

**Town of Sullivan’s Island, South Carolina**  
**Public Safety Committee of Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 26, 2021**

The Public Safety Committee of Council met at 8:45am, this date, VIA Zoom, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied.

Present: Committee members Tim Reese, Chair, Mayor Pat O’Neil and Chauncey Clark

Staff Members: Courtney Sottile, Andy Benke, Jason Blanton and Amanda Hawver

**I. Call to Order** Chair Reese called the meeting to order, at 8:48am, stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law and all Committee members were present, no media and 2 members of the public were present.

**II. Approval of Minutes - September 3, 2020**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. O’Neil, to approve the Committee minutes dated September 3, 2020. This motion passed unanimously.

**III. Review of Encroachment Permits**

- 1. Delineators and Installation at Station 22.5 between Jasper Blvd. and Middle St.** Benke noted that the cost of the encroachment permit and the STANTEC engineering involved with it is about \$9,500, while the cost of construction is estimated to be about \$70,000, however the cost of concrete raised medians would be more. Mr. O’Neil asked if there was a working sketch that would show the flow of traffic in the area. He felt there should be one when they approached Council with the plan. Mr. Clark asked if this was a year-round plan or just during the summer season, as traffic seems to now be a year-round issue. The approval of Council is needed so it was forwarded to be discussed at the March 1, 2021 Council workshop. Mr. Clark wanted to make sure that adequate signage is planned, as it could be confusing to drivers.

2. **Radar Equipped Speed Limit Signs on Jasper Blvd.** A private resident is willing to fund two signs. The permits and STANTEC engineering study and drawings will cost about \$9,000. There would need to be a concrete pad constructed but the signs are solar powered and would not need power. This was forwarded to March 1, 2021 Council workshop for discussion.
3. **Right of Way Improvements on South Carolina Department of Transportation Infrastructure** Mr. Reese wanted to approach the state and county to see if they will help fund the necessary improvements. Benke said the right of way study was already approved by Council. The SCDOT preference was to issue the encroachment permit for three years and the Town could approach the repairs incrementally.
4. **Paid Parking Program** There will be no paid parking program this year, 2021. Mr. Reese said the Town will continue to monitor neighboring municipalities for their progress.

#### **IV. Special Events During COVID-19 Pandemic**

1. **St. Patrick's Day** As the Town had not received any permit requests for any functions, there will be no sanctioned St. Patrick's Day celebrations on Sullivan's Island in 2021. Mr. Reese wanted to make sure all COVID-19 protocols are followed in the businesses on St. Patrick's Day.
2. **Our Lady of Knock – Irish Family Fun (May)** Benke stated to the organizers that they will need to be aware of the current status of the pandemic. As the comes closer to time for the event, there will be more known of the status of any large gathering. The event coordinators need to be prepared for it to be canceled at any time.
3. **Floppin' Flounder(June)** Same as with the Our Lady of Knock, the event could be canceled at any time according to the status of the pandemic. More will be known closer to the time of the event.
4. **Independence Day(July)** The Recreation Committee had decided at their February 19, 2021 meeting to forgo fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup> and have them again at the Christmas tree lighting.

#### **V. Fire Station and Storage Building Update**

1. **Construction Update** The project has moved to a design-development stage. Benke is hoping for construction documents in March to lock in the guaranteed maximum price. Right now, we are working with DHEC and

Charleston County on stormwater and they are overseeing land disturbance and the footprint of the entire project.

- 2. Fire Department Operations – Chief Stith** March 8<sup>th</sup> a moving truck is coming to move the heavy things from the Station so from that point on they will be out of the Station completely. The trailers behind Town Hall will be moved to the lot behind the fish fry shack.

**VI. Budget – Capital Update** Mr. Reese asked Chief Stith and Chief Griffin to finalize their budget requirements and present them to Benke for consideration.

- 1. Fire Department** There are plans this year to replace the Chief’s vehicle. There is also a need to replace bunker gear, nine new sets are needed but they will have to be procured a few at a time due to the gear being custom made. Mr. Clark asked if there are funds set aside for any major purchases for public safety, fire and police. Blanton said there is nothing set aside for it but all of the departments need to look as a process to do so. Mr. Clark wants the Town to prepare for big expenditures. Blanton said there is a way for a town to add an additional mill or two mills to build up reserves for capital purchases and that the Town should look into that.
- 2. Police Department** Mr. Reese asked if the police department were planning to lease or buy Kubotas for the beach season. Griffin said that they were trying to hire seasonal staff but they did not have as many as last year. Mr. Reese said the regulations must be enforced on the beach and he hopes we can staff adequately.

**VII. New Business** There was no new business to discuss.

**VIII. Adjourn** There being no new business and no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:21am.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Clark to adjourn; seconded by Mr. O’Neil. This motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Reese, Chair

Public Safety Committee