



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, July 1, 2025
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 Streetman, Anderson, Bogosian

Staff Present: Director Kerr, Chief Cornett, Chief Oliverius

2. Citizen's Comments

Carol Rice's comments are attached to these minutes.

Mark Friedrich expressed concern about people driving recklessly through the neighborhoods on weekends when traffic is backed up on Palm Boulevard. He would like the City to look at ways to alleviate, direct, and manage the traffic.

Julie Nestler shared information about health supplements for first responders and how the City could benefit from purchasing them for their public safety staff.

Micah Swanson spoke about the proposed ordinance and guidelines for shark fishing. As a fisherman, he said those who shark fish already follow safety guidelines including no fishing on holiday weekends and no fishing on the beach until after 5pm. He hopes there can be a middle ground that protects beachgoers and allows fishing.

Josh Sobczak also spoke about the proposed shark fishing ordinance and supports coming ground rules and solutions.

Susan Smith also spoke in support of the proposed hate crime legislation and shared the island's exclusionary history. She believes the legislation will put forth a welcoming message.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2025

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025 meeting. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to change the order of the agenda to allow for the discussion with Stuart Day of Stantec to happen first. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **New Business**

A. **Discussion with Stuart Day of Stantec about future traffic study**

Committee members discussed with Mr. Day of Stantec how to study traffic build-up on busy weekends so that actionable suggestions could be offered to the City. Administrator Kerr and Chief Cornett pointed out that any data collected now would not greatly impact this season as traffic decreases after July 4th. Council Member Streetman suggested using last year's traffic data to make suggestions that would help this year.

Administrator Kerr and Mr. Day will discuss what can be done this year and bring that information to the City Council workshop next week.

5. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion of shark fishing ordinance and guidelines**

Council Member Streetman said he supports this draft of the ordinance. Council Member Bogosian said he wants to allow recreational fishing on the beach, but he does not want chumming, the use of drones in commercial fishing, or commercial shark fishing. Chief Cornett added that shark fishing will happen no matter what, but it should not be intentional. He noted that a prohibition on commercial fishing on the beach is already in the code.

Council Member Bogosian said he believes Section A of the proposed ordinance is unenforceable. Mr. Micah Swanson said those who recreationally fish in the area police themselves, and Chief Cornett agreed.

After further discussion, changes to the ordinance will include language prohibiting intentional shark fishing and restricting fishing on the beach between the hours of 10am and 5pm from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The use of drones related to fishing will also be added as a prohibited activity. This information will also appear in the fishing guidelines.

A revised ordinance will be brought to the City Council for discussion next week.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend the shark fishing ordinance and guidelines as discussed to the City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Discussion of Breach Inlet signage**

Chief Oliverius stated that he has sent a draft of proposed signage to the Town of Sullivan's Island and is waiting for their feedback. The proposed signage will match on both sides of the inlet and appear in smaller versions at appropriate beach access paths. He anticipates having approved signage and suggested locations for the Committee to review in August.

Council Member Bogosian said clear signage is needed to indicate where it becomes dangerous to swim.

C. Discussion of Ordinance 2025-05 amending trigger for business license revocation

Council Member Bogosian said the updated ordinance takes out the trash can violation as a strike against short-term rental licenses and provides a “clean slate” for violations beginning 1/1/2026.

Chief Cornett said trash can violations are enforceable violation resulting in a fine but will not be considered a strike on a business license. Repeat offenders will face increasing fines.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to recommend the revised ordinance to City Council. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to move up the discussion of hate crime legislation in the agenda. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business

B. Discussion of hate crime legislation

Administrator Kerr noted that the proposed ordinance is almost the same as the one in place for the Towns of Mt. Pleasant and Summerville.

Council Member Bogosian wondered why such legislation needs to be passed when it is a State issue. Council Member Streetman said the City, along with other municipalities, should pass the legislation to pressure the State to pass one as well.

When asked what this kind of legislation means for the island, Chief Cornett explained that in order for someone to be in violation of this ordinance “we have to have something that says it [their action] was based off that individual’s race, gender, or identity.”

Council Member Bogosian asked how “intent to intimidate” is enforced. Chief Cornett said, “When we’ve got somebody burning a flag, yeah, that is intimidating somebody. That’s got a whole State statute with it, but this would be triggered as well. One of the things that is beneficial from this is you have to be charged with the other charge in order to get this charge.” He gave an example of vandalism and racial slurs. He explained the racial slurs were intimidating to another person and so the perpetrators would be charged with both crimes.

Administrator Kerr said he could ask the City Attorney to provide additional feedback during an Executive Session at next week’s workshop.

MOTION: Council Member Streetman made a motion to recommend the proposed hate crime legislation to City Council. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Procurement

i. Purchase of ATVs and trailer \$20,364.75- Aiken Motorcycle/ state contract- FY26 Capital Budget, \$22,000

ii. Purchase of police truck- \$48,577 Santee Automotive/ state contract- FY26 Capital Budget, \$67,000

iii. Purchase of two police SUVs- \$46,440 each- Santee Automotive/ state contract- FY26 Capital Budget, \$64,000 each

iv. Replacement of wrecked patrol vehicle \$46,440- Santee Automotive/ state contract (unbudgeted- \$15,000 anticipated from insurance)

Chief Cornett reviewed the budgeted requests. He said the costs are for the vehicle only. The costs for upfitting come later. He explained the wrecked patrol vehicle had over 100,000 miles on it, which is why it is getting a low amount from insurance. All salvageable parts were removed from that vehicle and put in other vehicles. He said this vehicle needs to be replaced to ensure there is a spare car to be used when another is being repaired.

MOTION: Council Member Anderson made a motion to approve the purchases as described and recommend them to City Council. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion of changing parking requirements at 41st Avenue and the City Marina

Administrator Kerr explained, "This is in relation to the marina parking lot, adjacent to it really, right across the street from Station 2. The City has an ordinance in effect that says that it is okay to park a trailer in that area between Waterway Boulevard and the entrance of the marina where that used to be an open ditch. Since that ordinance was put into effect, the City has piped that ditch and has created perpendicular parking spaces which you can no longer park a trailer in." The trailers still parking there are taking up 3-5 car parking spaces when parking parallel.

He continued, "This is just kind of a clean up to address the change in orientation of the parking spaces." Residents can still park in the area for free, but non-residents pay for those spaces. There will be no boat trailer parking allowed in the area.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend the proposed changes to City Council. Council Member Streetman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 11:00am.

Council Member Bogosian would like to discuss E-bike safety and what can be done on a local level. Chief Cornett will bring information regarding E-bikes to the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Streetman made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Members of Public Safety

I stand before you today, Carol Rice, as a concerned resident of Isle of Palms, to advocate for the urgent adoption of a comprehensive hate crime law on our island.

The very fabric of our community is woven with threads of diversity and mutual respect. However, recent events, both nationally and closer to home, remind us that hate-motivated acts continue to threaten these fundamental values. A hate crime is not just an attack on an individual; it is an assault on an entire community, instilling fear and eroding trust.

A hate crime law would provide our law enforcement with the necessary tools to appropriately investigate, prosecute, and deter crimes motivated by prejudice. It would send an unequivocal message that our island will not tolerate acts of violence, intimidation, or discrimination against anyone based on their race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or any other protected characteristic.

Such a law is not about creating new crimes, but rather about acknowledging the severe impact of crimes fueled by bias. It recognizes that when a crime is motivated by hate, it carries a unique and profound harm that ripples through communities, leaving lasting scars.

Implementing a hate crime law will reinforce our city's commitment to justice, equality, and the protection of all its residents. It will foster a more inclusive and welcoming environment, where everyone feels safe and valued.

I urge you, honorable members of the Public Safety committee, to prioritize the safety and well-being of every person on our island by enacting a hate crime law without delay. Let us stand united against hate and work towards a future where all individuals can thrive free from fear and discrimination.

Thank you.

Carol Rice

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Thank you so much for your
time : service to our island