

Town Of Kiawah Island
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Center Council Chambers
July 11, 2024; 11:00 AM

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Mr. Harris called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

II. Roll Call:

Present: Russell Berner, Chairman
Steve Rolando
Mark Ruppel
Al Sines
Bill Thomae

Absent: Yvonne Johnstone
Nancy Robison

Also Present: Craig Harris, *Public Safety Director*
Fire Chief Kunitzer, *St. Johns Fire District*
Deputy Chief Winn, *Charleston County EMS*
Rob Edgerton, *Beach Patrol*
Michael Sosnowski, *Code Enforcement*
Trevor Cyrulik, *Island Beach Services*

III. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2024
- B. Special Call Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024
- C. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2024

Approval of the minutes for March, April, and June was deferred to the next meeting.

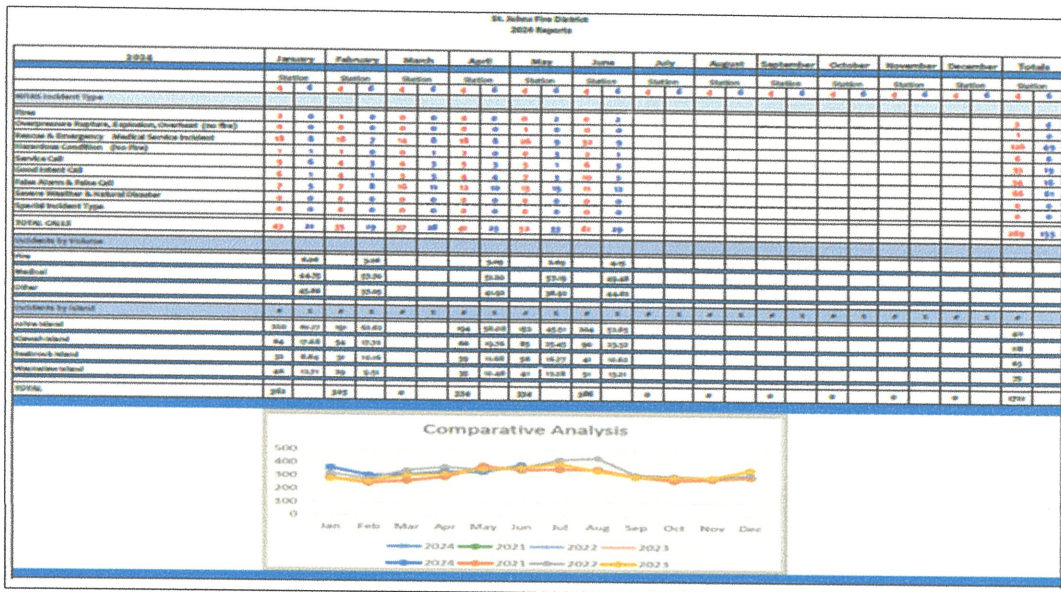
IV. Agency Updates (as required)

A. Charleston County Sheriff's Department

Town of Kiawah Monthly Report	June	Year to Date
Number of all Written Report (excluding accident reports)	20	94
Accident Reports – Vehicle Mishaps	11	53
Number of Calls Handle Not Requiring a Report	70	343
Number of Traffic Stops	32	131
TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS HANDLED (dispatched/self-generated)	133	621
Written Warnings Issued	27	102
Traffic Citations Issued	7	17
Total Warnings and Citations Issued	34	85
Alarms	32	141
Specific Patrols Requests	233	1138

No additional report

B. St. John's Fire District



Fire Chief Kunitzer provided updates that included station 61's air conditioning breakdown, temporary relief for firefighters, and plans for unit replacement. The busy Fourth of July holiday saw no significant incidents on Kiawah Island, crediting the fire marshal division's planning and working together between the Town, the Resort, and the Club.

Fire Chief Kunitzer indicated that there have been no significant incidents on the island since the last meeting, and work is still ongoing on the plan to have a quick response medical vehicle out on the island. An update on a medical response vehicle is expected.

STJFD, EMS, and Beach Patrol were praised for their Fourth of July efforts, with no complaints reported.

C. Charleston County Emergency Medical Services

Charleston County EMS Incident Data - Town of Kiawah						
Number of Days in Report: 30		Month: June	Year: 2024			
Countywide Response Data	Overall	Alpha	Bravo	Charlie	Delta	Echo
Responses	42	11	14	7	9	1
% of All Responses	100.00%	26.19%	33.33%	16.67%	21.43%	2.38%
Average Responses Per Day	1.40	0.37	0.47	0.23	0.30	0.03
Average Response Time	00:13:16	00:17:55	00:09:28	00:14:38	00:11:50	00:18:29
Fractile	54.76%	55%	71%	57%	33%	0%
% > 20 Minute Response	14.29%	36.36%	7.14%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
% > 30 Minute Response	4.76%	9.09%	0.00%	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
Average Daily Total Staffing Hours	390	Average Daily Core Hours		9.131		
Average Daily Total ALS Hours	296	% Core BLS		31.23%		
Average Daily Total BLS Hours	94.53					

Deputy Chief Winn's report highlighted the loss of a colleague, June's data, the impact of advanced EMTs' graduation on clinical abilities, and operational changes like the addition of a zone anchor covering Wadmalaw and John's Islands.

Deputy Chief Winn indicated there were a total of 42 calls to Kiawah for June, with 25 of those being transport. The average response time runs around 13:16. Six calls took us 20 minutes or longer to get there; three of them had no lights and sirens, and the other three calls used lights and sirens. All the units were coming from the secondary station on Main Road because the Medic 10 unit was already on a response call.

D. Beach Patrol

2024 Beach Patrol Activity

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
	Alcohol 15-208	0	0	0	0
	Alligator 15-501	0	0	1	1
	Beached Boat 16-803	0	0	0	0
	Beach Fire 15-105	0	0	0	0
	Build Permit	0	0	1	1
	Business License	1	0	0	1
	Critical Habitat 16-604	115	7	0	122
	Disorderly 15-204	0	0	0	0
	Drone 7-902	14	0	1	15
	Dune 16-403	133	1	0	139
	Fireworks 15-209	0	1	0	1
	Glass 16-818	49	0	0	49
	Harass Animal 16-810	7	0	0	7
	Leash 7-201	214	17	3	234
	Lights 16-107	0	0	0	0
	Littering 15-212	1	0	0	1
	Narcotics 15-213	0	0	0	0
	Noise 15-306	1	0	0	1
	Nudity 16-806	3	0	0	3
	Other	11	0	1	12
	Parking T3-103	11	2	12	25
	Personal Article Storage 8-119	0	0	0	0
	Plastic 14-402	0	0	0	0
	Shovel 16-409	40	0	0	40
	Storage 16-805	0	9	0	9
	STR Bikes / Beach Gear 14-506f	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d(1)	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d(5)	0	0	0	0
	STR Trash 14-506e(1)	0	0	0	0
	Swim Wade 15-314	22	0	0	22
	Trespass 15-119	0	0	0	0
	Vehicle 16-302b	34	2	0	36
	Total	661	39	20	720

2024 Evening Enforcement Activity

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
	Alcohol 15-208	0	0	0	0
	Alligator 15-501	0	0	1	1
	Beached Boat 16-803	0	0	0	0
	Beach Fire 15-105	0	0	0	0
	Build Permit	0	0	0	0
	Business License	1	0	0	1
	Critical Habitat 16-604	1	0	0	1
	Disorderly 15-204	1	0	0	1
	Drone 7-902	1	0	0	1
	Dune 16-403	2	0	0	2
	Fireworks 15-209	4	1	0	5
	Glass 16-818	5	0	0	5
	Harass Animal 16-810	1	0	0	1
	Leash 7-201	16	4	2	22
	Lights 16-107	72	0	0	72
	Littering 15-212	0	38	0	38
	Narcotics 15-213	1	0	0	1
	Noise 15-306	15	3	0	18
	Nudity 16-806	0	0	0	0
	Other	3	4	2	9
	Parking T3-103	2	0	2	4
	Personal Article Storage 8-119	0	90	1	91
	Plastic 14-402	0	0	0	0
	Shovel 16-409	2	0	0	2
	Storage 16-805	0	1	0	1
	STR Bikes / Beach Gear 14-506f	2	288	2	292
	STR Parking 14-506d	2	24	1	27
	STR Parking 14-506d(1)	0	15	0	15
	STR Parking 14-506d(5)	1	10	1	12
	STR Trash 14-506e(1)	0	12	1	13
	Swim Wade 15-314	0	0	0	0
	Trespass 15-119	0	0	0	0
	Vehicle 16-302b	0	0	0	0
	Total	132	490	13	635

Mr. Edgerton’s update included their after-hours drone surveillance, which led to a single leash law violation ticket on the evening of July 4th. He highlighted the holiday's success, cooperation with the Resort and Gate Staff, progress on new laptops for MBTs, the need for sign replacement at Captain Sam’s Inlet, and that three staff members were in North Myrtle Beach competing at the Regional Lifeguard Competition.

Mr. Edgerton also mentioned that during some nasty weather offshore, Beach Patrol was involved with a false kayaker alarm and a lost jet ski on Folly Beach. He reported on a fatal accident involving another patrol officer and emphasized the training done by the Beach Patrol on safety and proper vehicle use on the beach. He also cautioned that anyone accessing the beach use a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

Vehicle access issues were also discussed, and proposed measures like roping off areas to prevent blind-spot accidents.

E. Kiawah Island Community Association

KICA Security Report
 Monthly Statistics: June 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Deer Related Accidents (no personal injury)	0	0	0
False Residential Alarms	1	0	3
Vehicles passed through the Main Gate	205,843	236,151	250,182
Vehicles passed through the Vanderhorst Gate	118,676	140,982	131,566

Mr. Ruppel stated that there was a record number of vehicles through the gate on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, noting that, on the holiday, there were no contractors allowed on the island.

Mr. Ruppel stated that numerous comments were made on social media about the excessive number of Resort guests who had access to Resort properties. Currently, the policy is “if they say they're going to a restaurant, they are allowed access.” He indicated that data pulled on some numbers showed that the comments were unfounded and had decreased due to the work done with the Resort to limit access. He would share the data with the committee after it was reported at the Board of Directors meeting.

Also discussed were new signs that would be seen on the island, addressing issues with bicycles on the Parkway and the use of E-Bikes, along with the formation of a dedicated patrol division.

V. Old Business:

A. Update on the Comprehensive Public Safety Feasibility Study

Mr. Harris stated that the consultants are still in the process of gathering information, noting that the early issues with the data collection had been resolved.

B. Discussion of Banning Shibumi Shades

Mr. Berner stated that at the last meeting, the committee voted unanimously to approve drafting an ordinance banning the Shibumi; the Mayor was not in favor of the ban and has pushed it back to the committee for more in-depth discussion. He indicated the Beach Patrol had visual concerns and invited them to highlight them again.

Mr. Cyrulik, who is involved in beach services, discussed the visibility issues caused by Shibumi shades on the beach, noting that they are affecting not only the Beach Patrol but also parents' ability to see their children, safety, and aesthetics, particularly noted during the Fourth of July. The problem is widespread, and lack of common courtesy in their use, such as obstructing others' views, was emphasized as a major concern.

Mr. Cyrulik, citing over 30 years of experience and feedback from property owners and beach guests, proposed zoning Shibumi shades to specific areas to mitigate their impact on beach patrol visibility and emergency vehicle access. The discussion also included the challenges of navigating the beach with a turtle truck amidst Shibumi shades.

With the Mayor's stance against a total ban, the committee explored partial-day Shibumi zone restrictions during peak season and distancing Shibumi shades from the public boardwalk to improve safety and views, along with enforcement challenges and safety concerns.

Mr. Harris suggested establishing a subcommittee, including operation commanders and Beach Patrol, in a roundtable discussion to look at the totality of issues and what restrictions other communities have made to come up with some ideas and solutions.

C. Discussion Regarding Revisions to Leash Law – Is it Necessary?

Mr. Berner stated that revising the leash law was another tough issue, depending on whether you own a dog or do not own a dog. He reviewed some of the revisions already discussed and was looking for

feedback from the members on ideas on balancing dog owner rights and beachgoer comfort.

The committee discussion addressed peak season restrictions, wildlife considerations in leash law revisions, and the necessity of a buffer zone near critical habitat areas. The discussion also emphasized the advantage of a long-standing ordinance for consistent enforcement, public education, and consulting other communities. The conversation concluded with the importance of addressing dog bite incidents and the potential impact of leash law changes on wildlife and public safety.

VI. New Business:

A. Discussion Regarding How to Make the Little Rabbit Intersection with the Kiawah Island Parkway Safer

Mr. Berner stated that during the morning rush hour, there have been vehicles that ride on the zebra striping at Little Rabbit to move into the left-hand lane earlier than they would otherwise be allowed to, which has resulted in accidents.

The safety improvement proposed focused on installing buttons to create a physical disturbance and prevent accidents. It was noted that consideration would have to be made for emergency services' needs.

B. Update on the Success of Using Drones in Enforcement

Mr. Edgerton's discussion covered the drone program's expansion with a second pilot, its effective use in a kayaker search and leash law enforcement using its zoom capability, and its potential for live streaming.

C. Discussion on Ways to Identify Cars that are Illegally Parked at the Sandcastle or the Sanctuary - Who Enforces?

The committee discussion focused on illegal parking at the Sandcastle, distinguishing between member, member-guest, and renter passes, the Fourth of July parking issues, and monitoring of the Sanctuary parking areas. Mr. Ruppel added that KICA wrote 147 citations over the Fourth of July weekend.

Further discussion included collaboration with the Freshfields management company to tackle the issues with visitors and contractors parking all day. For the issues with cars parked in the fire lane and going in the wrong direction, ticket issuance was suggested as a potential remedy.

D. Discussion Regarding the Recent TC Special Call Hearing that Rejected Suspension of Business License on Rental Property - What to do When Renter Won't Comply with Rules.

Mr. Berner explained that recently, the Town Council heard a case in which a rental owner had three violations and voted on whether to suspend his license. The license was not suspended because, in that instance, the three citations were issued to the same renter in one calendar week, bringing up the question: from a safety and enforcement perspective, what recourse does the community or the Town have in dealing with a non-compliant renter?

Discussion included that the determination could be made to trespass the non-compliant renters, which KICA must initiate, and in that situation, should ordinances be revised. It was also noted that as the ordinance is currently written, property management agencies are responsible for enforcing community rules and managing their guests.

VII. Chairman's Updates:

None

VIII. Committee Members' Comments:

Mr. Sines apologized for missing the June meeting due to a COVID concern, which fortunately was unfounded.

Mr. Harris discussed upcoming events; on July 31st, there will be the full-scale emergency exercise, and on August 2nd, the emergency preparedness collaboration meeting.

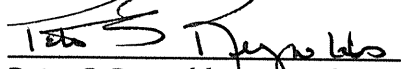
IX. Citizens Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Berner adjourned the meeting at 12:38 pm.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

4/23/2024
Date