



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
10:00am, Tuesday, June 6, 2023
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and
broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Present: Council members Hahn, Ward, and Anderson

Staff Present: Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr, Chief Oliverius, Captain Swain

2. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – May 2, 2023

Council Member Hahn made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen's Comments

Al Clouse's comments are attached to these minutes.

Terri Haack of Wild Dunes said the proposed noise ordinance will impact the way the resort does business and could affect the ATAX income the City receives from the resort. The resort has been working on ways to mitigate the noise affecting the surrounding neighborhood. She reported that the next phase of the sound study will be conducted June 11-13 and encouraged the Committee to wait until they provide Council with the new data before moving forward with the noise ordinance. She believes the second study will "provide valuable data including clarification whether 75 decibels is an appropriate level for the typical groups that attend the Wild Dunes Resort."

She also asked that if the ordinance is to be passed at this time that City Council consider adding a sunset date in the first quarter of 2024 to further review the ordinance's impact.

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to suspend the rules of order to speak to Ms. Haack. Council Member Ward seconded the motion. Council members Hahn and Ward voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Anderson abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Council Member Hahn asked Ms. Haack what she would propose with regards to a noise ordinance. She answered, "I think that the proposed decibel level for the resort needs to be correct and arbitrarily, the ordinance reads that Front Beach can be 85 decibels, but the resort cannot be and the 75, I'm not sure where the 75 is coming from yet. I believe that the sound study will help us determine the is that the appropriate level. Yes, a decibel indication is absolutely imperative, and once that is established, we will be diligent. But I think that it is

important to understand that we have 114 groups still left to go this year, that all have over 100 room nights. So that is a gigantic piece of Accommodations Tax.”

4. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 2023-08 to adopt a new noise ordinance**

MOTION: Council Member Ward made a motion to recommend to City Council postponing the Second Reading of Ordinance 2023-08. Council Member Hahn seconded the motion.

Council Member Ward said he believes this ordinance still needs more work. He would like the Police Department to take more decibel readings. He would like the City to employ its own sound engineer to conduct studies.

Administrator Fragoso said the changes to the ordinance in the meeting packet that are being presented by the City’s attorney. She has reached out to several sound engineers and said it may take some time before the City can engage one since there are not many available. She anticipates having more information to share at the City Council workshop next week.

Council Member Anderson agreed that Second Reading needs to be postponed. She would also like to see the City engage a City Planning Consultant “because we are not interested in sound information as much as what ordinance would be effectively adopted for use by communities.”

Council Member Hahn believes hiring both types of consultants would be helpful.

MOTION: Council Member Hahn made a motion to amend the motion to City Council to include the hiring of a Sound Engineer and a City Planning Consultant. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion.

Administrator Fragoso clarified, “While the current ordinance is challenging to enforce, the City has been enforcing the City’s current noise ordinance. Every call that is made is responded to by an officer to the site of the community and citations have been issued, warnings have been issued. So I just wanted to clarify that for the Committee that the Police Department continues to enforce the current ordinance.”

Council Member Anderson requested further clarification of noise-related complaints and tickets. Administrator Fragoso said that information could be provided by next week’s workshop.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the amendment with all in favor.

VOTE: A vote was taken on the motion as amended with all in favor.

B. **Discussion and consideration of Ordinance 2023-02 to regulate e-bikes and other motorized devices on the beach between 10:00am and 5:00pm from May 15 through Labor Day**

Administrator Fragoso said this ordinance will limit the use of electric assist bicycles and skateboards and other motorized equipment between 10am and 5pm from May 15 through Labor Day.

Captain Swain said they have had one complaint about an e-bike on the beach and one on the road. They have received more calls about whether or not they are legal. He is unaware of any incidents of the bikes being in the dunes. He said the Police Department will enforce the ordinance if it is passed.

Council members Anderson and Hahn spoke in favor of the ordinance.

C. Update on the acquisition of surveillance and safety equipment approved by City Council on April 25, 2023

Captain Swain gave an update on the acquisition of surveillance and safety equipment purchased by the police department. He said the transport van is operational, marked, and has been used in the transport of prisoners. The K-9 officer is in training with the new dog and he anticipates them being in service by July 4.

The Police Department is looking into grants for the purchase of the surveillance tower. Two cameras for the intersection of 14th Avenue and Ocean Boulevard have been purchased and are awaiting installation. He reported they are working with Sea Cabins about installing two cameras on the pier. The Sea Cabins will provide power to the cameras at no cost to the City.

Captain Swain said they are looking into new drones as they have better technology available now. He also said that FAA rules will still require them to have a spotter with the drone rather than someone working it remotely. He reported that they are speaking with vendors about the LPR that will be placed on the Connector in FY24. The Federal approvals needed for the FBI Task Force position are in the works.

Administrator Fragoso said the purchase of the ballistic vests for the Fire Department will be made this month from the \$150,000 allocation Council provided in April.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of traffic congestion at the intersection of Palm Boulevard and 14th Avenue

Council Member Anderson expressed concern about the amount of gridlock on Saturday afternoons at the intersection of Palm Boulevard and 14th Avenue. Captain Swain said that the City is cost-sharing the placement of the Sheriff's Deputy at that intersection from 10am-6pm, but the Sheriff's Department is having trouble consistently filling the position. It is difficult to have an IOP officer work the intersection when calls need to be answered across the island.

Council Member Anderson suggested that the backup might be caused by the timing of the light at Rifle Range Road. Captain Swain responded, "The best thing we have ever done was work with Mt. Pleasant and have them change the timing on the light at Rifle Range." He said he asked for 60 seconds, but he noticed the timing is closer to 75 seconds.

Council Member Anderson suggested the City's traffic engineer should look into to the timing of this light.

Administrator Fragoso said she would watch the Mt. Pleasant Transportation Committee meeting as she has heard there is some conversation about Mt. Pleasant conducting traffic studies to understand better how to alleviate congestion.

B. Discussion of golf carts on Palm Boulevard

Council Member Ward thanked the Public Safety Department for their recent video on golf cart rules. Council Member Anderson expressed concern about people not knowing the golf cart rules and driving their carts on Palm Boulevard. She would like to see more signage along Palm Boulevard reminding people golf carts cannot be driven on that street.

Captain Swain said that warning is placed on the City's message boards. He said golf cart rules are something else the BSOs educate the public about. Administrator Fragoso said the property rental managers provide that information upon check in. She also shared that upon the implementation of the beach parking plan in 2015 there was a lot of public pushback about the amount of signage the City posted around the island.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to add signage prohibiting golf carts on Palm Boulevard and work with SCDOT to do so according to their regulations. There being no second, the motion failed.

Council Member Ward also spoke about the resident's "sign fatigue." He said that the Police Department has already done research into what it can and cannot do with regards to golf cart regulation. Council Member Anderson said safety is the priority and the public should be made aware. Administrator Fragoso said the staff would continue to update the message board with golf cart rules and encourage property rental managers to include that information upon check-in.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be in August unless a matter for discussion or consideration presents itself in July.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Hahn made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Public Safety Committee Meeting 6/6/23: Clouse Comments (Meeting No. 15 since 4/13/2022) regarding NOISE ORDINANCE; NUISANCE.

Requesting for the eighth (8th) time (twice in writing) to provide us written assurances regarding enforcement of § 9-2-5 (b)(c). **"Amplified Music"** is "unlawful" and the core of this situation.

We have respectfully, and repeatedly, requested Mrs. Anderson recuse herself from this issue. Mrs. Anderson's response dated May 30, 2023 is unacceptable and inconsistent. She previously recused herself regarding five (5) zoning ordinances which involved the resort and city council. Please tell us what is different.

We respectfully request the city obtain an independent written opinion from the **South Carolina Attorney General's** office regarding this matter. What is the reason we would not want to do this? Are we afraid of what we are going to hear? Let's get this issue resolved so we can focus on the issue at hand.

False Narrative: In reviewing several council meetings on **YouTube**, there is a common theme from the resort and the administration; I am the only person complaining regarding noise. I have publicly acknowledged in my previous written comments to council the number of times I have called; no secret. Yes, I am leading the charge, however, there are other residents who have written emails, which proves your narrative is false. I would also encourage you to review said reviews on **Trip Advisor** for a more global perspective.

On March 21, 2023 we provided you a 43 second video comparing an iPhone 13 Pro with a **Cadrim Sound Level Meter**. The results illustrated the iPhone registered up to fourteen (14) dBA's higher than the Cadrim, which "complies with **LEC651 testing standards**". Two (2) of you, Mr. Hahn and Mrs. Anderson, on this committee have interjected comments regarding the decibel reading on your phone during meetings; stating the sound level would exceed the proposed decibel levels. Although we believe your comments regarding the numbers you recited, we contend your phones, as our video demonstrated, are not accurate. Your comments, **we believe unintended**, are misleading your audience.

- a. Definitions. **(8). Excessive noise.** Eliminate: "unnecessary"; "unusually". Edit: "persons" to person.
 - b. **Noise measurement. (1).** Edit: Seventy-five (75) feet from the source of the sound.
 - c. **Maximum decibel levels. (2).** Edit: 75 dBA's to 60 dBA's.
- (4). Eliminate all red line items.