

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in the City Hall Conference Room, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the meeting were Councilmembers Bergwerf and Carroll, Chair Bettelli, Administrator Tucker, Police Chief Buckhannon, Fire Chief Graham, Assistant Administrator Fragoso and City Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

1. Chair Bettelli called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 12, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

David Grant, a producer for HGTV's *Island Life*, called in to describe the premise of the television show; Mr. Grant stated that HGTV planned to film three (3) episodes of the show on the Isle of Palms between October 12 and October 31, 2016. Each episode will follow a family as they get more acquainted with the island and search for a beach house; the crew will be made up of eight (8) people. They will be transported in two (2) mini-vans and will not require any special attention from public safety personnel; permissions have been obtained from the restaurants, businesses and homeowner associations where scenes might be filmed. They want to feature the best parts of the island and its beauty.

Administrator Tucker reported that the City has received the certificate of insurance, naming the City as an additional insured; she has also informed the show that they must get a business license. Since they will be filming in public areas, they are also required to have City-sponsored event status.

The Administrator told Mr. Grant that, while they are on the island, the Recreation Department will hold an event known as "Ghostly Tide Tales," where families gather on the beach to hear ghost stories about the area from experienced storytellers.

The Administrator explained that approval from this committee was not the final step; the final approval comes from City Council. In order to meet the show's timeline, the Mayor would call a Special Meeting, but she did not think Mr. Grant would need to be on the phone.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to re-order the Agenda to discuss the one item under New Business; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. New Business

Consideration of granting City-sponsored event status to the filming of 3 episodes of HGTV's *Island Life*

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to grant City-sponsored event status for the filming for 3 weeks of 3 episodes of HGTV's *Island Life*; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion of Encroachments in rights-of-way

Chief Buckhannon said that the Department was gearing up to look at encroachments; he stated that the Department has identified the process they will use to identify all of the properties; once that work is done, he will be working with the Building Department plats and the City Administrator to produce the letters that will be sent to property owners with the most egregious encroachments.

B. Update on speed enforcement on 41st Avenue – Results of volume speed survey

Chief Buckhannon reported that he had set out a traffic counter from September 16th through September 22nd, a full seven (7) day timeframe. The speed survey counted the number of vehicles along with their speed; on 41st Avenue, eleven thousand one hundred thirty-three (11,133) cars travelled in both directions on 41st Avenue during that period. The speed limit on 41st is twenty-five miles per hour (25 mph); the Chief noted that 41st Avenue is one (1) of the few roads on the island with that speed limit; other roads have a speed limit of thirty miles per hour (30 mph), if not posted otherwise. The results of the survey are as follows:

<u># of cars</u>	<u>speed</u>
4,841 (44%)	25 mph or less
9,267 (83%)	30 mph or less
10,873 (98%)	35 mph or less
11,109 (99%)	less than 40 mph
20	exceeded 40 mph
4	exceeded 45 mph

In summary, the majority of vehicles on 41st Avenue are driving less than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph); that speed is where enforcement normally begins.

According to the Chief, one (1) option available to the City is to lower the standard to write tickets at less than thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph). Since the speeding is so sporadic, the Chief cannot commit an officer to be on the scene when infractions occur.

Councilmember Bergwerf commented that a vehicle going thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph) would appear to be going faster; she opined that the residents of 41st would not find a thirty-five mile per hour (35 mph) speed limit acceptable.

The Administrator advised that the new speed devices that will be installed on the speed limit signs should be installed as soon as they arrive followed by another speed survey afterward to determine whether the devices make a measureable difference.

Councilmember Carroll said that he would like to see a speed survey repeated on a busy summer week.

C. Update on traffic cameras

Administrator Tucker recalled that the City has gotten traffic cameras on 14th Avenue directed on the Connector live on the SCDOT's 511 website; Mount Pleasant and the other beach communities approached Charleston County for them to install additional cameras throughout the area that also would be on SCDOT 511. Cameras were installed on Sullivan's Island and in Mount Pleasant on the other side at Rifle Range on the other side of the Connector, one (1) at Rifle Range and the Connector at the intersection, and one (1) on James Island for Folly Beach; one (1) is also installed and functioning, but not on SCDOT 511, at the intersection of Rifle Range and the Connector. The camera at Rifle Range and the Connector can be viewed only through Mount Pleasant's closed system; they are unwilling to pay the twenty-four hundred dollars (\$2,400) a year necessary to make it live, which is the same amount the City is paying for the electricity and the cable service to have its camera on the 511 system. The Administrator repeated that the Town of Mount Pleasant is unwilling to pay the fees and the County says that it agreed to purchase and install the cameras, not the operational expense. If someone does not step up to pay the twenty-four hundred dollars (\$2,400) a year, the camera at Rifle Range and the Connector will not be accessible to the general public.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved for the City of Isle of Palms to pay the operational fees of \$2,400 per year to make the traffic camera at Rifle Range Road and the Connector become a part of the SCDOT 511 system; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Councilmember Bergwerf asked if anyone had spoken with the Mayor of Mount Pleasant to confirm that Mount Pleasant is not going to pay.

Administrator Tucker reported that Mayor Cronin had contacted Linda Page, Mount Pleasant Mayor, who confirmed the information as correct; additionally, Sullivan's Island is going to pay the fees for the camera on the other side of the Ben Sawyer Bridge in Mount Pleasant.

The Administrator voiced the opinion that traffic cameras are a great tool on the SCDOT 511 system and that the public should have access to this camera since it is in place.

Chair Bettelli expressed disappointment that Mount Pleasant did not have "a few dollars" in their budget to contribute to public safety.

VOTE: The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Chief Graham

The Chief reported that, on September 2, personnel responded to a possible structure fire in Wild Dunes that turned out to be a lightning strike; residents were not home at the time, but damage

occurred to both the interior and exterior of the structure. On September 13th, personnel responded to a call of a person in the water between IOP and Goat Island; once he was pulled from the water, he was transported. Personnel also responded to a report of a swimmer in distress in the water in the area of the County Park on September 16th; the crew determined that the person had gone into cardiac arrest. After basic life support protocols were initiated, the person was turned over to Charleston County EMS and transported to a local hospital. In the month of September, personnel responded to ninety-one (91) calls, of which forty-one (41) were EMS. Although the QRV has been removed from the island 24/7, Charleston County's goal is to have an ambulance or other transport unit on the island quicker. The Fire Inspector conducted nine (9) inspections and located thirty-nine (39) violations. In advance of the impending storm, Administrative Assistant Golden called all residents on the City's Priority Assistance list.

Police Department

Chief Buckhannon reported that the kiosks on Front Beach and in the municipal parking lots have been covered for the winter months. Information is that one thousand forty-one (1,041) runners/walkers participated in the IOP Connector Run on October 1st. The Lunch Buddies program re-started at Sullivan's Island Elementary School on September 30th, and on October 1st, Officer King spoke to the Keenagers about identify theft.

7. Miscellaneous Business

6:00 p.m., Monday, October 17th – Beach Season Parking After Action

4:00 p.m., Monday, October 24th – Special Council Meeting

Director Page is trying to make arrangements to hold the meeting of October 17th at the Recreation Center.

Administrator Tucker reported that staff is approaching the October 17th meeting as basically a meeting for citizens to tell Council their thoughts on the first season of the beach parking program; the October 24th meeting is intended to be a work session where Council will take the public input from the prior week, and input from department managers, from BSOs, and the communications personnel, as well as a list of possible changes to the parking ordinance, assuming the decision is made to amend it. The October 24th meeting will be to come to a consensus of what the City might want to do differently in the future.

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 7th in the Conference Room.

8. Executive Session – not needed

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m.;
Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:
Marie Copeland, City Clerk