



**TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 3, 2023

Committee met at 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 3, 2023 at Town Hall (2056 Middle St.), all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been met.

Present were:

Chairman Pat O'Neil, Committee members Kaye Smith and Bachman Smith

Staff: Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Police Chief Chris Griffin, Deputy Police Chief Glenn Meadows, Town Administrator Andy Benke, and Staff Members Jason Blanton, Charles Drayton, Joe Henderson, and Pam Otto.

Public: One (1) member

Media: None (0)

I. Call to Order and Confirmation of FOIA Notice

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., stating the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law, and all Committee members were present.

Media: None present

Public: One (1) member present

II. Reports

a. Reports from Chiefs: nothing to report.

b. Update on Micro mobility counters for traffic monitoring

Charles Drayton stated cameras were installed on March 1st and 4th at Station 22 ½ and Middle St, and Station 22 ½ and Jasper Blvd. He reported on pedestrian and bicycle crossings for both days, highlighting the percentage of how many use the crosswalks correctly. Chair O'Neil requested also setting up cameras to monitor the crossings on Middle Street between Stations 22 ½ and 22.

c. Coyote update

Mr. Benke reported there has been one call about a dog and coyote interaction and multiple calls about coyote sightings, which is typical. The Town's coyote protocol calls for trapping when there is a human and coyote interaction. He stated they have previously put traps out near SIES, but only caught two coyotes, as well as two dogs. The State has the same position, that people must learn how to live with coyotes, as opposed to eradication. Mr. Benke has reached out to Mr.

Jay Butfiloski, from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), to address Town Council at the April meeting.

III. Matters for Consideration for FY24 Budget

a. Increased staffing of Fire Department shift

Assistant Chief Hawver stated they would like to have four (4) officers per shift, as well as promote Adam Ivan to a Training Officer. Per Federal OSHA, there is a two-in, two-out regulation but the South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) still has a two-in, one-out policy. The Department would like to get up to Federal standards for safety reasons, as it has gotten more difficult to have back-ups arrive in a timely matter should firefighters need to go interior. There are also issues with coverage from other stations. Mr. Blanton stated the 2023/2024 draft budget does not consider the addition of one firefighter per shift at this time. Assistant Chief Hawver stated hiring 1.5 people in the next two budget years is an option.

Motion was made by Bachman Smith, seconded by Kaye Smith, to proceed as recommended by Assistant Fire Chief Mandy Hawver, passed unanimously.

b. Increased staffing for beach traffic management

Police Chief Chris Griffin stated they have hired six (6) new Beach Service Officers (BSO) for the season, and they have started traffic control on SC 703. There is \$65,000 in the budget for hiring additional officers. Mr. Benke stated the county will begin work on the traffic control lane delineation for Station 22 ½ Street.

c. April 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting and recommendation that Town transition to be battery-powered equipment (e.g., leaf blowers, mowers, trimmers) <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2613/Leaf-Blower-Resolution>

Chair O'Neil stated after discussion with commercial landscapers, it was determined that transitioning completely to electric equipment is not feasible at the moment. The Town encourages that any equipment replacements for the Town be electric from here on out. Assistant Chief Hawver stated they have made some replacements, but they are significantly more expensive. She also mentioned they will need gas-powered equipment in the event of a hurricane. The Maintenance budget for the upcoming year factors in some electric equipment replacements.

d. Permanent speed-limit sign with radar for SC 703 (causeway) southbound traffic (contingent on SCDOT approval)

Mr. Benke stated there have been complaints about speeding on SC 703 where homes begin to Jasper Blvd. A request to move the speed limit sign has been approved and it will move closer to the Ben Sawyer Bridge by about 300 feet. There is also a possibility of installing a sign with radar indicating a person's speed. It would cost approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 for installation and is not currently in the budget. There was some discussion about its necessity and will be further discussed at the Council meeting.

e. Increased enforcement monitoring of Protected Land

There are currently several cameras installed in the Accreted Land for surveillance and staff also occasionally patrol the area. Mr. Benke stated drones are another option to consider monitoring the area, but this would be a considerable expense.

Wayne Guckenberger (2105 Pettigrew) spoke about putting up signage on the beach boardwalks to protect the Town from litigation if someone falls or is hurt on one.

IV. **Adjourn.** There being no further public discussion or new business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:41 a.m.

Motion was made by Bachman Smith, seconded by Kaye Smith to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Otto

Approved at the May 16, 2023 Council Meeting