



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

Friday, October 28, 2022

Committee met at 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 28, 2022 at Town Hall (2056 Middle St.), all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been met. Present were: Mayor Pat O'Neil and Committee member Kaye Smith, Committee member Bachman Smith arrived at approximately 9:15.

Staff: Fire Chief Anthony Stith, Assistant Fire Chief Amanda Hawver, Police Chief Chris Griffin, Police Captain Chris Wallace, Building Inspector Max Wurthmann, Town Administrator Andy Benke, Director of Planning and Zoning Charles Drayton and Comptroller Jason Blanton. Committee staff member Pam Otto was not present, Town staff member Jessi Gress filled in to cover meeting.

Public: One (1) member

- I. **Call to Order.** 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, Planning Commission member Laura Schroeder

- II. **Consideration of ways to eliminate perpendicular parking in the Commercial District.**

Mr. Benke stated different options have been looked at to increase parking in the Commercial District and possibly eliminate perpendicular parking. There have been studies done and recommendations made in the last eight or ten years, but it is being reviewed again. Mr. Benke clarified that when the parking layout was first approved, perpendicular parking was not an issue because there was a lot less traffic. He also mentioned previous potential layouts would result in possibly losing eight to ten parking spaces. He stated the Department of Transportation (DOT) may be less likely to approve since they are generally not supportive of losing beach parking options. He also mentioned reverse angle parking is not an option that DOT would consider.

In 2016 the estimated cost of construction for improvements was \$700,000. Mr. Benke stated it would most likely be in the millions now. The project would include adding sidewalks, adjusting the grade, stormwater improvements, and possibly adding more handicap spaces. The DOT would determine the parking layout using engineering standards, the Town does

not have a choice or design for the layout. With parking spaces lost in front of businesses, Town Council may have to consider what options would be possible for the empty space.

There was some discussion about the frequency of accidents and possible safety concerns for current and any potential parking layouts. There may also need to be consideration for ride shares to pick up and drop passengers off. The possibility of limiting parking to a few hours was mentioned and Mr. Benke stated that marking tires is likely not an option anymore. More staff would be needed to enforce timed parking regulations.

Laura Schroeder from the Planning Commission stated their main concern is ensuring safety for the area, especially for drivers and pedestrians not familiar with the area. She also spoke about other ideas the Commission would like to be discussed or looked at as possibilities, like closing Station 22.5 between Middle St. and I'On Ave.

There was some discussion about the upcoming changes to the intersection at Station 22 and Middle St. and how they would hopefully make the area safer.

Motion was made by Kaye Smith to take no action at this time.

Motion was amended by Kaye Smith, seconded by Mayor O'Neil, for Andy Benke go to the DOT to look at options, passed unanimously.

III. Report on and discussion of the beach traffic management meeting with the Mount Pleasant, Isle of Palms, Folly Beach, and Sullivan's Island Mayors, Administrators, Police Chiefs and Channel 4 staff.

Mayor O'Neil stated the above officials met the past week to discuss the beach traffic situation of this past summer. Channel 4 had used a variety of tactics over the summer to help alleviate beach traffic and they presented data collected. He said the results were positive and they will likely continue to push for measures to curb traffic.

Police Chief Griffin stated the good communication between our department and the Mt. Pleasant police department also helped alleviate traffic issues this past summer. Mt. Pleasant was able to change the timing of the traffic light on Ben Sawyer Blvd, allowing smoother traffic flow onto Sullivan's Island.

Mr. Benke stated Trooper Bob of Channel 4 was very helpful in getting information to the public regarding traffic.

IV. Discussion of the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Crossing of Ben Sawyer Blvd.

Mr. Drayton showed an example of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon that Mt. Pleasant has requested to install at the end of the Mt. Pleasant side of the causeway. Signs were installed at the crosswalk there by the Atlantic Beach House Condos. The DOT will not approve it until the condos have reached a certain capacity and a study is done to determine if there are enough crossings per hour (eight) to warrant the installation of a RRFB. Mt. Pleasant will also request funding from the Charleston County Greenbelt fund to extend the bike path on Ben Sawyer Boulevard to Rifle Range Road. They may request support from the Sullivan's Island Town Council in the future.

V. **Discussion of the Micro mobility monitor for Middle St. and Station 22.5**

Mr. Drayton stated the Council of Governments purchased Micro mobility monitors that can be put up on any pole for a few days to gather data for around \$600. He suggested they be put up at Middle and Station 22 ½ to gather traffic data before and after the new construction to observe any changes.

Motion was made by Kaye Smith, seconded by Mayor O'Neil for staff to study monitor and pass data to Town Council, passed unanimously with Bachman Smith abstaining.

VI. **Updates from Chiefs**

Mayor O'Neil stated the annual Fire Station Lighting will be Friday, December 2nd and they should be all moved into the new Fire Station by next week. He also stated the County Election Commission will hold a meeting to discuss voting security.

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

Motion was made by Kaye Smith, seconded by Mayor O'Neil to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m., passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Otto