

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2011; 3:00PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

- I. Call to Order:** Ms. Wermuth called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. Roll Call:**
- Present:** Fran Wermuth, Chairman
Jim Broadus
Dick Sula
Joe Pezzullo
Keller Staubes
- Absent:** Douglas Dodge
Buzz Waltman
- Also Present:** Joe Croughwell, KICA
Captain Brady, CCSO
Chief Stanley, St. Johns Fire Dept.
Tumiko Rucker
Rusty Lameo
- III. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
- A. Public Safety Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2010 and Public Safety Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2010**
Mr. Sula made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 20, 2010 and the October 19, 2010 Public Safety Meetings. Mr. Broadus seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- V. Old Business:**
None
- VI. New Business:**
- A. Introduction of New Committee Members**
Ms. Wermuth noted that Town Council approved the appointment of two new Public Safety Committee members, Mr. Keller Staubes and Mr. Buzz Waltman.

B. Summer Code Enforcement Officers

The Committee discussed a proposal that will be submitted to Town Council requesting funding for two additional summer Code Enforcement Officers. Mr. Lameo stated that the Town normally hires three summer Code Enforcement Officers; however, the additional officers are needed to provide adequate weekend coverage on the beach. He added these officers work with the County officers, KICA Security and the Fire and EMS Departments to respond to calls on the Island.

Mr. Sula motioned to recommend to Town Council the approval of two additional summer Code Enforcement Officers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Broadus and passed unanimously.

C. Charleston County Sheriff's Office Activity Report – Captain Jim Brady

Captain Brady reported that two of the three recent armed robberies at Freshfields have been solved, and the Sheriff's Department is currently working to solve the third. Captain Brady also stated that there is currently no update on the incidents at the Tennis Club Villas.

Captain Brady reported that enforcement of the new stop signs at the intersection of Beachwalker Drive and Kiawah Island Parkway began on December 20th. He noted that warnings will be issued through January 20th for any violations to allow drivers time to become aware of the new signs. After the first month, officers will begin issuing citations.

Captain Brady provided a comparison of the Sheriff's Department activity reports for 2009 and 2010. He noted that the number of complaints has increased and traffic citations have doubled over the past year. He commented that the traffic citation increase is likely due to the speed limit being reduced to 45 mph on the Parkway.

Mr. Lameo stated there have been several complaints regarding the stop sign located in the right lane closest to Beachwalker Drive. Drivers have reported that the sign is blocked by a light pole which obscures their vision as they approach the sign. He stated that the stop sign will be moved so that it is clearly visible to drivers.

D. Report from KICA Security – Joe Croughwell

Mr. Croughwell reported that KICA Security received 16,457 calls last year, most of which were service calls. He noted that 1.9 million cars came through the gate in 2010 which was an increase from 1.6 million in 2009. Mr. Croughwell stated that the number of criminal violations has decreased over the past year, and parking violations have been the biggest issue for security.

E. Report from St. Johns Fire District – Chief Stanley

Chief Stanley requested a list of the streets that are currently being repaved on the Island so that hydrant markers can be replaced once paving is complete. Chief Stanley reported that there has been an increase of fires throughout Charleston County and requested that residents be informed to check the batteries in their smoke detectors to help ensure fire prevention. Chief Stanley reported that the number of fires and medical calls have increased on the Island. He stated that residents are encouraged to come by the Fire Station to have their blood pressure checked at no cost.

F. Review of Beach Patrol Performance

Mr. Lameo reported that Island Beach Services provided excellent beach patrol services last year. He commented that they were fully staffed and very well trained. Mr. Lameo added that two of the Town's summer Code Enforcement Officers also serve as Senior Beach Patrol Officers for Island Beach Services, and they interested in pursuing training to obtain National Lifeguard Certification this year.

G. Report from TOKI – Rusty Lameo

Mr. Lameo reported that the new stop signs at the intersection of Kiawah Island Parkway and Beachwalker Drive are doing a great job of enabling drivers to see the bikepath clearly before they turn onto Beachwalker Drive. The signs also allow bicyclist time to get across the intersection as drivers stop. Mr. Croughwell stated that security is seeing a tremendous improvement in the speed of vehicles entering the gate due to the stop signs.

Mr. Lameo reported on the issue of false alarm calls being received from residential security systems. He stated that if multiple calls are received from the same residence, a courtesy letter is sent to the resident advising them of the issue and suggesting that they contact their service company to arrange an inspection. Mr. Lameo commented that many of the false alarms are caused by contractors and cleaning staff who enter the home without being familiar with the system. He also noted that the number of multiple false alarm calls has decreased drastically of the past year.

Mr. Lameo commented on the Town's Noise Ordinance. He stated that the Town Judge has deemed the first portion of the ordinance as unconstitutional and would like to see the ordinance revised so that it includes a certain decimal level that would be acceptable.

Mrs. Rucker stated that the Town is currently looking to review its Municipal Code for necessary updates, and a recodification of the Municipal Code will be recommended to Council during the upcoming budget year. Mrs. Rucker stated that the cost of a complete recodification is about \$10,000 and would take 4-6 months to complete.

Mr. Lameo stated that the Town's Dog Ordinance has recently been updated, and signage has been updated throughout the beach. He commented that there will possibly be a jury trial in February regarding a violation of this ordinance.

Mr. Lameo stated that Kiawah citizens have enacted a CERT Team. This group currently consists of 16 members which are trained by Charleston County to assist agencies as emergency responders in the event of a natural disaster. He stated that the organization is currently working to develop a foundation and mission statement, as well as possible funding for necessary equipment.

Mrs. Wermuth commented that as the CERT Team develops, representatives may be asked to make presentations to the Public Safety Committee regarding the organization.

Correspondence:
None

VII. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Broadus requested to know about the outcome of the recent Kiawah Marathon. Ms. Bowman responded that the marathon was a very successful event with no major issues.

Chief Stanley commented that Fire Department is available to assist with the Kiawah CERT Team if needed.

VIII. Citizen Comments:
None

IX. Adjournment:
Mr. Pezullo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm. Mr. Broadus seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Fran Wermuth, Chairman

Date