



**Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina
Public Safety Committee of Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 19, 2021**

The Public Safety Committee of Council met at 3pm, this date, all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been satisfied.

Present: Committee members Pat O'Neil, Chair, Kaye Smith and Bachman Smith, IV

Staff Members: Town Administrator Andy Benke, Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Captain Chris Wallace, Zoning Administrator Joe Henderson, Building Official Randy Robinson and Pamela Otto

I. Call to Order and Confirmation of FOIA Notice Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order, at 3pm, stated the press and public were duly notified pursuant to state law and all Committee members were present, no media and three (3) members of the public were present, including Council member Gary Visser.

II. Review of currently retained Committee items for discussion and possible disposition

- a. R-O-W Improvement – the encroachment permit was amended at the request of the SCDOT engineers to change from 6” to 8” of rock to 4” to 6” of rock. Likewise, at the request of the SCDOT, the permit would be for all of the areas identified but the Town would have the ability to approach the work incrementally as funding allowed. Benke gave some history of the process which has been for the purpose of improving the Right of Way (R-O-W), particularly where there is no storm water drainage. The question was whether the Town should do the work since the SCDOT did not seem to be willing or able. STANTEC was engaged to identify areas where the R-O-W needed improvement. The probable cost of the improvements was about

\$430,000. Mr. Smith stated he would not like to move forward with this, that the SCDOT needed to be held accountable for fixing their R-O-W. The decision was made to strike this from any future agenda as currently the SCDOT was making fixes where necessary.

- b.** Administrator's update and timing to install delineators and ceramic turtles for right-turn only at Jasper and Station 22.5 Street and Station 22.5 Street and Middle Street. Benke mentioned that this had come up before the Public Safety Committee in order to keep traffic flowing smoothly in these two (2) areas. SCDOT does not like cones in the long term so more permanent items were needed. The Town has filed an encroachment permit with the SCDOT, which has been sent back to the Town for refining. Benke did not yet have any estimate of the cost yet. Next step would be to wait for the SCDOT to get back to us and to call a meeting with the commercial district and residents in that area to get their thoughts, before coming to Town Council with a recommendation.
- c.** Continue the review and options to remove perpendicular parking on the south-side of Middle Street from Station 22 to Station 22.5 to improve traffic flow through the commercial district as recommended by SCDOT. Benke said that the current layout of the commercial district parking would not be approved in this day. However, the process to make the necessary changes would be in complicated. Mr. Smith felt this is a conversation that should include all of Council. Ms. Smith agreed, feeling it should be a workshop discussion.
- d.** Discussion and action to move forward with ground stabilization by Gulf Stream Construction (\$37,879.58) at the west end at Battery Logan for temporary boat trailer storage during Fire Station construction. The decision was made to strike this item from any future agenda.

III. Independence Day, summer traffic and safety report from the Chiefs

Captain Wallace stated that traffic flowed better now that there was no longer a lane closure on Ben Sawyer Blvd. Chief Stith stated that July 4th was much easier on first responders as there were no fireworks, which increases the traffic.

IV. Report on multi-agency working group on beach traffic management

Benke stated that the group has met once, including representatives from Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms, Folly Beach and Edisto, coordinated by the Council of Governments (COG). More traffic data is needed to make any decision.

Benke feels more staff is the answer; it is not enough for the Town of Sullivan's Island to hire deputies to direct the traffic, there needs to be the same effort made in neighboring communities in order to keep traffic moving smoothly. Also discussed was an app for public outreach, to let the public know when parking lots are full or traffic is heavy, for example.

V. Proposed Ordinance authorizing public safety personnel to gain access to vehicles if animals have been left unattended in dangerous conditions

Wallace said typical procedure was to contact the Fire Department, as they have the tools to enter a vehicle. Stith said there has been no difficulty yet entering a vehicle if necessary. Benke felt the state statute should be examined first. The Committee agreed to allow Benke to do more research on the state statute.

VI. Consideration of more golf cart parking in the commercial district

Mayor O'Neil wanted to discuss this more in depth at a time when the business owners in the commercial district can be present to give their feedback. Mr. Smith feels the Department of Transportation (SCDOT) should be contacted about it first. Benke said the SCDOT are not amenable to plans that eliminate vehicular parking spaces. Benke said there are currently eleven (11) spots for golf cart parking, and there are more areas around the commercial district where golf cart parking can be added without removing vehicular parking spaces. The Committee decided to have staff identify the possible golf cart parking spots and present them to Council as a whole.

VII. Repainting of yellow safety zone/no parking curbs It was discussed where repainting might need to be done. Benke pointed out that according to state statute 56-5-540, markings are considered a traffic control device and should be done only by the SCDOT. There is no further action at this time.

VIII. Discussion of stronger enforcement of dog licenses It was discovered at this time that this item was added to the agenda in error. No action required.

IX. Cars and ride-shares blocking emergency beach paths It was discussed that the Beach Service officers need to be vigilant and notify ones they see that they can't block the paths. State statute allows people to pull over and allow passengers to disembark. However if they are on the beach path, they are not on the state road but Town property and can be issued a ticket.

X. Adjourn There being no new business and no public comment, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:59pm.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Smith to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Smith. This motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela A. Otto". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a distinct 'A'.

Pamela Otto, Committee Secretary