Public Safety Committee Meeting
11:00am, Tuesday, June 2, 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 Carroll, Bogosian, and Cohen

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

Also present: Jennifer Bihl

2. **Citizen's Comments** -- none

3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2026**

MOTION: Council Member Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2026 meeting. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of AI Signal Software**

Council Member Bogosian expressed his preference for the signal software presented by Rhythm. He said their current partnership with Mt. Pleasant is a contributing factor to his choice. Council Member Cohen said his top choice for a software vendor was Cubic. Council Member Carroll also expressed a preference for Rhythm.

Administrator Kerr said the traffic engineers in Mt. Pleasant are very happy with Rhythm and have endorsed the company and their product. They have indicated a willingness to help the Isle of Palms should they move forward with Rhythm.

Council Member Cohen noted that Cubic has more installations nationwide and offers annual training. Council Member Bogosian said he is more comfortable with how Rhythm works.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to recommend Rhythm as the City's AI Signal Software vendor to the Ways & Means Committee. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. A vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Bogosian, Carroll
Nays: Cohen

The motion passed 2-1.

B. Update on Charleston County EMS partnership at Fire Station 1

Chief Oliverius said the County's target date to be in Fire Station 1 is August 21. The City is waiting for a proposal to move the vents. Once the proposal is received, there is a 4-6 week window to order and install the vents.

He said that it will be a year before he can provide an estimate of how long the County personnel are on the island. He believes it to be 20-30% of the time while the remainder would be on a call or in transit.

Council Member Bogosian would like this to remain on the agenda for future updates.

C. Discussion of Public Safety-related matrix recommendations

Deputy Administrator Kuester gave a brief review of the work he, Chief Cornett, and Chief Oliverius have done to organize the Public Safety-related matrix recommendations. He noted that #14, related to combatting attrition via annual review of compensation packages, is an ongoing effort. He said that most of the recommendations are staff-level work that do not require City Council approval.

Discussion ensued about post-retirement health care premium assistance for those first responders retiring before reaching the age to qualify for Medicare. Council Member Bogosian suggested that issue be considered in the next Wage & Compensation Study.

Administrator Kerr will research the matter and bring costs, potential savings, a snapshot of IOP employees who could qualify over the next decade, and the Town of Mt. Pleasant's policy regarding this benefit to the July meeting.

The last recommendation requiring Council input was related to the redesign of the IOP Connector, which Council Member Bogosian admitted has not had fruitful conversations to date.

Deputy Administrator Kuester said any recommendations considered for deletion will be brought to the Committee's attention before removal.

D. Update on signage for Waterway Boulevard multiuse path

Chief Cornett is working to secure the necessary encroachment permits and identify appropriate locations for the signs. This matter will be kept on the agenda until the signs are placed.

E. Review of monthly reports for Police & Fire Departments

Council Member Bogosian pointed out that the departmental reports will always be a month in arrears since the meeting packets often go out before the month ends.

Council Member Carroll asked about the decibel readers. Chief Cornett said one is currently in use and another on order. He will add discussion related to the decibel readers to a future agenda and provide a policy and procedures for the Committee to consider. He said that May's report will provide better data on the decibel readers.

Council Member Cohen asked for clarification on the statistical information related to the "Injury/Trauma" tags on Slide 22 of the packet.

5. **New Business**

A. **Discussion and consideration of July 2026 purchase of three SUVs ($138,750) and one truck ($51,047) from Santee Automotive for Police Department ($192,000 budgeted in FY27 for SUVs and $67,000 for truck – Capital, SC ATAX and Muni ATAX)**

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve the purchases on the condition that they remain in the FY27 budget. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **Discussion and consideration of July 2026 purchase of two trucks ($119,282) and one ATV/Mule ($20,744.36) from Hendrick Chevrolet and John Deere for Fire Department ($150,000 budgeted in FY27 for trucks and $27,000 for ATV – Hospitality, SC ATAX and Muni ATAX)**

Administrator Kerr clarified that the cost of the ATV/Mule is $20,744.36 and not $27,744.36 as listed on the agenda. Chief Oliverius said the upfitting charges will come after the vehicles have been received.

MOTION: Council Member Bogosian made a motion to approve the purchases on the condition that they remain in the FY27 budget. Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be on Tuesday, July 7, 2026 at 11am.

7. **Adjournment**

Council Member Bogosian made a motion to adjourn, and Council Member Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk