

Town of Kiawah Island
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Center Council Chambers
June 13, 2024; 11:00 AM

Minutes

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

Present: Russell Berner, Chairman
Yvonne Johnstone
Steve Rolando
Nancy Robison
Mark Ruppel

Absent: Bill Thomae
Al Sines

Also Present: Craig Harris, Public Safety Director
Lieutenant Brokaw, Charleston County Sheriff's Office
Assistant Chief Prouse, St. Johns Fire District
Deputy Chief Winn, Charleston County EMS
Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta, Charleston County EMS
Rob Edgerton, Beach Patrol
Michael Sosnowski, Beach Patrol/Code Enforcement

Council Member Berner explained that Mayor Belt had decided to have all committee meetings chaired by a council member so he could take over from Mr. Harris in accordance with the mayor's policy.

II. Approval of Minutes:

A. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024, Public Safety Committee meeting. Ms. Johnstone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

B. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2024

C. Special Call Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2024

Approval of the minutes of the March and April meetings was deferred to the next meeting.

III. Agency Updates (as required)

A. Charleston County Sheriff's Department

Town of Kiawah Monthly Report	May	Year to Date
Number of all Written Report (excluding accident reports)	15	74
Accident Reports – Vehicle Mishaps	4	42
Number of Calls Handle Not Requiring a Report	76	273
Number of Traffic Stops	20	99
TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS HANDLED (dispatched/self-generated)	115	488
Written Warnings Issued	18	75
Traffic Citations Issued	2	10
Total Warnings and Citations Issued	20	85
Alarms	36	109
Specific Patrols Requests	317	905

Deputy Chief Winn provided updates on May's response times. There were 40 total responses to Kiawah; 28 of those were transports. The average response time was 12:11, with three calls close to 30 minutes. One of those was due to an inaccurate time frame because either the crew didn't push or the GPS connection was lost. Also highlighted were agency collaboration in the trench rescue, operational updates, and new hires.

D. Beach Patrol

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
Alcohol 15-208		0	0	0	0
Aligator 15-501		0	0	1	1
Beached Boat 15-603		0	0	0	0
Beach Fire 15-105		0	0	0	0
Build Permit		0	0	1	1
Business License		1	0	1	2
Critical Habitat 15-604		90	6	0	96
Discards 15-204		0	0	0	0
Drone 7-302		7	0	1	8
Dune 15-403		120	1	0	121
Fireworks 15-209		0	1	0	1
Glass 15-813		16	0	0	16
Hazardous Animal 15-810		6	0	0	6
Leash 7-301		150	10	2	162
Lights 15-107		0	0	0	0
Littering 15-212		1	0	0	1
Narratives 15-213		0	0	0	0
Noise 15-305		1	0	0	1
Nudity 15-606		3	0	0	3
Other		2	0	1	3
Parking 13-103		10	0	12	22
Personal Article Storage 8-119		0	0	0	0
Plastic 14-402		0	0	0	0
Shovel 15-409		22	0	0	22
Storage 15-505		0	3	0	3
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(2)		0	0	0	0
STR Trash 14-506e(1)		0	0	0	0
Swim Wats 15-214		13	0	0	13
Traps 15-114		0	0	0	0
Vehicle 15-502b		27	2	0	29
Total		461	21	15	511

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
Alcohol 15-208		0	0	0	0
Aligator 15-501		0	0	1	1
Beached Boat 15-603		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 15-604		1	0	0	1
Discards 15-204		0	0	0	0
Drone 7-302		1	0	0	1
Dune 15-403		1	0	0	1
Fireworks 15-209		4	1	0	5
Glass 15-813		3	0	0	3
Hazardous Animal 15-810		1	0	0	1
Leash 7-301		15	4	1	20
Lights 15-107		36	0	0	36
Littering 15-212		0	58	0	58
Narratives 15-213		0	0	0	0
Noise 15-305		10	3	0	13
Nudity 15-606		0	0	0	0
Other		3	4	2	9
Parking 13-103		2	0	2	4
Personal Article Storage 8-119		0	47	1	48
Plastic 14-402		0	0	0	0
Shovel 15-409		2	0	0	2
Storage 15-505		0	1	0	1
STR Bikes / Beach Gear 14-506f		0	151	1	152
STR Parking 14-506d		2	18	1	21
STR Parking 14-506d(1)		0	13	0	13
STR Parking 14-506d(2)		1	9	1	11
STR Trash 14-506e(1)		0	6	1	7
Swim Wats 15-214		0	0	0	0
Traps 15-114		0	0	0	0
Vehicle 15-502b		0	0	0	0
Total		80	295	11	386

Mr. Edgerton’s discussion covered the submission of statistics and efforts with Mr. Gottshalk to replace a poorly visible sign at Captain Sam’s concerning the no swimming ordinance located in a critical habitat. The success of Swim Across America, coordinated by Ms. Johnstone’s team and supported by Beach Patrol, was also emphasized.

Also discussed were wildlife call increases, short-term rental ordinance violations, and coyote predation, with a follow-up planned with Mr. Jordan. The formation of a dedicated patrol division, Memorial Day coordination, and Fourth of July preparations were highlighted. Traffic mitigation, including QR code signs and Google navigation adjustments, was reviewed.

E. Kiawah Island Community Association

KICA Security Report
Monthly Statistics: May 2024

	2022	2023	2024
Deer Related Accidents (no personal injury)	1	0	1
False Residential Alarms	2	0	0
Vehicles passed through the Main Gate	193,247	236,559	229,139
Vehicles passed through the Vanderhorst Gate	118,766	136,266	118,669

Mr. Ruppel reported on the formation of a dedicated patrol division, separate from the staff at the main gate and the V gate. Also highlighted were the record number of vehicles during the Memorial Day Holiday, coordination to keep traffic moving, and the Fourth of July preparations.

IV. Old Business:

A. Traffic Mitigation

Mr. Harris reviewed some of the steps taken over the past two years to mitigate the traffic issues at the Beachwalker Drive/Kiawah Island Parkway intersection.

- The Town hired a Community Service Officer to direct traffic at the intersection during the week and through holiday weekends.
- Working with Charleston County Park Recreation to open the gate for people to come into the park an hour earlier.
- KICA Board Members approved putting some restrictions on contractors during the holidays.
- KICA using two QR code signs was noted to help tremendously.
- Google navigation adjustments – directions currently indicate that Beachwalker Park is inside the gate.

B. Beach Ordinance (Shibumi Shades, Loud Music, Dogs on Leash)

Mr. Sosnowski discussed Shibumi Shades, or Wind-Driven Shades disturbances, noting the increasing numbers being used on the beach. From the Beach Patrol standpoint, they are a visual disturbance, directly impacting the ability to see down the beach, and property owners have made several complaints regarding both the visual disturbance and the noise that they create on the beach, noting restrictions in other beach communities.

The committee discussed banning wind-driven shades, like Shibumi, to improve public safety and lifeguards' visibility, hindered by these shades' motion. Enforcement challenges, alternatives (umbrellas, pop-up canopies), and the impact of such a ban on property owners and beach patrols were considered. The discussion referenced Virginia Beach's shade structure restrictions, enforcement, the potential for quieter canopies, the financial impact on shade owners (\$350), and the necessity of radio communication due to obstructed sightlines. Concerns over community pushback and the effectiveness of alternatives like tailgate tents in preserving sight lines were also discussed.

Mr. Berner suggested that if the committee agrees, an ordinance could be drafted for the Council's consideration, acknowledging the opinions of the experts, Beach Patrol, on the issue and expressing their support for this action.

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to draft an ordinance forbidding Shibumi Shades on the beach. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Harris was directed to draft an ordinance prohibiting the use of 'Shibumi Shades,' with a proposal to use 'wind-driven shades' for inclusivity.

The committee discussed loud music issues, mentioning Bluetooth speakers and the challenge of

enforcing noise ordinances on the beach. Mr. Edgerton stated that complaints are occasionally received throughout the summer, but none are outside the jurisdiction of the existing noise ordinance. Still, he felt that part of the problem with the increased volume was the increased noise created by wind-driven shades.

The members agreed that an amendment to the current noise ordinance specific to the beach would require more data. Most people are unaware of the noise and would comply with the request to turn down the volume. Also, considering the amount of space available, it is possible to move where it is less noisy.

The committee's 'dogs on leash' discussion referenced a biting incident. It included the additional enforcement of the existing ordinance, the role of signage in informing the public, and the responsibilities of dog owners to educate themselves on the rules. The potential of drone technology for enforcement was highlighted, with plans to review its effectiveness, particularly for incidents not visible to Beach Patrol or occurring post-patrol hours, like those around twilight.

V. New Business:

A. To Discuss and Recommend to the Public Works Department a Resolution to Slow Down the Bike Traffic Approaching the Cassique Ingress/Egress

The committee discussed enhancing bicycle safety along the Kiawah Island Parkway bike path, especially at the entrance to Cassique. They deliberated employing a traffic control officer for safety awareness, repainting faded signs, and evaluating communication strategies to educate the community to inform cyclists that you have a stop sign. Bollards were discussed but not favored.

B. Update on the Comprehensive Public Safety Feasibility Study Center Working with the Center for Public Safety Management (CPSM)

Mr. Harris stated that he is in the final stage of getting the feasibility study contract with the Center for Public Safety Management finalized and that the consultants had already started collecting data from the Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch.

VI. Chairman's Updates

None

VII. Committee Members' Comments:

Mr. Rolando thanked all the agencies for their support and the work that they do.

Mr. Harris noted that the date of the full-scale tabletop exercise had been changed to July 31st.

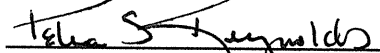
VIII. Citizens Comments:

None

IX. Adjournment:

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 pm. Ms. Robison seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

9.23.2024
Date