



Town of Hilton Head Island
COMMUNITY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 16, 2024 – 10:00 AM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Tamara Becker, Chair; Steve Alfred; Alex Brown and Patsy Brison

Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. Alfred moved to adopt the agenda. Ms. Brison seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2024

Mr. Alfred moved to approve. Ms. Brison seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Presentations and Recognitions

Fire Rescue Mid-Year Report – Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

Chief Blankenship presented the Fire Rescue Mid-Year Report (January – June 2024) to the Committee. In this report he detailed metrics of the type of incidents, response times by shifts, stations and apparatus, and overall operations.

Summary of the Presentation:

- 27 Average incidents per day
- Busiest Stations: Fire - Station 1, EMS - Station 5
- Top Four Fire Incident Types: Alarm system activation, alarm system malfunction, authorized controlled burning, and unintentional smoke detector activation (no fire)
- Short Term Rentals: 42 incidents which occurred in the Station 1 & Station 2 area
- Cardiac Arrest Survival Rate 66.70% for 2024 with the National Average being 22.30%
- Inspections: 2,516
- Smoke Alarm Checks: 167
- CPR/AED Students: 372
- Car Seat Checks: 25
- Social Media: 515 Instagram Followers and 3,300 Facebook Followers
- Staffing Update: 14 individuals were added to the hiring pool, 10 new employees were hired, and 2 medical control physicians joined the team

- Accomplishments
 - Fire Rescue has attained advanced-level pediatric care service status, reflecting a commitment to excellence in pediatric emergency care and improved patient outcomes.
 - Fire Rescue received the 2024 Mission Lifeline Award from the American Heart Association in recognition of their commitment to excellence in heart attack patient care.

Overall, despite a surge in incidents, a heightened awareness in response times, accurate incident reporting, and the recent implementation of advanced technologies have begun to reverse historically inaccurate data, resulting in a noticeable trend towards more accurate times.

Continuous improvement begins with accurate data collection, allowing Fire Rescue to efficiently track incidents as well as analyze trends, allocate resources more effectively, and ultimately improve response outcomes. By leveraging comprehensive data, Fire Rescue can adapt swiftly to changing conditions, enhance operational strategies, and ensure the safety and well-being of both our personnel and the community they serve.

The Committee was pleased with the information presented and thanked Chief Blankenship and his team for their continued service to the Community.

The full report is available for review at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

Unfinished Business

Consideration of a Resolution Adopting Environmentally Friendly Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance Practices/Integrated Pest Management Policy – TJ Jett - Chief Environmental Officer

Mr. Jett provided the Committee with the history of the resolution adopting environmentally friendly landscaping grounds maintenance practices/integrated pest management policy. He also detailed the proposed Integrated Pest Management Policy revisions and recommendations discussed during the April 8th meeting as well as the input from the Committee members and the public. Those changes include the following:

1. Moved several items from the Guiding Principles section to the Procedures section as it was more appropriate for those items to be listed there;
2. Clarified that existing contracts will be brought into compliance with the IPM policy as soon as possible and within 12 months of adoption of the policy;
3. Prohibited the use of glyphosate on all Town owned and managed property where this policy applies;
4. Required notification of pesticide application for all applications of pesticides;\
5. Prohibited the use of pesticides with any known carcinogen and defined known Carcinogens;
6. Prohibited the use of non-organic pesticides within 25 feet of water or marsh edge.

7. Differentiated notice requirements depending on broadcast and non-broadcast application
8. Clarified that EPA Level I pesticides can be used when other methods do not adequately control the pest and it is deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss;
9. Required signage for pesticide application notifications to be a standard size of 3 square feet in area;
10. Modified signage requirements to include chemical information and links to the Town's IPM Policy and schedule
11. Designated Facilities Director or designee as having approval authority;
12. Required application records to be provided to the Town;
13. Reworked the definitions section to be alphabetical and align with State Law defined terms; and
14. Added references to State requirements as directed by the Town Attorney.

Through the Committee's discussion of the proposed policy and resolution, members expressed appreciation for the improvements over the prior policy. The revised approach reduces pesticide use, enhances public notification, and ensures the Town maintains control of the program. Additionally, the Committee considered the best path forward, emphasizing the importance of allowing staff adequate time to implement and refine the proposed changes.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Kim Konte: addressed the Committee to express her concerns regarding the proposed resolution text. She also highlighted that the 2017 Paris Olympics were successfully held without pesticide use and emphasized that achieving a similar standard should be a priority for the Town.

Pamela Martin Ovens: addressed the Committee with concerns that if the policy was not passed during the meeting, there would be no policy in place until the following year.

Ms. Brison made a motion to forward to Town Council for consideration the resolution adopting the environmentally friendly landscaping and grounds maintenance practices/integrated pest management policy as drafted by Staff including a request for Staff to review the requested revisions from the Community and report the findings to Town Council. Mr. Alfred seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

There was no public comment

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Approved: February 10, 2025

The recording of this Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.