

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2016

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, 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, Fire Chief Graham, Police Chief Buckhannon, 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 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 March 3, 2016 as submitted; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Citizens' Comments – delayed**

4. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion of Encroachments in the Rights-of-Way**

Administrator Tucker stated that the City continues to stop the installation of new encroachments in the rights-of-way and to educate residents about the need for and process for obtaining an SCDOT encroachment permit.

Chief Buckhannon reported that, with the new parking plan, the Police Department is getting complaints from residents and non-residents about where parking is allowed, and, if an encroachment is in the right-of-way, whether it is legal to drive over it to park? Some people have been adamant that they can ignore the encroachment and park anyway, so there is the possibility of a clash between the driver and the resident.

Responding to Councilmember Carroll, Chief Buckhannon stated that both the IOP police and SCDOT have the authority to enforce right-of-way parking.

According to Administrator Tucker, SCDOT would prefer for the City to enforce, but the City want to know that SCDOT would support the City if it chose to take a hard stand since the rights-of-way are SCDOT property.

Chief Buckhannon noted that some of the encroachments on the island are permitted, but he does not think SCDOT knows which ones they are; the Chief thinks that ninety-five percent (95%) of the encroachments are not permitted. He added that has requested the list of permitted encroachments on the island and to-date has received nothing.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to re-order the Agenda to address Item 5.B.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. New Business

B. Award of a contract for July 4th Fireworks

Administrator Tucker reported that the City had to bid the fireworks show twice, and she recalled that the show in 2015 was not up to the standards the Isle of Palms has come to expect. The company that bid in the second round is represented here today by owner Brent Munnerlyn of Munnerlyn Pyrotechnics; the City has no experience with this company.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that his is a small niche company that does not shoot a lot of shows; he indicated that he has six (6) teams, and one (1) is still available for July 4th, 2016. The shows they produce are choreographed and scripted; the effects complement one another and are not random.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that he had looked at tapes of fireworks shows the City had when it was satisfied with the shooter and noted that they were shooting multiple shells at once, but there was no purpose to it. He said that he was so confident that this company would put on the best show the City has ever had that he will give a twenty-five percent (25%) discount if the City does not agree.

He offered to provide the City with videos of some of his company's shows, and, if something stood out, it could be incorporated into the City's show.

Councilmember Carroll noted that inclement weather had been an issue last year, and he asked Mr. Munnerlyn how he would handle that situation.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that his company prepares as if it were going to rain; each shell is waterproofed as it is built, and then everything is shrink-wrapped. A rain might delay the show, but the team would be ready to begin immediately when it stops. If the shoot could not take place on July 4th due to weather, they would plan to shoot the following evening; should that happen the only cost would be for security, roughly twenty dollars (\$20) an hour. If the City were to supply security, there would be no additional charge. If, for whatever reason, the City decided to cancel the show, Munnerlyn would charge a twenty-five percent (25%) cancellation fee.

Chair Bettelli asked how they would deal with wind.

Mr. Munnerlyn stated that some of his shells have a longer burn; therefore, they shoot them higher; for the effects that they know will have a lot of fall out, they can be angled out in such a way that they will be further out over the ocean.

Unlike previous vendors, Munnerlyn can stop its show and re-start it.

Councilmember Carroll also reported that the previous vendor had not sent a sufficient crew to unload and breakdown the show; Mr. Munnerlyn assured the Committee that he would have a full crew that would handle the show from start to finish.

Chief Graham commented that, in the past, twenty-seven or twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$27,000-28,000) was budgeted, but it was not all for the show. Contracts with Zambelli's had been twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), but the City got a five to ten percent (5-10%) discount when the deposit was paid early; based on the caliber of last year's show, the City paid approximately half of the contracted amount.

Since the bids last year had been lower than anticipated, the amount budgeted was lower and will not cover the twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for this year's show; two (2) proposals were submitted, one for twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and a second for thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000). The FY16 budget is nineteen thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$19,750) which also includes the ancillary costs of the show.

If the City were to scale back the show to fit the budget, Mr. Munnerlyn said that the show would not be scripted and would be shorter.

Since the fireworks show is paid from State ATAX funds, Administrator Tucker suggested opting for the twenty-five thousand dollar (\$25,000) show; she also informed the Committee that ATAX had received few requests for event sponsorships so there was money available there to cover the additional cost. The Administrator opined that, if the City was not going to give the citizens the type of show they have become accustomed to, it should stop offering a fireworks show.

When Mr. Munnerlyn was asked how long the show would be, he estimated a thousand dollars (\$1,000) a minute or about twenty to twenty-five (20-25) minutes. He also said that he would provide the City with a video of the show it would get before the show takes place.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to contract with SAM Pyrotechnics dba Munnerlyn Pyrotechnics for \$25,000; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker asked for a patriotic theme for the show.

Chief Graham said that the final contract award would be made at City Council on Tuesday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to reorder the Agenda to go to Item 5.C.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Consideration of Turtle Trot Beach Run, Saturday, September 10th

Speaking for the South Carolina Aquarium were Bryan Kowert, Senior Event manager, and Stephanie Gabosch, Advancement Events Coordinator. Ms. Gabosch commented that this was a new event for the Aquarium and that the funds raised would go toward the Watershed Campaign for education and conservation programs. The ultimate goal is to raise twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the Aquarium by 2020; to-date, collections total seven million dollars (\$7,000,000). The money will be used to move the sea turtle rescue to the main level where it will become a new, one of a kind exhibit.

In an effort to make this run a little different, they want to hold it around sunset; hopefully they can find a vendor who would donate red light headlamps to run at low tide.

The maximum number of runners will be five hundred (500), and the run will include a beach walk for children and, hopefully, an after-party at the Windjammer. The plan is for the run to generate zero waste; everything will be recyclable or composted.

Chair Bettelli asked the Administrator if there would be any kind of conflict with this activity; the Administrator reported that she has discussed the event with the Recreation Director and there are no conflicts with the City's beach run.

When asked how they would solicit participants, Ms. Gabosch said that they would begin with their roster of volunteers, donors and the membership list for the Aquarium.

Councilmember Carroll suggested to Ms. Gabosch that she contact Charleston County Parks and Recreation about using their parking lot.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to support the Turtle Trot Beach Run as a City-sponsored event on Saturday, September 10th with no more than 500 participants; Chair Bettelli seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Administrator Tucker told Ms. Gabosch and Mr. Kowert that, although in September, this event will still occur in the peak season which is a time that the City's public safety personnel are stretched to the maximum; therefore, they should not rely on the City's staff for support. They were also told that final approval would come at the City Council meeting of April 26th.

4. Old Business

B. Updates Related to Coyotes

Chief Buckhannon reported that the trap had been set, but no coyotes have been caught despite having fourteen (14) sightings reported in the previous month.

Councilmember Carroll said that he has seen a Facebook report that there is a coyote running around the island with a leg trap attached; the Chief said that he had heard the same report, but no officer has seen it. According to Councilmember Carroll, the coyote was sighted around Forest Trail and Sparrow.

Since the City is not using leg traps, the source of this one is unknown; the Administrator offered that it may only look like a leg trap.

C. Update on Cameras for Roads Leading to Beach Communities

The Administrator was very pleased to announce that the IOP camera was live and on the SCDOT 511 feed; in her opinion, it is not only a great tool for the island's citizens and visitors, but it will

also enable the balance of the beach communities in Charleston County to monitor the traffic headed their way.

Administrator Tucker offered special thanks to both Chief Buckhannon and Captain Usry, as well as Brian Holt with SCDOT who came through for the City.

Councilmember Carroll asked whether other cameras would be placed at major intersections, like Highway 17 and the Connector; the Administrator responded that she thought that would happen.

According to the article in *The Post and Courier*, that is the goal; possibilities are Rifle Range Road, Ben Sawyer Boulevard and roads leading to other beach communities.

Captain Usry assured Councilmember Carroll that the city would continue with its Twitter alerts on traffic and reminders to look at the cameras before departing for the island.

D. Review of Requirements for Residential Parking Stickers

Chair Bettelli indicated that this item was added to the Agenda at the request for Councilmember Carroll.

Chief Buckhannon stated that citizens are required to bring proof of ownership of the vehicle, to whom the vehicle is registered and proof of residency or a short or long-term tenant, which could be a lease or utility bill.

To legally operate a golf cart on the roads in South Carolina, the driver/owner must have registration that should be on the golf cart.

Councilmember Carroll said that residents have had issues with the stickers on convertibles and on vehicles with tinted windows.

Based on experiences to-date, Chief Buckhannon reported that the after-action report would indicate that a different type of sticker should be used next beach season.

5. New Business

A. Review of FY17 Operating Budget to include Discussion of Radio Replacements

Initiating the budget discussion, Administrator Tucker reported that the following are global to all Departmental budgets:

- A 3% wage increase for employees composed of a 2% merit and 1% COLA;
- A 1% increase in health insurance premiums effective January 1, 2017;
- Fuel computed on last 2 years average actual cost per gallon and last 12 months actual usage (for Police Department, fuel expense increased by 20% for parking enforcement); and

- Liability, property, underground fuel tank insurance increase of 5% and flood insurance increased by 15%.

Police Department

The expense for Meetings and Seminars has been increased because FY17 is a CALEA re-accreditation and conference year; Vehicle Maintenance expense was increased to account for the cost of batteries for the low-speed vehicles, approximately six hundred dollars (\$600) each. The Metro Ethernet line for secure data transfer with the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch Center has been paid by a grant in previous years; for FY17 the City must pick up the expense of thirteen thousand six hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$13,677), explaining the increase to Telephone and Cable expense. Changes to Maintenance and Service Contracts include the Comcast service for the twelve (12) IOP cameras and chalk for making lines on Palm Boulevard to designate parking; BSO's will be assuming the responsibility for "white line fever" from the Recreation Department. Additionally, this line includes Power DMS accreditation software subscription for electronic CALEA submissions and an annual fee for IACPNET (database of policies, ideas, etc. for all agencies participating in the International Association of Chiefs of Police Network) and Survey Monkey for the accreditation resident survey. Since the City no longer has the expense for consolidated dispatch, the expense for Contracted Services has been significantly reduced; the expense to that line of the budget is for coyote control.

At the Personnel Committee, Chief Buckhannon will present a request for two (2) additional patrol officers; that Committee will also hear an appeal for two (2) new positions elsewhere in the City. The expense for those proposed employees has not been included in this version of the budget; they will only be added if approved by the Personnel Committee.

Administrator Tucker explained that the Chief wants to keep the same number of officers on the road, but administrative tasks have increased with the first year of the parking plan, assisting at crosswalks and encroachments, etc. taking officers away from their patrol duties. The Chief added that investigations need assistance; since 2012 the number of case assignments has shown a serious uptick. The last officer added was in 2007 and was the Livability Officer; in that time span, the call volume has gone from thirty-seven thousand (37,000) calls per year to an average of forty-eight to fifty thousand (48,000-50,000) per year. Currently fourteen (14) of twenty (20) officers are assigned to patrol.

A singular change has been made to the Capital budget for the Police Department, and it is the addition of a chalk line machine for five hundred dollars (\$500) to be paid from Municipal Accommodations Fee Fund.

In the General Fund, the Parking Department has been expanded with the new beach access parking plan. Staff is of the opinion that times will occur when a couple of City personnel will be needed in the parking lots to avoid disorderly parking; these persons will come from all departments and will have to be paid overtime. Once people become acclimated to paying to park in the lots, this type of oversight might not be necessary.

In the Front Beach/BSO/Parking Lots/Parking Enforcement budget, the need for Printing and Office Supplies has increased with the addition of kiosks and supplies decals, parking booklets, etc. for the parking plan; therefore, the budget has been nearly doubled from FY16 to twenty-four thousand three hundred dollars (\$24,300). Bank service charges have increased for the processing of credit cards; reflected in the Telephone and Cable line is the required upgrade of the three (3) emergency call boxes and the monthly internet connection modem charges for the kiosks. At some point, the City needs to decide if it wants to keep the call boxes active. The increase to Maintenance and Service Contracts is the replacement of four (4) bollard lights at the County Park walkway; with additional and with aging kiosks, the expense for Machinery and Equipment Repair has been increased to twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000). Professional Services expenses reflect the annual contracts with T2 to keep all parts of the website, parking ticket, residential parking permit system, etc. working as well as the armored car service. Staff increased the Miscellaneous and Contingency line item to cover the unexpected, unanticipated costs related to the first year of the residential parking permits and automated parking lots.

Councilmember Carroll questioned the reduction in expenses associated with the replacement or addition of parking and beach signs; Administrator Tucker said that she would look into it.

The large spreadsheet of Police Department expenses by fund shows that, as presented, eighty-one percent (81%) of the expenses are to be paid from the General and Capital Projects Funds and eighteen percent (18%) from tourism funds. This, despite the fact, justification can be made that twenty-two percent (22%) of their expenses could be paid from tourism funds.

Fire Department

As was discussed in the review of Capital budgets, the fire apparatus are requiring a great deal of attention recently due to the conditions they work in, the outdoor conditions some were kept in for a period of time and the effects of Joaquin. In this version of the budget, the Vehicle Maintenance line has been increased by ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), but, in light of a recent and expensive repair, the next version of the budget might increase that expense more. The same Ethernet line expense in the Police Department is reason for the increase to Maintenance and Service Contracts in the Fire Department, and five hundred dollars (\$500) has been added to Miscellaneous and Contingency based on actual expenses to-date. The overall increase to the Fire Department Operating budget is three percent (3%) over FY16.

Replacing the master stream device (water gun) on the 2003 pumper is the only addition to the Capital budget since the review last month; it will be paid through the Municipal Accommodations Fee Fund.

The review of the Fire Department expenses spread by fund shows that the General and Capital Projects fund are presented as funding seventy-seven percent (77%) of their budget with the tourism and hospitality funds supporting twenty-three percent (23%) of the budget. As in the Police Department, tourism funds could justifiably fund a larger portion of the Fire Department budget.

Chief Graham informed the Committee that the pending radio replacement to be Phase II compliant is no longer a mandatory change since the date has again been extended. The City's

radios are coming to the end of their useful life; if a radio has to go to the depot for repairs, it will not be repaired because the model has been discontinued and parts are no longer being made. The Fire Department will be upgrading all of its radios in the coming year, but, other departments will upgrade their radios as they fail.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department

On March 4th, Fire Department personnel responded to a report of a propane gas leak at a residence; the unsafe level of gas fumes was isolated to the garage area; the crew ventilated the area and continued to monitor until the gas was secured at the propane cylinder and the gas company was notified. On March 24th, personnel reported to a call on 53rd Avenue where a construction worker had accidentally cut his arm with a chain saw; the bleeding was controlled by a tourniquet until Charleston County EMS arrived for transport. Fire Department personnel responded to seventy-four (74) calls in the month; thirty-five (35) of them were EMS calls. The City Fire Inspector has resigned, and the Chief is currently advertising for his replacement. Fire-ground simulations training was held at the IOP Public Safety Building; personnel got experience as on-scene incident commanders. The truck that was towed to the shop when the Committee met last month has returned to the shop for a second time, and the repair bill at this time is approximately seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000). The City accepted delivery of the new rescue truck on March 15th; also on the 15th, Battalion Chief Maibach served as a controller for the annual disaster preparedness exercise that simulated the aftermath of an earthquake. In the month of March, personnel replaced smoke detector batteries, conducted several station tours and attended the annual Easter Egg Hunt, conducting a static display of equipment.

Police Department

The scamming to get credit card information is happening again in Wild Dunes; when this happened before, the City worked with the FBI to locate the caller, and this may be the same person. Several personnel were recognized for their outstanding performance; they were Pfc Couche, Pfc Storen, Detective Tarr and Pfc Hardy. On March 18th, Pfc Hardy and Sgt. Ambros attended Career Day at Sullivan's Island Elementary School, and Pfc Hardy and Pfc King attended Lunch Buddies at the school. Communication Specialists responded to four thousand nine hundred forty-five (4,945) calls, of which three thousand eight hundred eighty-nine (3,889) were for the Police Department. Two hundred ninety-five (295) traffic stops were made in the month with ninety-six (96) tickets being issued. Chief Buckhannon reported that March was a busy month for DUIs, and officers wrote one hundred forty-one (141) reports in the month. Officers made forty-three (43) arrests; twelve (12) arrests were for liquor law violations. March had a total of twelve (12) noise complaints; two (2) citations were issued, seven (7) warnings were issued and three (3) were unfounded. Twelve (12) coyote sightings were reported.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Next Meeting Date: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 3rd in the City Hall Conference Room

8. Executive Session – not needed

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m.; Chair Bettelli seconded, and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk