done then.

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. Report on summer traffic volumes based on SCDOT Connector traffic counts

Council Member Anderson said the IOP Connector was built to handle a capacity of 20,000-24,000 cars per day. Traffic count data indicates 20,000+ cars per day crossed the Connector

every day in July. She said that while traffic flow at the intersections on either end of the Connector is working better, she believes a signal timing study is needed at both intersections.

Administrator Fragoso said that the changes implemented by SCDOT and the Town of Mt. Pleasant during the season and at peak hours have worked very well. She knows of no efforts to study the signal timing. She will reach out to SCDOT.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Wednesday, October 1, 2024 at 11:00am. Administrator Fragoso will present an after-action report and recommendations from PCI, the City's parking management vendor.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Ward made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: DESIREE

FROM: CHIEF KEVIN CORNETT

SUBJECT: SECOND POLICE WORKING DOG (CANINE UNIT)
REQUEST

DATE: 10/14/2024

CC:



In 2023, the City acquired a police working dog, Sandy. She was trained in narcotics detection and officially went on patrol at the beginning of July in 2023. Since then, she has been used on several calls related to narcotics. Sandy has been used to conduct open air sniffs in 17 incidents over the year that she has been with IOPPD. She has given a successful trained alert in 13 of those incidents. As a result, 108.16 grams and 12 dosage units of illegal narcotics have been seized. Those incidents have also led to the seizure of 3 firearms that resulted in weapons violation charges. K9 officer, Sandy, has also attended a total of 7 community events so far and has conducted demonstrations for onlookers at some of these events. She is expected to test for her tracking certification soon and will then be of even greater use to protecting those that live, work and play in the City of Isle of Palms.

I am writing this memorandum to express our interest in adding an additional police working dog (K9). It is not uncommon for an agency to have multiple police working dogs. Mt. Pleasant PD, Charleston PD, Charleston County SO, Goose Creek PD, North Charleston PD, and Charleston County Aviation Authority all have multiple dogs employed at their agencies.

I have included an attachment that was submitted to me from Patrol Officer Tyler Nakken relating to this request. I have read his memorandum and agree with his assessment of how useful a second police working dog would be for our city. Some of the main points to support the recommendation include:

- **Breed** - The breed of the dog would be different than the shepherd mix like Sandy. A “floppy eared” dog is typically a bit more social for the community to interact with. These dog breeds include Labradors, Pointers, and Beagles. These breeds are more associated with being great dogs for community events. I anticipate that this type of dog would enhance our community policing efforts and would be at many more community events than what our current K9 has participated in. Sandy is not an aggressive dog but her personality has shown that she does not enjoy interacting with groups of people. A “floppy eared” dog is less likely to have that personality and those breeds are often better with these interactions. Our goal with a second dog would be to ensure that the dog would be more focused on community policing efforts.
- **Scheduling conflict** - There have been incidents where a dog has been requested, but Sandy was not on-duty and/or not available to respond. We would adjust the schedule for

a second narcotics detection dog to alternate the schedule to have a canine team (handler and dog) working every day of the week with annual leave or sick leave being the main exceptions.

- **Cost of dog and certification** - There are grants and additional funding opportunities for a second police working dog that would include the dog and the cost of certifying the dog and handler in a field of police work.
- **Certification type** - There are two different certifications (field of police work) that we could look at for an additional police working dog and either one would be a benefit for the City of Isle of Palms.
 - o One option is to obtain the same certifications that Sandy has, narcotics detection and tracking. This would allow us to alternate the schedule to have a police dog work every day of the week with annual leave or sick leave being the main exceptions.
 - o The second option would be to certify a police dog as an explosive detection dog. As our City continues to hold large events like the IOP Connector Run, Lowvelo, festivals on front beach, and even the large concerts at the Windjammer, there is a growing potential of a safety threat at these events. An explosive detection dog would enhance our response to keeping these events safe.
 - A dog certified in explosive detection is a single purpose dog (only one certification) due to the number of odors that the dog trains on for explosives. That is why Sandy cannot serve in this role.
 - o I believe that the agency would benefit from either certification route we took. An explosive detection dog would not solve the scheduling requests for the narcotics and tracking requests, but does provide for another level of safety during events.
- **Budget impact** - There would be an increase in the amount budgeted for the canine unit for Isle of Palms Police Department by adding a second dog. They are explained in the chart below:

Food	\$1,200	Annual cost
Vet	\$500	Annual cost
Annual certifications	\$50	Annual cost
Various equipment for training purposes	\$750	Annual cost
K9 police vehicle insert	\$4,500	One-time purchase
Heat alarm system for vehicle	\$1,000	One-time purchase

While there may be additional costs that arise, these will be the primary costs, and we would expect to maintain an average of \$2,500 per dog in each budget year that would be for the canine unit.

It is my recommendation that the city add a second police working dog if the funding for the dog and certification can be obtained through a grant. I believe that this would greatly enhance our readiness level and would provide for an even safer community.