



**Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, March 3, 2026
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 Bogosian and Cohen

Absent: Council Member Carroll

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester, Director Hamilton, Chief Oliverius, Chief Cornett

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026

MOTION: Council Member Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting. Council Member Bogosian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. Discussion of Mt. Pleasant's concerns with Connector redesign

Referencing the letter in the meeting packet, Administrator Kerr said the primary reason for Mt. Pleasant's non-support of the redesign of the IOP Connector is related to their bike lanes not aligning with the Council's preferred design option.

Council members Bogosian and Cohen believe this is an issue that can be overcome with further discussion. Council Member Bogosian asked staff to suggest dates and times for a future meeting between the Public Safety Committee and Mt. Pleasant's Transportation Committee.

B. Discussion on AI Traffic Signal Software

Council members Bogosian and Cohen agree the RFP is ready to be posted.

C. Update on painting of crosswalks at 43rd and 46th avenues

Administrator Kerr said no further work has been done on the crosswalks, and it will be on the April meeting agenda.

D. Discussion of Public Safety-related matrix recommendations

Administrator Kerr has asked Chiefs Cornett and Oliverius to select their “top 5” matrix recommendations to bring to the Committee for discussion. Council Member Bogosian would like the matrix to be updated so that completed items are marked accordingly.

5. New Business

A. Review of FY27 Operational Budgets for Police and Fire Departments

Director Hamilton said this version of the FY27 Operational Budgets for both Police and Fire include payroll increases suggested by Evergreen in addition to the COLA and merit increases slated for 1/1/2027. The 18% increase in the Police Department payroll includes two new officers. Chief Cornett said the overtime amount will be different if two officers are added, and Council Member Bogosian asked that it be reflected in the budget.

Director Hamilton said a 13% increase is expected for Dominion Energy costs.

Chief Cornett shared his justification for the staff increase and explained how the two new officers would be incorporated into the staff: “So, one of the justifications would be that we have had a significant increase in people that come to our island over the last 20 years. Yet, we have not added a law enforcement position in 20 years. With that, we are working our folks consistently to make sure that we meet the demand of the increase in population and even during our non-peak season, we see a significant increase in people that are visiting our island compared to the number of full-time residents. And then the other part is to maintain our folks and to maintain good quality employees, we ensure that they get training, and we also want them to take that time off so that we are not burning them out. What happens though is when they are taking that time off that we want them to take their vacation leave, their sick leave, or they are taking that training, we are having to fill that with other people, and we are then burning those people out for it. And so the real purpose is to minimize that burnout so that we can retain officers for a longer period of time. Nationally, we see that law enforcement officers are leaving agencies and even the job, in general, because of burnout, because of overwork. And so we are trying to minimize those numbers for that. What we will do is we will assign them to Special Services, the same place that we have K9 and traffic officers, because we currently use them to supplement officers during our busy peak time. We look at when we get the most calls for service and when we do the most incident reports, and so we will use them to cover when somebody is in training or when they are on leave.”

Director Hamilton said the \$17,000 change in IT expenses in the Fire Department is related to software subscriptions. She also noted increased maintenance costs for Fire Station 2.

Chief Oliverius said they intend to go through two more grant cycles in an attempt to get a grant for the rescue boat. If they are still not successful, they will ask City Council to consider funding an outright purchase of the boat.

Council Member Bogosian would like the Administration Committee to address equitable financial incentives for both Police and Fire Departments. Incentives will be discussed at March 10 and March 11 Council meetings.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 11am.

7. Adjournment

Council Member Bogosian made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk