



Council

Joe DeVito  
Mayor

Jerry Ashmore  
Mayor Pro Tempore

Mary Beth Heyward  
Darryl Owens  
Kevin Phillips

Van Willis  
Town Manager

T. Alan Beach  
Chief of Police

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
Operations

Linda Bridges  
Planning

**Minutes  
Council Workshop  
Yvonne C. Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Avenue**

**September 2, 2020**

**Members Present:** Mayor Joe DeVito, Council Members Jerry Ashmore, Mary Beth Heyward, Darryl Owens and Kevin Phillips

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Van Willis, Planning Administrator Linda Bridges, Police Chief Alan Beach, Fire Chief Reece Bertholf and Municipal Clerk Brooke Plank-Buccola

As per Ordinance 2020-15. "Members of the public may submit written public comments to the Town Clerk [bplank-buccola@portroyal.org](mailto:bplank-buccola@portroyal.org) no later than one hour prior to any regular meeting, which shall be distributed to the members of the Governing Body at such meeting."

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor DeVito called the Council Workshop to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. PRESENTATION:**

**A. Stormwater Drainage Presentation – Mr. Neil Desai and Ms. Katie Herrera**

See attached presentation.

Council Member Ashmore asked if Parris Island is included in this drainage study. Ms. Herrera replied that it is not. They are their own barrier island with their own Dhec, etc.

**III. COUNCIL BRIEFING**

A presentation was just given on potential stormwater standards for the area. The Town has one residence on 11<sup>th</sup> Street with stormwater issues being reviewed by staff. Tree surveyors will be in the Village to examine the tree canopies.

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The Town is awaiting quotes for two different aerators for the Madrid Pond to help alleviate the smell. Ground hornets have settled near the pond and will be addressed as well.

Mr. Willis is looking into clearing brush growth along the fence line adjacent to the Madrid Pond and 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Town may have a property swap opportunity and is trying to evaluate on the property. Appraisers are very busy in the area, but staff is continuing to pursue an appraisal office available to evaluate the property.

An application has been submitted to the CDBG for the revitalization of Paris Avenue. No new updates on the Narcissus CDBG project.

Architects have made some preliminary plans for the shrimp processing facility. A few months ago, the Town agreed to consider constructing a mixed-use building with the port developers.

The Gullah monument and landscape have been completed.

The Town's landscapers have been responding to areas needing improvement. A new manager has been assigned to the Town contract and has been responsive.

The redevelopment commission is preparing for the new cycle of the Port Royal pride program. They have been also working on some new designs for the Port Royal entry points and have recently approved the new signage for it.

The work will begin soon at the Cypress Wetlands. The first step will be to draw the water down.

The new aerator is installed at the Duck Blind Pond and it has help reduce the smell immensely.

An elevated speed hump/crosswalk is being engineered and will be constructed at the existing crosswalk by the Port Royal Police Department. A four-way stop will be installed at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Old Shell Road. Mr. Maglione suggested putting a three way stop at Fort Frederick Circle to help slow traffic along that route.

National Park Service has met at Porter's Chapel, and they are prepared to supply staff, signage, and office. USCB has had to move their course to help the interior design of the Chapel to their spring products session. Council Member Owens asked if the pavilion is still planned to be relocated. Mr. Willis said they still plan on having the pavilion near the chapel in order to hold outdoor classes. The ramp will need to be replaced on the pavilion.

Three boats at the shrimp docks have been submitted for the marine debris removal. This is a federal grant program. This will be a complete removal of the boats.

The Town has asked for the County to explain the spending of the current tag fees collected from the entire County. This money is required to be spent on County and State-owned roads.

The vandalism within the Town seems to be reduced since previous discussion.

The Shed closing documents have been signed by the Town and are awaiting signatures by the new owners. The Shed should be officially sold by next week.

A crosswalk along Waddell is still of concern to Town Council. Mayor DeVito suggested having Mr. Maglione file an encroachment permit to install a crosswalk.

WastePro has seen a rise in the amount of trash they are collecting. They are doing their best to stay on schedule and stay in communication with the Town with updates.

#### **IV. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

##### **A. Face Mask Ordinance**

The Town's emergency face mask ordinance is ending soon, and Council needs to discuss if they would like to re-establish it for the community's safety. The Town of Bluffton has reestablished theirs through November, and Beaufort County has continued theirs until the end of October. Council Member Heyward feels it is important to continue enforce the face mask for the safety of everyone and suggested reassessing the ordinance at each month's Council Meeting. All of Council agreed. They would like to see the numbers down more before suspend wearing face mask in public areas.

#### **V. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING**

Mr. Robb Wells will be presenting next week during the Council Meeting.

Second readings will include the rezoning on Hamerick, the rezoning on Sundown and two sidewalk requests.

Mayor DeVito asked if the closing of the property will occur before the second reading. Mr. Burgess explained that a deed restriction has been put into place, and the closing will occur Thursday or Friday after the second reading of this ordinance request.

Council action will include the approval of Destination Marketing Organization and dedication of Cypress Wetlands boardwalk.

Face mask ordinance will be added to next week's agenda.

Council Member Ashmore has received multiple emails and wanted to discuss the beer garden. Residents have expressed concern with the noise coming from these events. The police department will be on patrol during the next event. Mayor DeVito would like to have a briefing from the Chief of the Police Department on how this weekend goes.

#### **VI. IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:**

- A. Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 5:45PM Special Meeting/Executive Session**
- B. Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 6:30PM Public Hearing**
- C. Wednesday, September 9, 2020, Immediately following the Public Hearing will be the Regular Council Meeting**

Mr. Willis would like to change the Special Meeting/Executive Session from 5:45PM to 5:30PM.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brooke Plank-Buccola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brooke" being the most prominent.

Brooke Plank-Buccola  
Municipal Clerk

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