

Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, July 15, 2008; 3:00 PM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
1st Floor Conference Room
Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mr. Orban called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Steven Orban, Chairman
Joe Pezzullo
Doug Dodge
Dick Sula

Also Present: Rusty Lameo, TOKI
Juan Martin, TOKI
Joe Croughwell, KICA
Cpt. Jim Brady
Jackie Stanley, Assistant Chief St. Johns FD
Curtis Watlington, St. Johns FD
Cathy Wilson, Town Clerk

Absent: Jim Broadus
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator

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 April 15, 2008

Mr. Pezzullo moved to approve the April 15, 2008 minutes. Mr. Sula seconded the motion. Mr. Dodge added the words “new” and “gate” to Mr. Croughwell’s report on page 3. With those changes the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. Citizen Presentation:

None

VI. Old Business:

None

VII. New Business:**A. Multiple Alarm Incidents**

St. Johns Assistant Fire Chief Jackie Stanley presented the Committee with a report of alarm calls. Chief Stanley explained that after the last meeting, the number of multiple violations of false alarm calls greatly diminished. Mr. Lameo stated that the Town mailed letters to previous multiple false fire alarm offenders and will do so in the future if the incidents increase in volume and the need arises.

B. Review of Charleston County Sheriff's Office Reports (See Attached)

Captain Jim Brady stated that the stolen vehicle, taken from a residence on the island, was recovered and that the suspect in custody is a former Resort Employee and may be tied to break-ins on Folly Beach. Capt. Brady also stated that he published a request for deputies to work during the 3rd shift, or 1am-6am shift, on the island and has received no response to date. Mr. Orban requested that Capt. Brady continue to search for deputies that would like to patrol the 1am-6am shift throughout the summer. Capt. Brady also stated that the island had seen a recent increase in stolen bicycles and that most of those bikes were found and returned to their owners.

Captain Brady explained that the number of citations have increased due to more patrolling of the Island. In June, there was a home fire that has been filed as a suspicious fire and is currently under further investigation by the St. John's FD.

C. Report from KICA Security-Joe Croughwell

Mr. Croughwell stated that the Island has had some serious problems and that the Sheriff's Department has done a great job with all issues. On June 3, 2008 there were three home invasions where items were stolen from the home and a vehicle was stolen from a driveway. Mr. Croughwell explained that the Sheriff's Department currently has a person in custody and the investigation is continuing. Mr. Croughwell stated that there were also several instances of underage drinking including an event where the suspects were trespassing inside the old inn.

D. Report from St. Johns Fire Department Assistant Chief-Jackie Stanley

Chief Stanley reported that from a fire perspective, the island is operating well.

E. Review of Beach Patrol Performance

Mr. Lameo stated that he received only one complaint concerning beach patrol speeds on the beach and that overall, beach patrol is doing a great job. All of the vehicles are functioning and all staff positions filled. Mr. Orban commented that all beach patrol personnel he has spoken with have been very professional. Mr. Lameo stated that some of the firefighters from St. Johns work for beach patrol during their days off and that their knowledge has been very beneficial to the successful operation. Overall, complaints are down 80% from this time last season.

F. Review of Kiawah Island Emergency Committee Meeting-May 21, 2008

Mr. Orban stated that the Emergency Committee met on May 21, 2008 in order to discuss various emergency response plans and hurricane preparedness. Mr. Orban stated that he believes all entities are well organized for an emergency situation. Mr. Lameo stated that the Town will be running a hurricane drill during the week of July 25, 2008 to test the Town's disaster operating procedures.

G. Fireworks Request-KIGR, July 4, 2009

Mrs. King, KIGR, stated that the Resort wishes to have a fireworks presentation on three consecutive days during the July 4, 2009 holiday weekend. The Resort usually hosts two days of fireworks and is requesting a third day to coincide with the Fourth falling on a Saturday; the largest turn-around day for renters. The Resort would host two fireworks events at Night Heron Park and one at the Sanctuary. Mrs. King stated that she would like to have the Town's input on the addition of a third day of fireworks before continuing with the plan. Mr. Orban stated that the Town would have no issue with the additional day of fireworks but asked Mrs. King to discuss the plan with KRA to verify that the events were not impeding upon KRA's traditional fireworks shoot. Mrs. King stated that she will discuss the Resort's plans with KRA before continuing.

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H. Marking of Fire Lanes

Mr. Curtis Watlington, St. Johns FD, stated the importance of marking fire lanes along the perimeter of buildings on the Island. Mr. Watlington specifically mentioned the Sanctuary, General Store, and Town Hall and stated that large, commercial buildings were a major concern. Mr. Watlington stated that the property owner would be responsible for marking the lanes. Mr. Orban asked Mr. Watlington to prepare a formal request, precisely stating the fire lanes needed on the island for the Public Safety committee to review. Mr. Watlington agreed to prepare a fire lane report.

IX. Correspondence:

None

X. Committee Members' Comments:

Mr. Lameo and Mr. Orban discussed the condition of the emergency access lane at the Sanctuary and addressed the need for a better path of access. Mr. Orban asked Mrs. King to speak with Mr. Roger Warren about the possibility of another path that will allow for adequate emergency access near the Sanctuary. Mr. Lameo stated that he would suggest a location closer to Windswept.

Mr. Sula asked how the new state law allowing bicyclist on all public roads will affect the Town's regulation of bicyclist on the Parkway. Mr. Orban explained that the regulatory "no biking" signs along the Parkway will remain in place as a safety warning, but would not be enforceable.

XI. Chairman's Report:

Mr. Orban stated that KICA will renovate the bridge at Blue Heron during the fall of 2008. This project should take only a few weeks and will cause traffic delays. The construction crew will have the necessary equipment to make the bridge accessible in the case of emergency.

XII. Adjournment:

Mr. Dodge moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 PM; motion seconded by Mr. Pezzullo. Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted By _____
Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

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Approved: _____
Steve Orban, Chairman

Date: _____

CC: Public Safety Committee Members:
William G. Wert, Mayor
Dennis Rhoad, Town Attorney
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator.