

Health & Human Services Committee

**April 11th, 2017
5:30 PM/Room 24 City
Hall Meeting Minutes**

Committee Attendance:

Belinda S. Ray, Chair (District 1), Brian Batson (District 3), Nicholas M. Mavodones, Jr. (At Large)

City Staff Attendance:

Dawn Stiles, Police Chief Michael Sauschuck, Fire Chief David Jackson, Andy Downs, Mike Murray

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30PM

Chair Ray moved to accept minutes from previous meeting. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 2 –Shelter Zoning: Deliberation and vote

The Chair asked Jeff Levine from Planning if he had any updates for the committee – there were no updates at this time.

Highlights: The next step in this process would be the new language for Chapter 14 to be laid out and to list conditional uses. The Chair suggested that once the new language was finalized and put in place that the old language would be removed from Chapter 14.

After further discussion the Chair entertained a motion to send this on to the Planning Board for review. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

AGENDA ITEM 3- Golf cart Ordinance:

Chief Sauschuck addressed the committee and gave an overview of the current ordinance and proposed changes (see back-up materials)

The Chair opened the floor to public comment.

The following individuals spoke on Golf Carts on the islands.

- *Rachel Robbins, Cliff Island; Horns & Flags are not necessary where they don't have roads out there on Cliff; there is no congestion, but agrees education is key & suggested a piece of literature at time of registration, they do not have rental companies; and would like "something" emailed to the islanders*
- *Betty Thompson, Cliff Island; addresses people with children on their laps is a problem on Cliff Island*
- *Lisa, From Peaks Island; addressed concerns on auditory devices, she highlighted concerns that there are times you cannot hear the golf cart coming upon you; the*

carts are just not safe without break lights or turn signals; Lisa also addressed concerns regarding accidents with a number of tourists on Peaks; she like the idea of "common sense" literature, and would like to see consequences for allowing kids to drive

The Chair closed public comment on this item.

The Chair stressed that auditory device has always been a part of the ordinance and the opened the meeting to questions from Councilors.

Councilor Mavodones asked Chief Sauschuck where the ordinance has been in place since the 1990's – What do you do around enforceability? Chief Sauschuck responded with no inspection standards and no current system to putting tail lights on the golf carts enforcement at times is difficult, educating the public is key. Mike Murray who is from the city Island/Neighborhood Administrator suggested a signed letter from the chief's at time of registration addressing any changes. Councilor Batson suggested to list the consequences to give more of an impact to grab people's attention.

Councilor Mavodones asked committee & staff if anyone knew how many registrations there are for the islands? Mike Murray will follow-up with the committee.

The Chair thanked the committee, staff & public and reminded everyone to come back to the May 9th meeting. At the May 9th meeting there will be another opportunity for public comment. The committee will then have committee deliberation and a vote on any needed changes and if ready, will be sent it to the full council to consider the recommended changes.

Community Policing Update:

Chief Sauschuck addressed the committee and provided an overview (see back-up materials) include:

- Bayside represents less than 1% of City's landmass and only 5% of its population
- This neighborhood accounted for more than 21% of all the police calls for service in the first 10 months of 2016 (34% of all public disorder calls for service originated in Bayside)
- Calls to Bayside have increased 71%
- Bayside currently patrolled by a single beat officer who must respond to calls ranging from burglar alarms and motor vehicles accidents and robberies.

AGENDA ITEM 5- Noise Ordinance: Public Hearing on Noise Ordinance

Public Comment Open at this time:

- *Denine Leeman, East Brown Cow - worked with engineers whom conducted a sound study for the Hyatt Place she described that the noise ordinance has exploded – the study showed readings of .92 Decibels and the city ordinance states shall not exceed .55 decibels for district B3*
- *Kathy- Ocean Ave, also works for Street Co. on Fore Street – she stated Fore Street is one of the loudest streets down in the Old Port. Bars will turn up their music and they like to see who can be louder; speakers are now outside*
- *George- Bayside- noise is treated differently from different areas, 100's of people gather in the shelter areas and cause just as much noise and other problems.*
- *Dana Street, Portland –owner Street Co., the night life in the Wharf Street area has changed in recent years where bars have developed louder music to draw more people*

in (live bands etc) the noise level is harder to measure, the meter readings at times can be all over the place, it isn't always just the number for total volume. Many nights they have to continually go over to the other business to keep asking them to turn down the music because they can't have a normal conversation inside his business.

- *Tim – Hyatt Hotel, other cities don't have a problem managing noise. Enforcement, or lack of, shouldn't be an issue; Tim stated he is concerned as to how this reflects on our city.*

Public Comment on Noise Ordinance closed at this time

Andy Downs from Park & Recreation mentions he can research best practices from other cities such as Burlington & Boston where they had similar issues. Also, the Sound Oversight Committee, being re-established, would like to look at more funds to establish a baseline for five different sites.

Councilor Mavodones felt that .55 decibels is unrealistic and .92 is too high and requests that the data be looked at from the last 3-5 years. Also, would like to know what other cities may have conducted similar noise level studies, lessons learned and what action may have been taken.

Chair Ray would like to explore the ordinance requests and prepare for June's meeting:

Guiding questions:

- What area would this noise monitor sites apply to?
- Do we do different levels for different areas?
- Outdoor speakers, clean-up ordinance (consolidate info)
- What scale do we use? Refer back to Mike Russell's handout from March meeting
- How to enforce? (Chief Sauschuck to follow-up with City Manager)

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:30