



The Town of Hilton Head Island Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting

Monday, June 2, 2014

10:00 a.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting

- 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 May 5, 2014
- 4. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Pedestrian Safety Concerns at Various South Island Locations
- 5. New Business**

None
- 6. Adjournment**

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of Town Council members attend this meeting.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: May 5, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*; John J. McCann and Bill Harkins, *Council Members*

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; and Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Kim Likins, *Council Member*; Lt. Jason Covington, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Kiera Morris, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; and Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

Media Present: None

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 March 3, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. 1st Quarter 2014 Crime Statistics – Capt. Joey Woodward

Lt. Jason Covington of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office noted that Capt. Woodward was not available today, and he presented a PowerPoint outlining the detailed crime statistics for the 1st quarter of 2014, as cited in the Uniform Crime Report, which is included in the agenda packet.

Mr. McCann questioned whether the rise in auto thefts was countywide and/or trending, and Lt. Covington stated it was a sporadic problem, and an individual had been identified who was potentially involved in some of the thefts documented in the quarterly statistics. He noted the auto thefts are mostly crimes of opportunity where cars are left unlocked with keys present in the cars.

Lt. Covington outlined the traffic tickets and criminal tickets issued by Patrol and the Hilton Head Island Traffic Team, and noted no marine tickets had been issued.

Mr. Harkins and Lt. Covington discussed the fact that no one particular group has been identified as being responsible for the crimes against property. Mr. McCann and Lt. Covington discussed how crimes occurring in gated communities are reported. Lt. Covington noted there could be some incidents handled directly by security within the gated communities, but if an incident report is completed, it is a BCSO report, with all of those being transmitted to the Sheriff's Office. Chairman Grant and Lt. Covington discussed the traffic tickets that are issued by the Traffic Team funded by the Town, and the fact these are citations requiring a court appearance.

Chairman Grant and Lt. Covington discussed the concerns expressed by Windmill Harbour residents about the speed limit crossing the bridges, the difficulty of turning into and out of Windmill Harbour safely, and whether the Traffic Team has focused on this area. Lt. Covington noted the Traffic Team does focus on that area during rush hour traffic, but the volume of traffic at those times makes enforcement for speeding difficult. Chairman Grant informed him that the Committee is exploring a possible reduction in the speed limit on the bridge. Lt. Covington confirmed for Mr. McCann that no statistics for Windmill Harbour are included in the crime report, since Windmill Harbour is outside the Town limits.

Mr. Harkins asked that the texting statistics be isolated in future reports, which Lt. Covington indicated could be included. They discussed the education efforts being conducted, but Lt. Covington noted there are no message boards displayed in the County or Town. He noted that since the ban was generated, although there are still some violations, he felt this problem is not as prominent as it had been. He confirmed for Mr. McCann that only warnings had been issued so far, and a database is maintained of warning tickets issued.

Chairman Grant and Lt. Covington discussed educational materials for visitors during the summer months to protect them from larcenies, including the NIXL program being implemented by Sheriff Tanner to provide green information about safety and protecting valuables, and information provided through social media.

Mr. Harkins asked whether the Sheriff's Office had received any comments or observations concerning the use of Segways on the Island pathways and whether these might be helpful to the Sheriff's Department. Lt. Covington indicated no complaints had been reported. Although the Sheriff's Department has explored the use of Segways, they determined the size of the Island was not conducive to their use.

Chairman Grant and Lt. Covington discussed the 2 forcible rapes reported for the 1st quarter, and Lt. Covington indicated that both involved known assailants.

Chairman Grant thanked Lt. Covington for his report, and asked for comments from the public.

Kim Likins, Council Member, informed the Committee that one of the fatalities this quarter occurred in North Forest Beach on Lagoon Road, which is a State Road. She reported multiple meetings with the families of the victim, and their request to consider road improvements to increase safety in the area, including a bike path which she noted has also been discussed in connection with the Coligny area improvements, or possible warning strips on the roadside, speed bumps or other methods to mitigate speed, and a speed limit or children at play sign. She relayed the family's concern that such a tragedy not happen again.

Tom Nowak and Julie Williams, residents of Long Cove, expressed their concern for bicyclists and pedestrians at several Island crossings, including Shipyard Drive and US 278, Arrow Road and US 278, and Pope Avenue and New Orleans Road. They noted their concerns had been relayed to Darrin Shoemaker, Traffic and Transportation Engineer.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Harkins that the Committee ask Darrin Shoemaker to analyze the concerns raised by Ms. Likins and the Long Cove residents and to attend the next Committee meeting to address these issues and suggest possible solutions. Mr. McCann seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

6. Adjournment

At 10:22 a.m. Chairman Grant moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn W. Buchman
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

Marc A. Grant, Chairman



MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety Committee

FROM: Jeff Buckalew, Town Engineer

VIA: Greg Deloach, Assistant Town Manager
Scott Liggett, Director of Public Projects & Facilities / Chief Engineer
Darrin Shoemaker, Traffic and Transportation Engineer

DATE: May 28, 2014

RE: Pedestrian safety concerns at various south island locations

Recommendation: Upon hearing the staff presentation regarding specific and general pedestrian safety issues raised at last month's meeting, staff recommends the Committee make and forward a recommendation to Town Council to direct staff on the implementation of enhancements or further analysis of these safety issues.

Summary: At their May 5, 2014 meeting, the Public Safety Committee requested staff assess pedestrian safety concerns on Lagoon Road, pedestrian crossing safety on William Hilton Parkway at the Shipyard Drive/Wexford Drive traffic signal, William Hilton Parkway at Arrow Road, and Pope Avenue at New Orleans Road. Staff will present its findings in detail at the June 2, 2014 meeting.

Background:

The Lagoon Road concerns stem from the recent pedestrian fatality, the lack of a pedestrian facility for the majority of the road's length, the lack of speed limit postings and other physical measures to enhance safety. Lagoon Road is a two-lane road that is posted for 30 MPH in one-direction (westbound) only, while state statute renders the speed limit on this road 30 MPH in the absence of signs. The road is maintained by the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and staff will request that additional signs be posted regarding the speed limit. The road is marked with a double-solid-yellow centerline, but not edge lines. The SCDOT will likely not find the application of white edge lines or "rumble" treatments (raised or indented), warranted by field conditions. The Town would likely have to pursue installation of these items at its own expense. Installation of speed bumps has routinely been rejected by the Town due to the concerns of emergency responders and would not be a viable option on this SCDOT road. The existing pedestrian facilities run only from Pope Avenue to Avocet Road, and from Avocet Road to Ibis Road there are none. Staff will assess the cost and timeliness of a proposed facility within these extents. The accident investigation on the

pedestrian fatality that occurred at 9:00 PM on February 14th, 2014 was conducted by the South Carolina Highway Patrol and described an at-fault motorist that was found to be traveling approximately 25 MPH.

The width of the side street medians on Shipyard Drive and Wexford Drive at William Hilton Parkway have led to longstanding right-of-way perception issues with left-turning motorists from both sides. Staff has observed motorists turning left without yielding to opposing motorists or pedestrians, as if they are being directed to proceed by a left turn signal arrow. The Town maintains signs reading “LEFT TURN YIELD ON (green ball)” to approaching side street motorists, but sometimes motorists disregard these. To enhance pedestrian safety here, staff will install a pedestrian crossing warning sign at the crosswalk, facing west bound traffic. Staff also intends to analyze modifications to “split-phase” this signal, thereby forcing the two side street motorists to take turns, instead of proceeding concurrently through the intersection as currently happens. This will inevitably increase the length of red signal time and delays for both directions of William Hilton Parkway; however the safety benefits are thought to outweigh the adverse impacts to conveyance. The SCDOT owns this signal and would have to approve any modifications to its operation.

The pedestrian crossings at William Hilton Parkway and Arrow Road and at Pope Avenue at New Orleans Road are both signalized. The concerns here were not specified, but staff will provide an overview of how these intersections function and any safety enhancements that may be considered.