



A G E N D A
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Call to order

Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes, February 24, 2022

Old Business

2. Parking Passes

New Business

3. Fire Marshal Position
4. Speed Cameras/Smoke-Free Beach Comment Period
5. TIPD Strategic Plan
6. Tour Bus Traffic

City Manager Comments

Public Comment

Adjournment

Minutes, Public Safety Committee, February 24, 2022

Shawn Gillen called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. Those attending were Michelle Owens, Assistant City Manager; Chief Jeremy Kendrick, TIFD; Chief Robert Bryson, TIPD; and Brian West (via Zoom) and Monty Parks, Councilmembers.

Monty Parks shared his concerns with the True Blue Speed Enforcement and giving the public sufficient time to make themselves familiar with the process. Dr. Gillen stated it is his recommendation there be a thirty day public comment period to include Zoom and public meetings. Mr. Parks confirmed.

Mr. Parks asked Dr. Gillen if the build out of the second floor, Public Safety Building, dropped off the Public Safety Committee agenda. Dr. Gillen responded as the budget for the coming year is built, it will become part of that. It will be placed on the Public Safety Committee agenda once he received recommendations from Mayor and Council.

Monty Parks made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2022. **Brian West** seconded. Motion was unanimous.

New Business

Golf Carts

- Dr. Gillen stated the next topic of discussion was that of golf carts. The ordinance was updated and issues were found. One of the issues is golf carts were given “T” numbers and it was discovered that some golf carts were given numbers that should not have been issued. This was done several years ago. Anything above 20mph is covered under a statute and the City cannot regulate as they need to have a license tag, lights, and have road worthy equipment. The City cannot issue a “T” number in this case. SGT Hatrlich approached to give a recommendation for electric golf cart registration as it applies to the City’s ordinance. He stated in the City Ordinance, the maximum speed capability of the motorized cart must not exceed 20mph. In order to confirm speed, he needs to research the specifications from the manufacturer. Tybee Island is more restrictive than the Georgia State Law. The question is now how does the City comply with State Law. SGT Hatrlich indicated manufacturers will provide letters of certification as to the capability of speed by installing a device on the cart. Dr. Gillen stated this is just one issue regarding golf carts. The next issue to deal with is the larger carts. SGT Hatrlich stated those vehicles do not meet the standard for personal transportation. He continued, these vehicles fall into a category which the State defines as a multi-purpose off highway vehicle or recreational off highway vehicle. With these vehicles, they cannot get a “T” number. Dr. Gillen stated the next step is to have a document drafted as policy going forward. This would relate to those vehicles that can go faster than 20mph. Dr. West stated it seems reasonable if the owner can prove the golf cart meets the Code, they can be issued a “T” number. Dr. Gillen confirmed.

Inspection Services Agreement

- Dr. Gillen stated Chief Kendrick was reviewing all the agreements and he found the Inspection Agreement through Chatham County, the initial inspection, for new construction, there are no follow-up inspections. Chief Kendrick stated as much of the commercial businesses have not been inspected, he is recommending going forward, to bring in an inspection program to do annual inspections. Mr. Parks asked if the Chief checked with other municipalities as to their program. Chief Kendrick confirmed. For example, Garden City has adopted their own program through the Georgia Safety Code and brought their own inspector on staff. Dr. Gillen stated currently the City pays Chatham County \$45,000 annually which is for new construction inspection only. The program would be expanded to annual inspections to include Fire Marshal inspections. The program with the County would be terminated and the City would hire in-house personnel to do inspections. Mr. Parks asked if Dr. Gillen will bring in front of Mayor and Council. Dr. Gillen confirmed. Mr. Parks reminded Chief Kendrick the same Standard is applicable to each business/bar on the Island. Dr. Gillen stated a job description will be drafted and a formal plan to be brought to the Committee prior to going to Mayor and Council.

Robinson Avenue

- Chief Kendrick stated a portion of Robinson Avenue is the parking lot at the American Legion. He did speak with the Commander who has no issue with changing the name of the street or doing away with the portion of the street (parking lot). Dr. Gillen stated he will meet with the City Attorney and then present to Mayor and Council.

Parking Permits

- Dr. Gillen stated this relates to parking permits for businesses. He met with Staff and the options are (1) in the electronic version of Passport and (2) \$300 transferrable pass that could be sold at a discount. The issue is setting the parameters. Dr. West stated he would like to make it easier for employers to get employees to come to work if parking was discounted. He is recommending putting something in place to make it so the employee would have a place to park. Dr. Gillen stated there are issues that have not been resolved and they are still working on it. Ms. Owens stated the Main Street Board had discussions and wanted the business owners/employees to be aware, even though they have a discounted parking pass it does not guarantee a parking space just a more affordable parking pass. Dr. Gillen stated he will meet with Pete Ryerson and Passport to develop a plan and bring back to Mayor and Council for approval and pricing.

Strategic Plans

- Dr. Gillen stated every month the Committee will be touching on the Strategic Plans for both the Fire and Police Department. This month the discussion will be with TIFD. He continued, the City is working with a company to gather data on how visitors are coming to the Island. This will determine the services needed. Data is showing there are 12M visits per year to the Island. With this data, the residents are not getting the service levels they need as services are going to visitors. Dr. Gillen is looking at staffing and ways to fund additional staff. Chief Kendrick stated the Five Year Strategic Plan is in draft form

but he is finishing up. He is running a fire department based on 3,000 people and the Plan is based on staffing and services for both the residents and visitors. As the population increases and they run more calls, 78 in January 2022, and in mid-February they have run 30-40 calls. Mr. Parks asked if the calls include the beach. Chief Kendrick confirmed. Dr. Gillen reminded everyone staff will need to be increased and trucks that are outdated will need to be replaced. Mr. Parks confirmed most calls are EMS and not fire. Dr. Gillen stated with the new data received, he will be able to determine the number of staff needed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

Jan LeViner, MMC
Clerk of Council