



Public Safety Committee

10:00am, Wednesday May 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Zoom call due to COVID-19 Pandemic:

Broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Council members Buckhannon, Ward, and Pounds

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

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – March 2, 2020

Council Member Ward made a motion to approve, and Council Member Pounds seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

3. Citizens' Comments – none

4. Old Business

A. Update on the refurbishment of the 95' ladder truck

Chief Graham reported that the work on the truck is on schedule and should be returned by the end of June.

B. Discussion of implementing paid parking on the designated public beach parking zones

Administrator Fragoso said she reached out to SCDOT this week to see if the City will need a modified encroachment permit. Upon implementation, the parking spaces will be available to those paying via a phone app, so no kiosks will be needed. License Plate Readers will be needed to enforce the payment in those spaces and the monies for those are in the FY21 budget. It is the City's intent that residents with annual parking decals will be permitted to park in these areas without paying. Chief Cornett said that staff will need to be educated and trained on the use of the LPRs upon their purchase. Administrator Fragoso noted the need for a public educational component as this parking plan is being implemented.

C. Update on Public Safety Building rehabilitation project

Administrator Fragoso said, "The project is moving along very well. We have weekly conference calls with the Design Build Team and our owner's representative every Thursday. So we will have this week's tomorrow at 1:00. I will give you a quick update. So from the interior, drywall

is pretty much complete on the second floor for the fire department. The HVAC ducts for the second floor for the police department is being installed. For the exterior demo is pretty much complete and all the siding has been removed, and they have started, if you all drive around, you will see some of the siding being installed as we speak. There has been a significant amount of work in the sally port as well...So the roofing I think it is one of the biggest components of this whole project and they are installing some of the new roof panels that are onsite. So they are waiting on waterproofing work to be completed so that activity on the roof can continue. Painting, we have some mock-ups outside for different colors to choose from. I have not yet seen it, so I am eager to look at some of the colors that Chief Graham has picked for the building. The HVAC equipment has been ordered. There was a slight delay due to COVID-19, but we think that we are going to get that on schedule. All new light fixtures have been ordered, and we have started coordinating the move of the Fire Department from the third floor. As you all know, the work was slated to start on the third floor, and due to the pandemic situation, we delayed that so that our Fire Department crews could stay in the third floor instead of the trailers.” She said the project is still on schedule and on budget. No new deficiencies have been discovered to date. She also reported that the construction staff and public safety staff have had little to no interaction. Council Member Buckhannon asked Administrator Fragoso to check about the timing of the decision needed for the portico.

Chief Graham said the firefighters will move into the trailers by May 30. Two UV light systems have been ordered for the bedrooms and the furniture cleaned and moved.

D. Discussion of recommendations from Planning Commission related to short-term rentals

Director Kerr reminded Committee Members of the recommendations regarding short-term rentals offered up by the Planning Commission. Chief Cornett explained the need for an owner’s representative to be nearby in case there is an issue with a property. Committee members questioned the requirement of adding a business license number to the advertising of a short-term rentals. Council Member Buckhannon stated he would like more information from the City Attorney about that particular recommendation before moving forward.

E. Discussion on pedestrian crossing at Palm Boulevard and IOP Connector

Chief Cornett said SCDOT is still telling him that the delay will be the same. “It is going to be the same 41-second delay regardless if we instituted the walk or we delay the turn. And even the one issue that was brought up from Council that I think we should look at trying to find a resolution for too, is even if we stop the left-hand turn coming from Palm onto the connector, we still have a right-hand turn that has a yield so that would still be the other issue.” He said he would like more time to study the intersection when there is more traffic and then make his recommendations to the Committee.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of parking and traffic complaints on 7th Avenue

Administrator Fragoso reviewed a complaint from a resident living on 7th Avenue, who claims there is more parking on that street than the other finger streets, leading to more traffic there. He reports that people are not parallel parking there as they should. Chief Cornett said patrols have been stepped up in that area and a significant number of parking tickets have been written.

B. Discussion of regulations for dogs on the beach and update on number of violations and citizen's concerns

Following the report of a citizen being bitten recently by a dog off leash on the beach, Chief Cornett reported 9 dog off leash tickets were written last year and only 2 have been written so far this year. Now that the beach is open, he will instruct the officers to be more aggressive in enforcing that law. Administrator Fragoso said the Public Safety Department will use its social media to create a video to educate the public about the dogs on the beach and leash laws.

C. Discussion of Governor's social distancing guidelines for restaurants and enforcement

Administrator Fragoso said Chief Cornett, Chief Graham and their staffs are visiting local businesses to discuss the rules in the Governor's Executive Orders regarding indoor and outdoor dining. The City's website now includes a page of resources for restaurant owners, which is also being provided in paper format to them as well. Administrator Fragoso said she plans to invite the restaurant owners to a meeting with MUSC and their Back-to-Business Program. Chief Graham shared that they have provided placards to restaurants detailing their allowable occupancies.

7. Highlights of Departmental Reports

A. Fire Department – Chief Graham

Chief Graham reviewed the calls for service and notable events for the Fire Department in April. She shared that the new truck has arrived but cannot be put into service until proper training has been completed.

Chief Graham then reported on a May 3 incident involving two firefighters pulling a swimmer to safety at Breach Inlet with very little equipment. They will be presented with awards in the near future.

B. Police Department – Chief Cornett

Chief Cornett gave statistics regarding citations at the checkpoint and during the reopening to date: 64 warnings given during the beach access path closings, 27 social distancing warnings, 37 warnings for stay-at-home violations, 3 citations for social distancing, four citations for stay-at-home violations. 598 warnings for keep moving were given and one citation for a short-term rental violation. After the checkpoint was lifted, Public Safety has issued 478 parking tickets,

and numerous violations not related to the pandemic. He noted the staff has worked very hard throughout the shutdown.

Chief Cornett reported on the recent trial use of a drone on the beach. He said it could be used to help with social distancing, look for missing children, and traffic. He said there is a 100% DOJ grant for drones as well as a California company giving them away at the moment to gain name recognition in the law enforcement community. Committee members expressed concern about the use of a drone and said they would like to see a draft policy statement regarding the use of drones on the island before agreeing to move forward with applying for one.

8. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Monday, June 1, 2020 at 9am.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk