

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: September 12, 2016

Time: 10:02 AM

Members Present: Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*; Bill Harkins and David Ames, *Council Members*

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Mike Mayers, *Deputy Fire Chief – Operations*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief – Support Services*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Cathy Jones-Gooding, *Communications Manager*; Joheida Fister, *Fire Marshal*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Captain Joey Woodward, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; various Hilton Head Island residents

Media Present: Tori Simkovic, *WJCL-TV*; and Macey Lauren, *WTOC-TV*

1. Call to Order

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting of August 1, 2016

A motion to approve the August 1, 2016 minutes was made by Mr. Ames and seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0, with Mr. Harkins abstaining since he was not present at that meeting.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. Proposed 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting Dates

A motion to approve the proposed 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting dates was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. Ames. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

b. Staff Update Concerning Staff and Community Progress Related to Lock-Out Units at Oceanwalk

Charles Cousins, Director of Community Development, reported that at the direction of Town Council, a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016, that will include the Oceanwalk Board, Councilman David Ames, Councilman Tom Lennox, Charles Cousins, and the regime management (IMC) representative to discuss the Oceanwalk covenants, by-laws, and how the Town can assist them.

Brian Hulbert, Staff Attorney, further reported that the Sheriff's Office, as directed by Town Council, has provided a list of service calls made to Oceanwalk over the last 3 years, and IMC has identified units potentially used as lock-outs. However, Mr. Cousins will seek clarification from the Oceanwalk Board at the Friday meeting as to specific units being used as lock-outs so that the service calls to these units can be more accurately identified.

Mr. Cousins clarified that the Friday meeting would not be a Board Meeting of Oceanwalk, but would be attended by the entire Oceanwalk Board members, either in person or by conference call. He noted that at the direction of Town Council, it will be a closed meeting. Mr. Harkins requested that the meeting be recorded, and Mr. Cousins indicated arrangements would be made to do so.

Chairman Grant requested a post-tourist season report from Captain Woodward, who indicated there had been no major issues, and extra patrols had been added.

c. Fire Rescue Semi-Annual Report:

i) Strategic Plan Update;

Brad Tadlock, Fire Chief, presented a PowerPoint, and reviewed in detail the Strategic Plan annual goals and objectives that had been completed, were in progress, or were on-going. He noted that ISO representatives were due to begin their on-site evaluation in late 2016 and early 2017, and based on the Fire Rescue internal audit, that he expected to maintain the current Class 3 rating or possibly to improve this rating. He also reported that the Beaufort County Channel is being used to disseminate information and educate the public on various topics. He pointed out that a new Strategic Plan would be presented to Town Council in 2018, with input provided by the entire Fire Rescue organization, Town Staff, with community involvement and participation. For accreditation, Chief Tadlock explained that each community is unique in terms of geography and population density, so data is analyzed, baselines are determined, and benchmarks are set by the community in comparison with national standards, realizing existing limitations.

ii) Mid-Year Open Burning Statistics Update;

Chief Tadlock reported the open burn statistics showing 248 registered burns through August 31, 2016, with compliance checks conducted on-site by crews on all but 10 of those burns. He explained how burn days have been established with feed-back provided by the public, and make-up days scheduled as weather conditions warranted. He reported that complaints were down, and noted the 10 warnings and 10 citations issued related to lack of burn permits, burning on a non-burn day, or illegal materials being burned. Chief Tadlock reported burn permits are being issued Island-wide, including North and South Forest Beach and Point Comfort on the south end, with the majority being in the Spanish Wells, Marshland Road, and mid-Island areas.

iii) Mid-Year Response Statistics; and

Chief Tadlock reviewed the response statistics through June 30th, showing increases from prior years, which he attributed to a better economy, increase in visitors, an aging population, and increased activity year-round. He reported that 20% of EMS calls are to local assisted living facilities. He reviewed the breakdown of fires, including the increase in those classified as commercial building fires, and detailed the estimated loss on significant fires through June 30, 2016.

Chief Tadlock noted that the American Heart Association Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Recognition had been awarded to Fire Rescue for their STEMI program, part of the cardiac care program with Hilton Head Hospital that results in saving lives.

Chairman Grant asked for a staffing report, and Chief Tadlock indicated there are current openings in senior staff, dispatch, and fire inspection, but line personnel are fully staffed. He reported that the department is very proactive and always encouraging diversity in career choices for Fire Rescue.

iv) Fire in the Streets Program.

Joheida Fister, Fire Marshal, gave a brief overview of the Fire in the Streets Program that was started in September of 2015. Through partnering with the Red Cross, a grant from FM Global, and smoke detectors donated from the State Fire Marshal's Office, crews from Fire Rescue and Red Cross volunteers went door-to-door in targeted neighborhoods to check and install smoke detectors or batteries, provide flood and emergency management information, and to generally interact with the community in the 471 homes visited. She indicated the program is continuing every other month.

Chief Tadlock also advised the Committee that 12 new cardiac monitors had been purchased this past spring through grant funds, training has been completed, and they are up and operating, providing a key element in the chain of survival for the cardiac care program and survival rate.

Chairman Grant congratulated Fire Rescue on the excellent job they are doing.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. Ames. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

/Approved November 7, 2016
Marc A. Grant, Chairman