

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

**Date:** September 14, 2009

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

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

**Members Absent:** Bill Ferguson

**Town Staff Present:** Scott Liggett, *Director of Public Projects and Facilities*; Jeff Buckalew, *Town Engineer*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Jennifer Hasting, *Assistant Town Engineer*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

**Others Present:** Joe Croley, *Hilton Head Area Association of Realtors*; Peter Kristian, *Hilton Head Plantation*; Ward Kirby

**Media Present:** Daniel Brownstein, *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 noted there was not a quorum of the participants from the August 3, 2009 Public Safety Committee meeting. He stated the minutes will be placed on the agenda for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

None.

**5. Unfinished Business:**

None.

**6. New Business:**

- **Proposed 2010 Public Safety Committee Meeting Dates**

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Public Safety Committee Meeting dates for 2010 after correcting the July 5 through December 6 dates from 2009 to 2010. Mr. Harkins seconded the Motion. The dates for 2010 were approved unanimously. (2-0)

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

- **Nuisance Abatement**

Mr. Williams moved to approve. Mr. Harkins seconded. Jeff Buckalew presented an overview explaining the amendment which are changes in the timing for notification of property owners of a nuisance on their property from 15 days to 7 days to remove or abate the nuisance and if not, the Town has the authority to do so. It also includes a change in that the Town Manager can waive the costs involved in removing the nuisance if the property owner lacks the ability or means to get the work done. Mr. Williams stated he has concern with shortening the length of time the property owner has to remove the nuisance and the means in which Town going to determine who can and cannot financially afford the cost of removal. He also questioned as to where the funds would come from to absorb the costs? Mr. Buckalew replied the length of time limit is for a response, not for removal. Mr. Williams pointed out the amendment specifically states 7 days to abate the problem, not respond. Mr. Harkins asked if Mr. Williams had any suggestions on any of the language in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Williams responded that at this particular point he is not satisfied and it needs more work. Mr. Harkins added consideration of waiving costs needs something more than an individual's statement confirming they lack the ability or means to remove the nuisance. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Harkins advised Mr. Buckalew the amendment should be reviewed and refined in the areas discussed and then resubmitted to the Public Safety Committee at the October 5 meeting. The motion failed. (0-2)

o **Debris Collection on Private Streets**

Mr. Williams moved for approval. Mr. Harkins seconded. Mr. Williams recommended all property owners and Planned Unit Developments need to be informed that this policy is going to take place. Mr. Buckalew stated they have been conducting meetings with all Planned Unit Development managers explaining why this proposed ordinance would be beneficial to the Town and all parties concerned. He stated these meetings have been going well. Mr. Harkins asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Mr. Peter Kristian, General Manager of *Hilton Head Plantation* complimented Mr. Ward Kirby, Jeff Buckalew and Jennifer Hasting on the work they have done in putting this proposed ordinance together. He stated the proposed ordinance has Hilton Head Plantation's full support.

Brian Hulbert asked that the proposed ordinance be amended by doing the following: Under 9-5-211 – paragraph b, second line – delete the letter *s* after *exercise*; and in paragraph d, second line – after *easements* and before *in add - and designated common areas within Town limits*.

Mr. Williams requested clarification on the changes requested. Scott Liggett responded by explaining they are trying to capture all property within the overall Town limits not just property in private communities. Jennifer Hasting explained the wording would assist the Town in recouping expenses through FEMA because it is a judgment call on FEMA's part as to whether common areas would be reimbursable but it would be beneficial to have the wording included. Mr. Buckalew emphasized this proposed ordinance is just the authority to complete the work, there would still have to be a directive from the Town Manager. He also explained this needs to be in place and submitted with the updated debris management plan submitted to FEMA. Mr. Buckalew wanted the Committee to be aware FEMA may come back and make recommendations for changes. This will have to be addressed when and if it happens. The motion passed as amended. (2-0)

**7. Adjournment:**

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harkins seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

---

Bill Harkins, Chairman