

Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting, Thursday, July 22, 2010

This meeting was held in the City Hall auditorium and began at 5:00 PM. It was called to order by Chairperson Wanda Doyle. Present were Frank Shuman and Shirley Sessions. In addition to the above elected officials, Interim Police Chief Bob Bryson, Fire Chief Skip Sasser, Major Chris Case, DPW Head Joe Wilson, and TEMA Jimmy Brown were present. Jonathan Lynne arrived during the course of the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as provided.

Under the topic of New Business, the Chairperson reported that a resident had concerns regarding truck traffic on Jones Avenue. This resident was not present at the start of the discussion, and it became apparent that the committee did not have enough information to make a decision concerning this request. Later in the meeting, after several other topics had been discussed, the resident--Mr. Mark Shapiro--appeared and explained his concerns. He believed that trucks on Jones Avenue were a danger to pedestrians, that there were too many trucks on Jones, and that the avenue was not built for that kind of traffic. The Chairperson pointed out that Jones Avenue is a through street. The Interim Police Chief promised more patrol and written citations to lessen the danger.

Under the topic of Old Business, the following items were discussed.

The need for an Emergency Medical Stabilization Unit was brought up. The Chairperson said that in her opinion, we have an adequate system in place now. Fire Chief Sasser said that most people were not aware of the regulations and state laws in place to manage Tybee's current MedStar system. The Chairperson suggested that a MedStar representative could address council at a future meeting and describe their capabilities in detail. Shirley Sessions agreed.

DPW Head Joe Wilson reported that in his estimation, all new signs for beach rules and regulations would cost about \$7,000, and his current budget could not support that amount. He stated that more enforcement was needed, in particular persons on the jetties. Shirley Sessions and Frank Shuman both agreed that the existing signs were not sufficient. Upon request of the Chairperson, Jonathan Lynn checked the Code of Ordinances for specific mention of the jetties, and found an ordinance which specifically prohibited persons climbing on the jetties. The Chairperson stated that she thought our current ordinances were sufficient and that the police should enforce the jetties ordinance more strictly. Interim Chief Bryson agreed to, asking for the support of the committee is doing so. He also favored using the various media available to the city to inform the public of the danger of climbing on the jetties. The Chairperson's opinion on the matter was that we should make do with what we have in place for this fiscal year, and make room in next year's budget for new signage.

Jimmy Brown now gave a report on the hurricane evacuation exercise conducted by the city on July 14. He promised a completed After Action Report for the council by August 12.

A short discussion followed regarding the possibility of installing sidewalks on the north side of 18th Street between Butler Avenue and the Strand. Joe Wilson provided a new estimate of between \$25,000 and \$30,000. He said grants were available, but that the city would probably have to make a ten percent match. The Chair suggested that he make a report to the City Manager on his findings, and that the city should plan to address the situation in the next budget cycle.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at about 5:50 PM.