

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: November 4, 2013

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*; Lavarn Lucas, *Fire Chief*; Brad Tadlock, *Deputy Fire Chief - Operations*; Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Jayme Lopko, *Senior Planner*; and Lynn Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Kim Likins, *Council Member*; Captain Joey Woodward, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Kiera Morris, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Sheriff P.J. Tanner, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; and Toby McSwain, *Director of Security for Sea Pines*

Media Present: Tom Barton, *The Island Packet*

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 October 7, 2013

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 meeting of the Public Safety Committee was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Committee agreed to change the order of the Agenda to allow the New Business item to be heard before the Unfinished Business.

5. New Business

a. 3rd Quarter 2013 Crime Statistics – Capt. Joey Woodward

Captain Joey Woodward referenced the Uniform Crime Report for the 3rd Quarter of 2013, which was a part of the agenda packet, and briefly noted the quarterly statistics and analyses for crimes against persons, crimes against property, vehicle collisions, tickets, and volunteer hours.

In response to Mr. Harkins' inquiry about the incident that occurred at Northridge Cinema approximately 3 weeks ago and the steps being taken to help prevent future situations of this type, Captain Woodward outlined the extra patrols assigned to Northridge Plaza, particularly at closing times, and escorts provided when requested.

Chairman Grant asked for public comments, and there were none. A motion to accept the report as presented by Captain Woodward was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. McCann. The motion was unanimously adopted by a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Brief Update on Yard Debris Pickup Issue

Greg DeLoach, Assistant Town Manager, informed the Committee that the Town had established a 3-person Committee consisting of Jayme Lopko, Brian Hulbert, and Julian Walls, to investigate solutions to the yard debris issue. He reported on a meeting of the team last Tuesday with Betsy Doughtie from Deep Well, looking at ideas and the possible participation of Deep Well. There was additional discussion with them about income-based eligibility, but they were informed that Deep Well does not have the resources to take on such a project.

He also reported that an additional meeting by the team was held on Friday with Dot Law, Veronica Miller, and Irv Campbell, representing various POA's within Ward 1. As requested by this Committee, the purpose was to discuss a community-based solution. The POA's reiterated their opposition to the burn ordinance, discussed the level of the problem in the various Ward 1 communities, and the necessity for more work to determine the need. The possibility of the Town providing bags was also discussed at that meeting, as well as whether an income-based eligibility program is needed, or a larger program that may exceed the problems created by the burn ordinance.

He noted they are also discussing with Beaufort County the possibility of expanding the number of loads at the Convenience Center during certain months in the fall and spring when the demand is greater. While this may resolve some issues, he stated picking up the yard debris is not resolved.

Mr. DeLoach concluded his update noting that the Town is still in the initial stages of meetings and seeking community involvement.

Mr. McCann noted this issue affects not only Ward 1, but also affects those living in Ward 6. Mr. DeLoach agreed that the scope is not limited to Ward 1.

Chairman Grant and Mr. DeLoach discussed the possibility of designating a Town-owned site where debris might be dropped, and the questions raised of how much debris is anticipated, and who and under what circumstances a person is eligible to drop off yard debris. Mr. DeLoach confirmed for Chairman Grant that the team is checking for successful programs elsewhere.

Mr. Harkins asked about the timing, and Mr. DeLoach indicated that although the team has completed some meetings, it is continuing discussions with Beaufort County and others. He anticipated they would have options ready to present within 3 to 4 weeks, however, the big question yet to be answered is what is the scope of the issue.

Lavarn Lucas, Fire Chief, explained the figures provided at the last Committee meeting, with the average of 175 being inclusive of all addresses requesting permits, those burning without permits where warnings were issued, and an estimated number of those burning without a permit who were never caught.

Mr. Harkins and Mr. DeLoach discussed the ideas presented by the community leaders that have so far participated in meetings. Mr. DeLoach noted that the consensus is not to adopt the burn ordinance, and that the Town created a situation, which the Town should solve. He outlined several options, including bag distribution, conditions for distribution, who qualifies, the budget, personnel that may need to be hired, and the difficulty of defining the issue. Meetings will continue so that options can be presented to Town Council.

Discussion followed among the Committee members concerning proposed ideas they felt might be accepted by the leadership in Ward 1. These included the possibility of a trash or yard debris pickup centered around the group currently burning and a 5-year moratorium to allow burning permits to continue until a long-term solution is found. Chairman Grant indicated that many of the constituents of Ward 1 are in favor of some form of a burning ban, but do not want the extra burden and stress of maintaining their property without a positive solution.

Mr. Harkins and Mr. DeLoach discussed whether the establishment of a program for seasonal debris pickup should be limited to those currently burning or is needed Island-wide with income-based eligibility requirements. Mr. DeLoach pointed out the costs involved in administering such a program, and if the Ward 1 POA's could not help with that, the Town might have to take on that cost.

Chairman Grant asked for public comment. Dot Law, President of the Marshland/Chaplin/Gardner POA, commented on the meeting held with the Town Committee. She noted the consensus of the Native Island POA's was that this issue was not so large as to warrant the type of solutions that were brought up at that meeting. She noted the POA's are not able contribute to the cost for a debris pickup program, and the general consensus among the POA representatives was that this situation is too small to even put the burning ban in place, but rather fines should be increased if the current burning regulations are disregarded. She pointed out burning goes on in other places on the Island - not just Ward 1. Ms. Law suggested that if the ban is adopted by the Town, then the Town should be involved in a solution for those who are affected.

There were no further public comments.

Adjournment

At 10:23 a.m. Mr. Harkins 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: 1/6/2014

Marc A. Grant, Chairman