

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

1:00 P. M., MAY 12, 2020

*IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY. THE MEETING WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS A LIVE STREAM VIA ZOOM (PER THE AGENDA).

Keeley Steele, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Public Safety to order at 1:00 p.m., MARCH 12, 2020.

Committee Members Present:

Keeley Steele, Chair

Chuck Overstreet, Vice Chair

Naomi Bays

Joseph Jenkins (arrived after meeting had started)

Deanna McKinney

1. Approval of Previous Minutes –
Councilmember Bays moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 3-5-2020. Councilmember Overstreet seconded. There was no objection and the minutes were approved.

2. Bill No. 7871 –

Councilmember Steele asked City Attorney, Kevin Baker, to give the Committee a brief overview of the bill. Baker stated that there was some ambiguity in State law over whether or not cities could authorize their Fire Department to make limited arrests for arson related crimes. Around 5 years ago, the City of Morgantown used the Home Rule process to give their Fire Department this authority, focusing mostly on dumpster fires. Corey Miller, CFD, approached him with this idea around July of 2019, and it was decided to try to change the State law with Mayor Goodwin's support. The proposed bill makes a couple of small changes in the current code to place that authority. Baker added that the City was operating with a Fire Prevention Code that was being updated in the CFD Offices, but was not contained in the Municipal Code. The proposed bill adds the Fire Prevention Code to the City's Municipal Code. Section 54-142 says that the requires of the State Fire Marshall or the National Fire Protection Association will not be stated in the City Code, but they are incorporated by reference. There is also a change in the penalty section for violations of the Charleston Fire Prevention Code of \$100-500 to match the structure that the CFD has already been operating under. Additionally, operational policies will continue to be held by the Fire Department.

Miller thanked Baker and the staff of the City Attorney's Office for their work on the proposed bill. Ken Tyree is the current State Fire Marshall, who used to work for the CFD and is in support of this. He added that over the past 5-7 years, there has been an average of 120 working fires per year. This will reduce some of the CID's workload, and will speed up the process for the CFD.

Councilmember McKinney motion to approve the bill. Councilmember Overstreet seconded. With the members being present having unanimously voted in the affirmative, the Chair declared Bill No. 7871 as approved.

3. Resolution No. 332-20 Draft –

Baker stated that the purpose of the resolution is to ratify and confirm the Mayor's prior findings that the wrongful manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of prescription opioid pills, including hydrocodone and oxycodone, created a public nuisance to the people of the City of Charleston.

Councilmember Bays motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember McKinney seconded. With the members being present having unanimously voted in the affirmative, the Chair declared Resolution No. 332-20 as approved.

Meeting adjourned