

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: November 9, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Harkins, *Chairman*, George Williams, Bill Ferguson

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Jennifer Hasting, *Assistant Town Engineer*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, *BCSO*; Allen Davis, *Chief of Security, Palmetto Dunes*; Mary Amonetti

Media Present: Laura Nahmais, *Island Packet*

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. FOIA 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:

Mr. Harkins tabled the minutes of the August 3, 2009 meeting because there was not a quorum of those in attendance from the meeting.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2009. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Minutes of September 14, 2009 were approved 2-0-1. (Mr. Ferguson abstained because he was not present at the September 14, 2009 meeting.)

4. Chairman's Report:

None.

5. Unfinished Business:

None.

6. New Business:

- **Revised 2010 Public Safety Committee Meeting Dates**
(July meeting changed from July 5 to July 12 due to holiday)

Mr. Williams moved to approve the revised 2010 Public Safety Committee Meeting dates. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. The revised 2010 Public Safety Committee meeting dates were approved unanimously. (3-0)

Mr. Harkins stated he was changing the order of the agenda and reviewing the Crime Stats and addressing the proposed Debris Related Ordinance Amendments at this time. All were in agreement.

- **Debris Related Ordinance Amendments to the Town Code**

- **Nuisance Abatement**

Jeff Buckalew presented an overview of the proposed ordinance along with the changes requested by the Committee from the September 14, 2009 meeting. He explained the revisions to the ordinance included the time frame for the abatement process was originally proposed as changing it from 15 days to 7 days. They have since reinstated the 15 day time frame in the revised amendment. Mr. Buckalew also point out that if the property owner does not have the means to abate the nuisance, the Town would have a provision where the Town Manager could waive the cost with the criteria for such a waiver being if the owner has a household income of less than 80% of the most recent median household income. Another amendment is if the Town deems the nuisance to be an immediate threat to public health and safety, the Town Manager or his agent has the right to go in and take immediate measures to remove the nuisance. Mr. Williams asked if the Town would go in and abate the nuisance, and the property owner could afford to pay but did not, how could the Town recover the cost? Brian Hulbert approached the dais and stated any collection of a debt available to any governmental entity would be available to the Town. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Hulbert to research the subject and report back to Council with the information. After discussion, Mr. Ferguson motioned to recommend to Town Council the proposed Nuisance Abatement Ordinance Amendments to the Town Code. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. (3-0)

- **Post-Disaster Debris Collection**

Jeff Buckalew reviewed the proposed ordinance stating it will give the Town the authority to enter on to private properties to collect and remove debris. He stated the need for the ordinance is because under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, if the Town has the legal authority to enter on to private property to remove disaster debris that is a threat to public health and safety, the Town would then be eligible for reimbursement. After review and discussion Mr. Williams motioned to recommend to Town Council the proposed ordinance for Post-Disaster Debris Collection. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Mr. Harkins asked if there were any comments from the audience. Mary Amonetti approached the dais and asked questions concerning the proposed ordinance. All questions were answered. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

- **2nd Quarter 2009 Crime Statistics** – Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, BCSO

- **Crimes Against Persons**

Lieutenant Zanelotti noted that over all, Crimes Against Persons had increased by 12.84%. He noted the area of Criminal Domestic Violence has increased from 32 incidents in the 3rd Quarter of 2008 to 51 incidents in the 3rd Quarter of 2009. He stated he felt the effects of the economy are a contributing factor. He informed the Committee that within the Planned Unit Developments there was an overall decrease by 43.8% from the same quarter in 2008.

- **Crimes Against Property**

Lieutenant Zanelotti reported there was a decrease in Crimes Against Property with the most significant decrease being in Breaking and Entering Vehicles. He stated in the comparison by areas there was a decrease in most areas with the exception of the Singleton/Bradley Beach Area along with the Spanish Wells PUD.

Vehicle Collisions

Lieutenant Zanelotti reported Vehicle Collisions were down by .31% for the 3rd Quarter of 2009 as compared to the 3rd Quarter of 2008 with an increase of 14 in the area of Collisions with Injury and a decrease in Collisions Without Injury and Hit in Run Without Injury.

Tickets

Lieutenant Zanelotti informed the Committee members the tickets issued through the 3rd Quarter of 2009 total 4030 and the total tickets issued in 2008 were 6354 noting the traffic team and patrol officers continue to do good work. Lieutenant Zanelotti also noted the marine officer has issued 23 tickets to date this year. Mr. Williams suggested the officer enhance enforcement of the no wake zones in the surrounding areas.

Drug Violations

Lieutenant Zanelotti stated that Drug Violations for the most continue to be higher in the area of possession of marijuana simple with a total of 32 incidents for the 3rd Quarter of 2009. He noted there is a decrease of 10 incidents from the 3rd Quarter of 2008. Lieutenant Zanelotti commented the task force maintains a presence on the Island and continues to crack down on drug use and trafficking.

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ferguson seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

Bill Harkins, Chairman