

## **Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting, Thursday, May 27, 2010**

This meeting was held in the City Hall auditorium and began a few minutes after 5:30 PM. It was called to order by Chairperson Wanda Doyle, who noted that Frank Shuman and Shirley Sessions were both not in attendance. This meant that a quorum was not present and no votes could be taken. Both missing members arrived by 5:55, after which a normal meeting was conducted. In addition to the above elected officials, City Manager Diane Schleicher, Police Chief James Price, Fire Chief Skip Sasser, and Major Chris Case were present.

It was noted that since there were no minutes available from the previous meeting, approval of them would have to wait until the next meeting.

Under the topic of New Business, the Chairperson led the committee in a discussion of the installation of warning signs for the south end sandbar. It was reported that Michael Bodine is researching the possibility of getting funding assistance from Chatham County. Shirley Sessions ended the discussion by stating that more research needed to be done in the areas of design and expected effectiveness.

Under the topic of Old Business, Chief Price requested that the department be given an extra ten days to prepare for the issuance of decals and rules to comply with the recently passed ordinance on golf carts, as we were going into the Memorial Day weekend and would be inordinately busy. The City Manager mentioned that we would need a total of four signs to mark the crossing locations on Butler Avenue, and other types of signs that would be needed.

A discussion was held on the cost of increasing police presence in the south end business district. Chief Price noted that there were enough funds in the budget to support additional foot patrol of Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, beginning at 3:00 PM each day. Jimmy Brown gave a short briefing on the status of the scheduled hurricane evacuation exercise in July. Chief Price began a discussion on the future handling of parades, with the City Manager noting that she taped the recent Beach Bum Parade and believed that at times during the event, things were out of control. Chairperson Doyle reported that she had met with some parade organizers to discuss various issues, such as starting parades earlier in the day so as to increase the family-orientation of any given event, and to decrease the trend towards alcohol consumption and general rowdiness. The Chief of Police suggested that rules for parades include the prohibition of alcohol on floats, the prohibition of throwing things like candy and beads from floats, and earlier starts, with 1:00 PM preferred.

Chairperson Doyle lead a discussion on SPLOST funding timing, stating that the city must have a good budget in place in order to borrow against SPLOST funds that would become available in the future. It was pointed out that SPLOST funding for the new Public Safety Building would become available in November, 2010, and that an architectural RFQ be prepared not later than September.

The City Manager updated plans for safety crosswalks on Van Horn by the nursing homes and the intersection of Butler Avenue and 17th Street.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at about 6:21 PM.