



Town of Hilton Head Island COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE Monday, May 15, 2023, 10:00 a.m. MINUTES

Present from Committee: Tamara Becker, *Chair*; Steve Alfred, Patsy Brison, Alex Brown, *Committee Members*

Present from Town Council: David Ames, Glenn Stanford

Present from Town Staff: Josh Gruber, *Deputy Town Manager*; Cindaia Ervin, *Assistant Town Clerk*

1. Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Ms. Ervin confirmed compliance with the SC Freedom of Information Act.

3. Roll Call

Attendance was confirmed by way of roll call.

4. Approval of the Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – April 17, 2023, 2023

Mr. Alfred moved to approve. Ms. Brison seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Appearance by Citizens

None.

6. New Business

a. Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Hilton Head Island Crime Data Quarterly Report- Jeff Purdy, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office Southern Enforcement Branch Commander

Major Jeff Purdy of Beaufort County Sheriff's Office presented the quarterly report and reviewed the data collected from the first quarter of 2023. He reviewed Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Vehicle Collisions, Tickets, Calls for Service and Violations of Town Ordinances. During discussion, Ms. Brison

suggested the comparison should be from quarter to quarter rather than year to year.

Major Purdy reviewed the vehicle collisions in detail. He noted there was one fatality this year which was a pedestrian that was hit by a vehicle. He stated it was dark and the driver did not see the victim, and the South Carolina State Highway Patrol is handling the case.

Ms. Brison asked Major Purdy to explain what the Sheriff's office does as far as patrolling the area for speeding and red-light violations. Major Purdy noted that the violations are several distracted and aggressive drivers. He stated that being present is the goal of the department to address the issue and to be a deterrent to these types of drivers. Mr. Alfred asked which areas have the most vehicular collisions. Major Purdy said that the key collision intersections are near Spanish Wells and Gumtree Road along with Palmetto Bay Road and the Sea Pines traffic circle. Ms. Becker thanked Major Purdy for the chart with a breakdown of locations of vehicle collisions.

Major Purdy informed the Committee that on February 23, 2023 the Sheriff's Office SWAT Bomb teams participated in the Low Country Regional Response Teams' full-scale exercise. He explained the purpose of the exercise was to assess core capabilities in environmental response, operational coordination, security and protection, interdiction and disruption, operational communications, search and rescue, and public health and medical science and the participants has to work through the scenario for a successful resolution. He reviewed additional engagements and events the Sheriff's Office participated in which included an introduction of Rufus and Molly, the Bloodhound Tracking Team to visitors at the Sandbox Museum. He noted that while they are tracking dogs, they are very kid friendly.

Mr. Brown pointed out the presence of the Sheriff's Office at a recent meeting at Sandalwood and asked that they consider working on an outreach in that area to develop a positive relationship with the citizens and children. He suggested that Rufus and Molly make a visit to the area. Ms. Becker stated she is assisting with programming at Sandalwood and suggested an invitation be extended to have Rufus and Molly at one of the programs.

Ms. Brison stated there are many concerns from residents regarding speeding throughout the Island and on US278. She asked that at the next update, the Sheriff's Office provide what efforts are being made to address the problem. She additionally inquired regarding the breakdown of how funds are expended with the dollars paid by the Town and asked for a report with that information.

Committee members thanked Major Purdy for his presentation.

7. Executive Session

a. Discussion of Personnel Matters [Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom

of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1)] Related to:

- i. Town Council Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees:
 1. Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee
 2. Board of Zoning Appeals
 3. Parks & Recreation Commission
 4. Planning Commission

At 10:25 a.m., Ms. Becker stated the need for an Executive Session for the above matters. Mr. Alfred moved to enter Executive Session for the reasons cited by Chair Becker. Ms. Brison seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Adjournment

Upon returning to regular session at 11:26 a.m., Ms. Becker stated there was no action taken during or to be taken as a result of the Executive Session and adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED: June 12, 2023

The recording of this meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov