



Town of Hilton Head Island
Community Services & Public Safety Committee

Monday, September 23, 2019 at 9:00 am

Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

Present From the Committee: Marc Grant, Bill Harkins, Tom Lennox

Present from Town Council: Tamara Becker

Present from Town Staff: Scott Liggett, Josh Gruber, Brad Tadlock, Joheida Fister, Tom Dunn, Teri Lewis, Alice Derian, Carolyn Grant

Present from Media: Katherine Kokal, *The Island Packet*

1. Call to Order

2. FOIA Compliance - Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and distributed in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Hilton Head Island.

3. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2019 Special Meeting – Councilman Lennox moved to approve. Councilman Harkins seconded. The August 19, 2019 Minutes were unanimously approved. **August 26, 2019** – Councilman Lennox moved to approve. Councilman Harkins seconded. The August 26, 2019 Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Unfinished Business

5. New Business

a. Fire Rescue Semi-Annual Report

Chief Brad Tadlock presented a brief PowerPoint to provide the second update this year in compliance with the Strategic Plan. He highlighted the yearly statistics through June 30.

Chief Tadlock proceeded to highlight accomplishments, as follows:

- January 2019 – Emergency Preparedness Guides updated
- February 2019 – ISO rating improvement to a Class 2
- March 2019 – Strategic Plan Adopted by Town Council
- June 2019 – New Portable and Mobile Radios implemented
- June 2019 – Resuscitation Quality Improvement Report
- June 2019 – Pulse Point went live
- June 2019 – Table Top Exercise for Palmetto Dunes POA/Security
- June 2019 – First two of ten medic units arrived
- June 2019 – New video Laryngoscopes

Chief Tadlock also reported on Fire Rescue Initiatives that are in progress, as follows:

- Fire Station 2 – Temporary Quarters

- New Patient Reporting Software Implementation
- New E911 phone system being installed by Beaufort County
- State Homeland Security Grants – Special Teams Funding
 - \$92,000 to support the Regional Hazmat Team
 - \$78,000 to support the Regional Rescue Team
- Update of the Community Risk Assessment and Standard of Cover Document

After a brief discussion, Chairman Grant thanked Chief Tadlock for his report.

b. Warning Siren Project - BCSO

Major David Zeoli of the Beaufort County Sherriff’s Department

Major Zeoli stated that hurricanes give us a good warning to prepare for something coming our way. Unfortunately it is not always the case with tornados. This Warning Siren Project started actually two years ago when the County applied for a hazard mitigation grant to help fund this project which was awarded. Unfortunately it had been put on “hold” with all the storms we had. We are now moving forward with the mitigation grant to purchase and install warning sirens throughout the county. These are only for a tornado warning. When you hear the siren, it is for a tornado warning. It is put in place to give them the ability to seek shelter. With a tornado, you may only have at best a 20 minute warning to seek shelter.

I am here today to inform you about the project, the county locations that were picked and why and to move forward. Phase I was the initial 12 locations that we picked to include the Town and other municipalities. Phase II we are trying to add 15 more sirens for a total of 27 throughout Beaufort County. Major Zeoli proceeded to show on a map where the sirens will be placed. Primarily we are looking at Fire Stations, Schools and boat landings. Those areas normally have a good majority of people around them. The siren itself stands on a 70 foot pole and rotates with a steady tone that hopefully the public will get used to when they hear it and they will know it is a threat and seek shelter. We do not plan on doing any installation for several months because of the budget year. There is a matched cost to any grant as you are well aware of. The grant itself is \$521,000. Our cost share for the County is \$187,000 for Phase I. We applied for Phase II which was just a little less of \$459,000. My goal is to have the first siren approved to start installation in July, 2020. The system is designed to only be activated by the National Weather Service in Charleston. Once they issue the tornado warning it is activated by the National Weather Service in Charleston. After a brief discussion, the Committee thanked Major Zeoli for his informative report.

c. Shore Beach Services Summer Season Year End Report

Ralph Wagner from Shore Beach Services advised the Committee they provide the beach patrol for the Town of Hilton Head Island. Our primary goal is to help protect the safety of the beach goers. We cover the entire beach from Braddock Cove all the way around to Fish Haul Creek. Some of our activities include patrolling the beach, life guarding, we advise beach goers of beach ordinance violations, administer first aid (we notify and cooperate with EMS when their services are needed) and we collect trash and recycling from the beach. Each day our beach patrol personnel collects data with respect to any incidents we have responded to on the beach. We gather statistics in four different categories: 1) safety 2) medical incidents 3) beach ordinance incidents and 4) other. We report more medical incidents than any other category with the beach ordinance violations being the second most.

During the peak of the summer, we routinely fill between 8-10 eight-yard dumpsters daily. In addition, we use 2 thirty-yard dumpsters for larger debris, canopies, chairs, umbrellas and any overflow from the 8 yard dumpsters.

After a brief discussion, the Committee thanked Mr. Wagner for his report.

Councilman Becker said what she would like to bring forward for this Committee to think about and find solutions for is an issue with regard to cameras in our public parks and areas. I am told that over these past couple of days there have been a rash of break-ins across the Island and not just in these public places but also behind the gates. In fact, last evening my car was broken into while parked at the boat landing. When I asked the officer what we can do to help with this, the response I heard was if the Town could help support with additional cameras. Not only does it hopefully help track people down over time, but it also acts as a deterrent. In a Town like ours, we certainly shouldn't be having this much difficulty with this type of criminal activities. If we are going to, we need to address it in a very proactive way. As this Committee is charged with public safety, I would like one of the discussions and items for further review to be the installation of cameras in our public parks and to also work with the county to make sure we have that type of deterrent in place at the boat landings also to assist our Sherriff's Department.

6. Adjournment

Councilman Harkins moved to adjourn. Councilman Lennox seconded. The Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Submitted by:

Karen D. Knox

Approved: 10-28-2019