

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, February 12, 2015 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 Dziuban and Clerk Copeland; a quorum was present to conduct business.

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

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2015 as submitted; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Citizens' Comments

John Rector noted that his 4003 Waterway Boulevard home is in very close proximity to Morgan Creek Grill and the marina, and the type of work he does requires him to have periods of repose and quiet. Mr. Rector stated that, in fifteen years, he has never had a problem with noise. Mr. Rector said that he felt that the City owes it to "guests" who visit the island to provide a certain amount of amenities, and, if music and other activities were not available, the experience of visiting the island would diminish.

Patsy Hindman, 7 Barnacle Row, said that, in terms of complaints, she did not have an answer or expect to get an answer from committee members. She said she would like to know how many complaints there have been, were they followed up on and what the results were. Ms. Hindman also asked if there had been more complaints during a particular performer's appearance. She went on to say that she is a big fan of Bill Krause, and, when she approaches the Morgan Creek Grill from the parking lot, she can barely hear him from. Ms. Hindman mentioned the music always ends at 10:00 p.m., and she has seen people of all ages attend events. She expressed the opinion that she felt Morgan Creek Grill's success is due to the music, and, if they lose the ability to have amplified music, they could go out of business. She voiced doubt that another business could lease the site and be as successful as Morgan Creek has been. As a possible solution, Ms. Hindman suggested amending the ordinance to restrict amplification to no more than seventy (70) decibels.

Laverne Smith, 2704 Waterway Boulevard, asked for consideration about the parking regulations. She expressed concern about how the City was going to pay for the program and the island becoming an island of signs instead of palms. She asked whether the City will need to hire more personnel to enforce the new regulations and whether residents were going to get a tax increase to pay for parking plan. She also commented that the island has been getting a lot of bad press over the parking plan.

Susan Geddings, 29- 32nd Avenue, reported that she has never experienced a problem with excessive noise from Morgan Creek Grill, and that it is a great place to go that is close to home.

She stated that, in her opinion, the noise ordinance “has gotten carried away on residential noise;” she said that she feels her rights are being taken away to have when she could have the police sent to her home when having an outside party. Ms. Geddings commented that a minority of people are complaining about the noise at Morgan Creek Grill, but there are thousands more in favor of the amplified music.

Scott Cagle, 2-19th Avenue, commented that he is opposed to any restriction on amplified music, and agreed with the previous speaker that there is a small minority that are opposed. He indicated that the issue should be decided by residents through a referendum so residents before any action is taken. He opined that the restaurant is private property, that any restriction on amplified music is a restriction to personal freedoms and that shutting down the music at Morgan Creek creates serious Constitutional issues.

Dr. Dawson, 18 Intracoastal Court, identified himself as a colonel of the National Guard who was involved with hearing testing for twenty or thirty (20-30) years, and he said that he had a serious public health complaint. He stated that loud music causes hearing loss. He noted that the Morgan Creek Grill has extremely loud music infrequently, but the music should not be so loud that he has had to leave. He voiced hope that a compromise could be reached. Dr. Dawson added that the same restrictions should be enforced on loud boats.

Craig Morris, 3-30th Avenue, stated that he has been a resident of the island for five (5) years, that his family has owned land on the island for fifty-four (54) years, and that he is a local musician. He reported that he plays at Morgan Creek Grill, and it is great place to play. Mr. Morris asked everyone to consider who the proposed changes would affect, the employees and families at Morgan Creek Grill and the musicians who play.

Chip Campsen, 28 Waterway Island Drive, explained that the case law that upholds noise ordinances has as its principle “that it is appropriate for a local government to regulate music that impacts a captive audience. “ He said that he is a captive audience at his home because the music can be heard within his residence; he commented that there are always multitudes of people who enjoy amplified music, but they have the luxury of returning to a home that does not have music coming through the walls. Mr. Campsen also mentioned that his neighbor has spent over eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) to add acoustic windows to his home. He stated that the essence of a noise ordinance is always about protecting the interests of a minority of people. Mr. Campsen pointed out that Morgan Creek Grill is a commercial business surrounded by a residential area. He stated that it was City Council’s duty to make changes to the ordinance to make it more defensible. Mr. Campsen also added that the right for anyone to play amplified music or to make loud noises tops at the repose and comfort of the citizens of the island.

Jay Clarke, 10 Seahorse Court and the owner of Morgan Creek Grill, said that he has made it a point to listen to the people, the neighborhood and customers to learn what they really want. He stated that Morgan Creek Grill has morphed into a very local, family-oriented restaurant that also tries to accommodate island visitors. He noted that a lot of mis-information has been “thrown out” tonight. He did agree that there have been times when the music has been too loud, and the Police Department has “absolutely” been proactive in coming down when they

have been called. On the subject of noise, Mr. Clarke reported that they have substantially cut down the volume of the music; they have purchased a decibel meter to monitor the level of the music and have installed a back drop on the stage to try to reduce the sound going to Waterway Island Drive. Mr. Clarke stated the only person he has ever met with about the music was Phillip Smith several years ago. He requested a copy of the letter Mr. Campsen had sent to the City, as well as a copy of the noise report, which they have never seen.

John Dodds, attorney for Morgan Creek Grill, said that he respected Senator Campsen and his work and understands and is sympathetic to his concerns living in proximity to Morgan Creek Grill; he also stated he is hoping for a resolution for Morgan Creek Grill and for the surrounding residents. Mr. Dodds indicated that he felt that there has been a rush to judgment. He noted that Morgan Creek Grill has been in business since 2002 and has had music for many years; while there have been complaints, since March 2007, they have had sixteen (16) founded complaints and one citation for a wedding reception that got out of control. Mr. Dodds added that they have refrained from having that type of function outdoors again. Mr. Dodds reported learning about the noise problem in October of 2014; they do want a resolution, but, in their opinion, the proposed changes to the noise ordinance are not a proper resolution to the issue because it would eliminate any amplified music at Morgan Creek Grill. Mr. Dodds suggested that City Council slow down and to look at what both sides are trying to accomplish; he stated that he would like to see a standard based in science. He was clear that Morgan Creek Grill's intent is not to break the law, and they will do whatever it takes to co-exist with the surrounding neighbors. He offered that Mr. Clarke would purchase a decibel meter and give it to the Police Department in order to have some objective standard so they will know when they have exceeded it, they know they will be cited and they know there will be ramifications. He also stated that it is not fair to impose these changes at this point without affording them the opportunity to take corrective measures; Mr. Dodds reported that Morgan Creek Grill has lost thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) since this came about and the restaurant took the action that it did. He reported that the restaurant took immediate action upon receiving the letter from the City Attorney telling them that they were in default of the lease for playing amplified music and expected good faith in return.

Chair Bettelli announced that once Citizens' Comments end, the Committee will hear no other comments.

Susan Geddings, 29-32nd Avenue, said that if someone lives somewhere and does not like the neighbors, he has the choice to move.

Lalla Lee Campsen, 28 Waterway Island Drive, stated that she has always tried to be a friendly neighbor. She reported having called Morgan Creek Grill to ask them to turn the music down rather than call the police. She stated that she wants people to have a livelihood and to be able to feed their children and to be able to enjoy the island, but she also wants to be able to enjoy her home. Mrs. Campsen added that Morgan Creek Grill was encouraged to play amplified music inside, but asked that they do not bring it outside.

Scott Cagle, 2-19th Avenue, reiterated his suggestion to let the residents decide through a referendum. He stated that outdoor music has always been a part of the island's culture, and all residents should be a part of the decision, not just a few.

Rene Russell, the Music Manager at Morgan Creek Grill, said that Morgan Creek Grill is totally willing to work with the Campsens, the City and anyone else who has issues with the noise level. She indicated that there are many solutions to the problems, but she did not feel Morgan Creek Grill was being offered a chance. Ms. Russell stated that they have received calls when they did not even have a band playing - maybe one of the party boats was in the waterway with a band on board. Ms. Russell said that she felt that they were getting blamed on many occasions for noise that was not coming from their establishment.

Councilman Jimmy Carroll asked musicians attending, Craig Morris and Renee Russell, to explain the difference between acoustic and amplified music. Mr. Morris stated that non-amplified music could not be heard by an audience. Responding to Councilmember Carroll's inquiry about limiting the volume through wattage or decibel level, Mr. Morris voiced his approval of establishing a decibel level in the City's noise ordinance. Ms. Russell reported that a musical group had agreed to play for an oyster roast without amplification and screamed as hard as they could; one of the performers could not speak the next day. Ms. Russell commented that the amplifiers are necessary for the music to be heard; she reported that the key is the decibel level and wattage has no effect. She explained that outside music was tricky because it is outside and is carried by the water; she reiterated that the restaurant had tried having acoustic music without amplifiers and it did not work. She stated again that they can do, i.e. tailor the music differently and hire different people, to have amplified music outside on the stage.

Jay Clarke, 10 Seahorse Court and the owner of Morgan Creek Grill, stated once again that he only wants a chance to work with the City to improve the noise situation. He said the music is an integral part of Morgan Creek Grill, and he feared that, if amplified music was prohibited, they could go out of business. On the other hand, he was sorry that people on Waterway Island were being disturbed by the music from the restaurant. Mr. Clarke mentioned an ongoing petition with at least seven (700) hundred signatures, over three hundred (300) of which are island residents. He also commented that when they receive a call about noise they always comply and turn it down, and he encouraged people to call the Police Department when they believe the music is too loud. He closed by saying that he hoped some type of resolution could be found soon since the restaurant has been losing revenue.

Chip Campsen, 28 Waterway Island Drive, stated that while Mr. Clarke is concerned for loss of revenue, he is concerned about a loss of property values. Mr. Campsen reported that, when his wife has called Morgan Creek Grill, the music is turned down and later turned back up. On their website, Morgan Creek Grill has invited people to come with an amplifier and play. Mr. Campsen added that he did not think that keeping the music at a lower decibel level would be a solution because of the location on the water.

Rene Russell, Music Manager for Morgan Creek Grill, responded to Mr. Campsen's when she denied that the restaurant had invited musicians to just come to the restaurant with their instrument and amplifier to set up and play. Ms. Russell explained that her job is to personally screen the musicians before they play at the restaurant.

Patsy Hindman, 7 Barnacle Row, suggested checking the decibel level from the address where the complaint originated; a decibel meter is a solution based on science. She described herself as a seventy-three (73) year old who enjoys the music at Morgan Creek Grill and does not find it hazardous to her ears.

Rebeca O'Brian, Manager of Morgan Creek Grill, reported that she has spoken with Mrs. Campsen and others saying the noise is too loud and that the volume of the music has been turned down each time a complaint has come in. She explained that, when the music starts around 4:00 p.m., she or the manager on duty will check their decibel meter to ensure the music is at a reasonable level, photograph the results and post it on their website.

John Rector of 1100 Pavilion added that he recently sold his property at 4003 Waterway Boulevard, and, prior to the sale, the potential buyers, a family with three (3) small children, asked to stay in the house for a couple of weeks in the month of August when there has always been live music at Morgan Creek Grill. Mr. Rector closed by saying he felt that the restaurant and marina increased his property value of the home.

6. Executive Session

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to go into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. to receive legal advice related to potential claims concerning the City's noise ordinance; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Committee returned to regular session at 11:43 a.m.; Chair Bettelli reported that the Committee had not taken a vote and had not taken any action in Executive Session.

The Committee decided to do more research before further work on noise ordinance amendments. Chair Bettelli asked that Mr. Clarke and Ms. Pope of Morgan Creek Grill to attend the March meeting with a written plan on how they would propose to go forward; the plan should include what their actions would be, how much time it would take to test their proposals, and how many performances would be needed.

Administrator Tucker commented that input from Ms. Russell would be helpful; she explained that the Committee was looking for a very specific plan of action within a specific period of time, ways of testing the proposal and items for mitigation to self-monitor to ensure the music is not disturbing the neighbors.

Ms. Pope clarified that the Morgan Creek Grill would outline a test period that would note a definite number of performances with various types of musicians. She distributed copies of the petition that MCG is circulating and that was referred to by Mr. Clarke

4. Old Business

A. Discussion of Amendment to Noise Ordinance – see above

B. Report on Bid Opening for a Fire Truck

Administrator Tucker reported that the City had held two (2) bid openings on the fire truck; the first bid only had one bidder, E-One, and the bid was thrown out. When the RFP was re-bid, the City received three (3) bids as follows:

Smeal Apparatus	\$323,705
Ferrara Apparatus	\$345,850
E-One	\$352,528

Chief Graham brought the bids to the meeting, and members of the Committee were told that the bids would be available in City Hall for their review.

The Fire Department reviewed the bids with a focus on whether the bidders had met the specifications of the RFP. Smeal did not meet the bid by the inability to provide an aluminum substructure; Ferrara was disqualified by only carrying stock inventory for service and replacement parts during the warranty period and that they cannot meet the quality assurance system. Emergency One was the only bidder to meeting the City's specifications, and, therefore, is the recommended vendor to the purchase.

The Administrator added that in the approved FY15 budget, two hundred twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$229,000) was the amount included for the fire truck. The recommendation is to re-budget the FY15 amount and to include the balance of approximately one hundred twenty-three thousand dollars (\$123,000) in the FY16 budget.

Administrator Tucker recalled that in the budgeting process, Chief Graham had stressed the escalating prices of fire apparatus year over year; the Administrator reiterated that the apparatus has been bid twice, with all of the bids coming in well above what was budgeted. She added that she does not think that the City would save any money by delaying this replacement; in addition, although it is expected to be low, there is some salvage value in the existing apparatus.

MOTION: Councilmember Carroll moved to go forward the purchase of a fire truck from Emergency One in the amount of \$352,528; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded.

Councilmember Carroll stated that Rescue One, the truck being replaced, is basically a supply truck that carries the compressor to refill air tanks at a fire scene.

Chief Graham explained that, when the truck was originally purchased, it met the Department's needs – it carried personnel from the fire station to the scene; it responded to every medical call

and it was outfitted with all of the equipment required by ISO and the air system was added. The Chief described the truck as a medical/squad/ISO vehicle.

The new truck does all of that, but it has a small pump and water supply in the event personnel pulled up to a grass fire or car fire. A new truck needs to multi-task, but it could never replace a regular pumper.

The Chief added that the Department is required to have a reserve vehicle; if a truck breaks down, something must be put in its place.

Councilmember Carroll said that the new truck is “a completely different animal from what the Department has.” He asked whether the Chief had looked at a van that could carry the equipment, the medical supplies and the pump.

The Chief responded that with the addition of all the equipment mentioned above, the van would be too heavy.

Councilmember Bergwerf recalled that, during the budget process, Councilmember Carroll was in favor of delaying the replacement of the rescue truck; the year has passed, the existing truck is one (1) year older, and the price has increased as Chief Graham predicted. She supported the purchase at this time.

Councilmember Carroll confirmed that the new truck would have a five hundred (500) gallon water supply; he then asked whether the new truck could tie-in to a hydrant to keep it refilled. Chief Graham noted that the new truck would have that capability, but, unless “everything else was broken,” no one would see this truck outside a house fire.

VOTE: The motion PASSED on a vote of 2 to 1, with Councilmember Carroll casting the dissenting vote.

Councilmember Carroll asked Chief Graham to provide Council with the chart that explains how the IOP Fire Department responds to various calls.

Administrator Tucker agreed that was a great teaching tool since it explains why the Fire Department responds to a call, even the smell of an electrical burn, with every piece of equipment. She asked that the Chief prepare the information for the Ways and Means Committee meeting.

Chair Bettelli commented that Bobby Ross wanted to speak to something that was not the *Agenda*.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to discuss approving a volleyball league; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Ross offered to assist the Committee on amendments to the noise ordinance based on his experience with sound at *The Windjammer*.

Mr. Ross stated that his reason for attending the meeting was to get the City's approval to hold a volleyball league for children from March through May and the summer league that runs from June through August. He added that play would primarily be on Wednesdays, but on Monday for rain-outs; these leagues will operate like the ones held in the past at *The Windjammer*.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to approve the volleyball leagues as City-sponsored events at *The Windjammer*; Councilmember Bergwerf seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Ross informed the Committee that he had made the same offer of assistance to Morgan Creek Grill management.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of Smart911

Administrator Tucker explained that this was an effort to get community awareness about this program offered by Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch (CCCD); it offers an opportunity for citizens to go online or to call to register under Smart911. At CCCD, personnel will create a free safety profile for their household that includes any information they want 9-1-1 and first responders to have in the event of an emergency; this would be especially good for people who have chronic problems.

The Administrator noted that she could not make any recommendations as to the security of the information provided, but it is an opportunity for the residents.

B. Discussion of Hours Dogs are Allowed on the Beach Off-leash

Administrator Tucker prefaced this discussion noting that she and Council were sent emails from a resident who voiced concern about the state of the beach past the hours when dogs are allowed to run free. In the inquiry, the Administrator said that she saw two (2) appeals, i.e. restricting the hours for dogs to run free and making sure that the Animal Control Officers patrol the beach immediately following the cutoff hours to ensure that all of the dogs are off the beach.

By having this item on the *Agenda*, the Committee is being asked whether they want to make alterations and to discuss the issue of enforcement. In discussions with Chief Buckhannon, the topics were enforcement and the possible need for additional Animal Control Officers in order to have an officer specifically assigned to the beach.

Chief Buckhannon reported that the Animal Control Officer does a sweep of the beach after 10:00 a.m., the time when dogs must be on a leash when on the beach; the officer may also exit the vehicle and walk up certain access paths to ensure that dog owners are waiting for him to

pass to return to the beach with their dog off-leash. The Chief said that the only way to guarantee compliance is to station an Animal Control Officer on the beach at all times, and he did not yet think that was necessary. He noted that an Animal Control Officer is on-duty seven (7) days a week; the weekend Officer had surgery and was not at work this past Sunday which is when the complaint occurred.

Councilmember Carroll commented that the easiest thing to do is to call the police when they see a dog at-large, and an officer would quickly respond.

Chair Bettelli remarked that a dog may not be under the owner's control even when on a leash; he recalled being bitten twice in the last two (2) years, and both dogs were on a leash.

Councilmember Bergwerf said that she believes that the Police Department needs to make itself felt more on the beach; she voiced the opinion that having more of a police presence for a time would encourage people to follow the regulations.

C. Discussion of Elements of the Beach Access Parking Plan

The Administrator said that this item as on the *Agenda* primarily to discuss where the City is going to designate golf cart only parking on Palm Boulevard; SCDOT has given the City permission to do this. These designations can be made now since they are not dependent on the beach access parking plan. Administrator Tucker pointed out that this action will encourage the use of golf carts and take up some of the spaces previously used for vehicle parking.

The Administrator reported that, from emails she is receiving, the comments from the parking forum in October of "we do not want to be regulated and we do not want to do anything" are changing since the plan is moving forward; staff is now hearing from people who do want to be regulated. The Wildwood subdivision and 5th Avenue have made appeals; 5th Avenue residents have also requested NO PARKING signs on both sides of the road. Based on actions taken at the Public Works Committee meeting, the City will work to eliminate or lessen the flooding only and not address in the 2900 block of Palm, but consideration is now being given to eliminating beach access parking there.

Administrator Tucker indicated that, based on these emails, the City will receive many requests for inclusion in regulated parking areas once the plan is implemented; she also reminded the Committee that the reason behind the designation of regulated parking has to be fact-based.

At staff level, possibilities suggested were 28th and 31st Avenues, in the middle of the blocks, that would be designated via signage that the spaces were limited to golf cart parking only; the Administrator noted that there already is golf cart parking at the beach access path at 25th. Chief Buckhannon explained that the parking will not be on the beach access paths, but on Palm Boulevard.

Expressing full support for golf cart parking on the island, but Councilmember Carroll said that he was becoming aware of the amount of signage on the island. He recalled hearing that the managed beach access parking would require the addition of approximately three hundred fifty (350) signs.

Councilmember Bergwerf indicated that, if the spaces were not marked, they would be used by cars and SUVs.

Administrator Tucker added that golf carts will not require a parking permit, like a car. She commented that designated golf cart parking was responding to the wishes of citizens who live close to the beach and do not want to buy a parking pass.

Councilmember Carroll expressed his opinion that the dedicated golf cart parking should be implemented at the same time as the balance of the City's managed beach access parking plan.

The Administrator explained that there was a complication with delaying the implementation of golf cart parking, i.e. the City needed to know how many parking spaces were going to be available for the parking plan, and that number should not include the dedicated golf cart spaces. She also noted that this action could be easily undone.

Responding to the Chair, Chief Buckhannon anticipated ten to twelve (10-12) golf carts in each designated area.

MOTION: Chair Bettelli moved to designate golf cart only parking at 28th and 31st Avenues; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councilmember Carroll suggested that Council should know what is being done now as staff works to implement the parking plan. Administrator Tucker reported that Council would be apprised of where the work is and what the next steps are at the upcoming Council meeting; the Administrator explained that staff has understood that the parking plan was to be their top work priority and weekly meetings are held to review what has been done and what is next. In addition, the Administrator reiterated that staff could now guarantee to have everything in place for implementation at the beginning of this beach season.

D. Review of FY16 Revenue Projections

The Chair commented that each member of the Public Safety Committee has gone through the review at prior Committee meetings; unless someone has questions, this Committee would dispense with this item on the *Agenda*.

6. Highlights of Departmental Reports

Fire Department – Chief Graham

On New Year's Day, personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident where the vehicle turned over and the four (4) passengers had been ejected from the vehicle; one (1) passenger was transported immediately and the other three (3) had non-life-threatening injuries, but were transported separately for more thorough medical exams. Personnel responded to a report of an explosion in a residence; when they arrived, they found a broken heating element in the oven had caused some sparking. A boat fire behind Marsh Island Drive was reported on January 17th, after the fire was located and mutual aid was requested of Sullivan's Island, the boat's owner was taken to the marina for further medical treatment. This case was turned over to the Department of Natural Resources. During the month, the Fire Department responded to seventy-one (71) calls, thirty-eight (38) of which were EMS calls. Chief Graham noted that each year the number of incidents continues to rise although not by a big margin. Thirty-four (34) fire inspections were done, and ninety-eight (98) violations were found. Personnel averaged forty (40) hours of training. Vehicle maintenance was up for the month of January; primary expenses were the replacement of the gear box on Tower 1002 and the replacement of the radiator on Ladder 1001. Personnel participated in a noisy welcome to the island for a young cancer patient as part of a young cancer patient's Make-A-Wish event.

Police Department – Chief Buckhannon

January was very busy for the Department with ten (10) DUIs in the month; one (1) person was found to have a blood alcohol level of .31. Sgt. Baldrick is a certified child safety seat expert, and, on two (2) occasions, she assisted citizens with the property installation of safety seats in their vehicles. Dispatchers had a total of five thousand three hundred eighteen (5,318) calls; four thousand seven hundred eighty-three (4,783) were for the Police Department, which is an increase for forty-eight percent (48%) over the same period in 2014. Officers made four hundred thirty (430) traffic stops and issued one hundred twenty-one (121) tickets; for a variety of violations, officers issued two hundred ninety-nine (299) warnings. Chief Buckhannon pointed out that in two (2) months, the Department has had nineteen (19) DUIs, which represent a significant increase.

Councilmember Carrol asked whether the majority of the DUIs were for island residents or for visitors; the Chief replied that the majority were for visitors, but some island residents were included. The Chief reported that many DUI arrests occur on the IOP Connector; he noted that not only do people drive at very high rates of speed but also many accidents occur there.

In addition, officers wrote one hundred three (103) reports with four (4) for burglaries, but two (2) were for prior months and reported in January. Of the twenty-five (25) arrests, ten (10) were DUIs.

Officers received one hundred fifty-seven (157) hours of training, with an emphasis on "Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement" taught by the Academy.

In the area of livability, officers received two (2) noise complaints; one (1) was founded and given a warning, but the second was unfounded. Officers also received five (5) complaints for barking dogs, and one (1) citation was issued.

Referencing the number of phone calls, Councilmember Carroll asked how long the City planned to continue with the back-up dispatchers and would the City continue to include Sullivan's Island.

Chief Buckhannon said that his recommendation was for the program to continue indefinitely because it is a valuable service for the citizens. If the program were stopped, the Chief opined there was a continuing need for a presence seven (7) days a week, especially during the daylight hours, but also at night because many people call the 886-6522 number wanting services from the Department.

Councilmember Carroll reported calling the non-emergency number to find the owner of a boat at his dock that was half-filled with water; he quickly received a call from 9-1-1 dispatch wanting more information. The Councilmember said that he cancelled the call.

He asked Chief Buckhannon if this was an appropriate call to make.

Administrator Tucker explained that, if Councilmember Carroll had indicated that the boat was filling with water, she understood the need to call 9-1-1 dispatch because that usually gets both a Fire Department, a DNR response and possibly the Coast Guard.

Chief Graham reported that the Fire Department relies heavily on the island's dispatchers to identify the incident channel to which a call has been assigned or to notify them if the channel is changed.

The Administrator noted that the island dispatchers are now functioning as planned – to be a fail-safe for the two (2) public safety departments. She added that, as the City moves forward with the parking plan, the Public Safety Building must be staffed because more pressure will be put on their functionality for day-to-day things than is currently the case.

As a strong advocate for the City's use of social media, Councilmember Carroll was pleased to see the City advertising for BSOs there; he then asked how many applications the City has received. Captain Usry reported that the City has received two (2) valid applications.

Administrator Tucker received a call from Lucina Olasov, 11-29th Avenue, who expressed a desire to see the hours lengthened when dogs can be off-leash on the beach and fewer restrictions.

7. Miscellaneous Business

Chair Bettelli reminded those present that the Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics was held on Saturday, February 28th at *The Windjammer*.

Administrator Tucker reported that the fireworks bid was opened too late to be on this *Agenda*, but it will be on the *Ways and Means Agenda*.

Next Meeting Date: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2015 in the Conference Room.

8. **Executive Session** – held earlier in the meeting

9. **Adjourn**

MOTION: Councilmember Bergwerf moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.; Councilmember Carroll seconded and the motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk