



Town of Hilton Head Island
**Community Services & Public Safety
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, September 18, 2023, 10:00 AM
MINUTES

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

Call to Order

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

FOIA Compliance

Gammon confirmed Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Brison moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August, 7, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2023 and the Special Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023. Alfred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Appearance by Citizens

There were none.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of Appointment of a Town of Hilton Head Island Representative on the Military Enhancement Committee of Beaufort County – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Josh Gruber noted the item had previously been discussed at the August meeting where the Committee asked for additional information in order to make a recommendation to the full Town Council.

The Beaufort County Military Enhancement Committee is an auxiliary committee of the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is to protect, enhance and grow the military presence in Beaufort County through advocacy, information sharing and influence at the local, state, and national levels.

The current membership of the Military Enhancement Committee consists of the following individuals representing these corresponding entities:

1. Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce (2) appointed by the Chamber

- Chair;
2. Beaufort County Council (2) appointed by the designated Council authority;
 3. Beaufort City Council (1) appointed by the Mayor
 4. Port Royal Town Council (1) appointed by the Mayor;
 5. Bluffton Town Council (1) appointed by the Mayor;
 6. Hilton Head Island Town Council (1) appointed by the Mayor
 7. The representative for Beaufort County on the S.C. Military Task Force appointed by the Governor;
 8. Greater Island Council (2) appointed by the Council Chair.

Based upon publicly available information, it appears that a substantial amount of the Committee's annual operating funds come from budgeted funds provided by Beaufort County. Mr. Scott has indicated that many of the organization's members have also contributed \$15,000 per year to the MEC's operations. However, Mr. Scott also indicated that there is no financial prerequisite to participation on the MEC.

Alfred moved to forward the request to the full Town Council for consideration. Brown seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion of a Proposed Ordinance 2023-17 Amending Title 12 of the Municipal Code of the Town of Hilton Head Island, Motor Vehicles and Traffic Control, to Revise Regulations Related to Beach Parking – Josh Gruber, Deputy Town Manager

Mac Deford referenced and explained the revisions in the proposed ordinance as detailed in the packet. The draft Beach Parking Management Ordinance has been updated for your review, featuring the following key changes:

1. “Resident” Definition: For the purpose of the Beach Parking Management Ordinance, the draft ordinance contains the definition of “resident” as outlined in Town Council Resolution No. 2022-05, which is included as an attachment for your reference. (see section 12-5-512 of the draft ordinance)
2. Operating Hours: The updated ordinance proposes gives the Town Manager the authority to establish the hours of operation for paid parking areas. This approach offers flexibility to tailor hours based on parking area usage metrics. Any such hours set by the Town Manager would require Town Council approval, ideally formalized through a resolution of Town Council. (see section 12-5-519(a) of the draft ordinance.
3. Late Fees: The updated draft ordinance now includes a provision for a \$25 late fee for unpaid fines.

Deford stated the draft Beach Parking Management Ordinance, as updated and as may be modified by the CSPS Committee by motion and approval, may be submitted to the Town Council for additional deliberation and subsequent action.

Discussion took place.

Brison moved the Committee recommend adoption of the draft Ordinance 2023-17 with the inclusion of language that allows for business parking passes to be considered and that the Committee consider adopting a resolution establishing in the rates, including a consideration of a maximum daily rate at the next scheduled Committee meeting and the two actions be adopted on final reading at the same time. Brown seconded.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Melinda Tunner addressed the Committee suggesting revisions to the beach parking ordinance. She suggested the ordinance read paid parking near beach access instead of paid parking for beach access as parking takes place at various parks for events other than accessing the beach; there should be consistency of language for who is eligible for resident parking;, and the need for consistency in the names of the designated parking areas.

Frank Babel addressed the Committee and urged them to look at public policy to charge the Town staff to start thinking about alternatives to relieve the beach parking problems.

Chair Becker called for a vote. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business

Fire Rescue Mid-Year Update – Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

Chief Blankenship presented the mid-year report for January 1 – June 30, 2023. He noted the department averaged 26 incidents per day which is consistent with 2022. He stated the busiest stations are Station 1, Station 7, and Station 5 with the top four incident types being alarm system activation (no fire – unintentional), authorized controlled burning, smoke detector activation (no fire – unintentional), and alarm system sounded due to malfunction. He added the top three medical incident types are EMS calls, excluding vehicle accident with injury, motor vehicle accident with injuries and dispatched and called canceled in route and the top three medical impression types are generalized weakness, syncope (fainting and injury of head (contributed mostly by falls).

Chief Fister updated the Committee on the duties of the Bureau of Fire Prevention noting they do much more than fire prevention. She stated in July they will rebrand the Bureau of Fire Prevention to Community Risk Reduction. This aligns with the accreditation model and all of the programs that are in place at this time. The website will be updated, and social media posts will be done to talk about the rebranding. She noted they will focus on Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Economic Incentives and Emergency response needs.

Chief Blankenship and Chief Fister answered questions from the Committee regarding the rebranding and programs provided by Fire Rescue throughout the community.

Chief Blankenship reported the Emergency Management Division to date has conducted 13 community presentation with 430 attendees and distributed 1,150 Preparedness Guides (English and Spanish). He reviewed the 911 Communication

Center calls which have increased since 2022. Chief Blankenship provided a staffing update and noted the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting. He reviewed the department accomplishments to date.

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

Major Purdy conducted a presentation regarding the 2nd Quarter Crime Statistics reviewing the numbers for Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, Vehicle Collisions, Tickets, Calls for Service and Ordinance Violations. Major Purdy answered questions from the Committee and provided details regarding incidents and programs.

Chairman Becker adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Approved: October 16, 2023

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