



Council

Joe DeVito *Mayor*

Darryl Owens *Mayor Pro Tempore*

Mary Beth Heyward Jerry Ashmore Kevin Phillips

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

February 9, 2022

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

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Police Deputy Chief Ron Wekenemann, Fire Department Chief Tim Ogden, Planning Administrator Noah Krepps, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, and Municipal Clerk Kadeeyshja Butler

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor DeVito called the council meeting to order at 6:30PM.

II. INVOCATION

The invocation was led by Council Member Owens.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **Minutes from the Public Hearing of January 5, 2022**
- B. **Minutes from the Council Workshop of January 5, 2022**
- C. **Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of January 12, 2022**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of January 5, 2022, the Council Workshop of January 5, 2022, and the regular Council Meeting of

January 5, 2022. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE:

Council Members all made a unanimous vote to elect Council Member Darryl Owens as the new Mayor Pro Tempore. The motion carried by a unanimous vote

V. COUNCIL BRIEFING:

Town Manager, Van Willis started his briefing after the appointments and the election of Mayor Pro Tempore selection were made.

The Town Manager had a meeting with Safe Harbor in discussion of the permitting for the Marina. Materials have been ordered for the improvements of the dry stack. The easement for the Spanish Moss Trail is also in process.

The Ribaut Road Corridor study has had a few days of brief input that involved several property owners along the corridor, it is still being continued and will include looking at the Naval Hospital and how it fits into the corridor. This study is expected to be completed by April.

The Town Manager suggested that the sands beach project move forward without waiting for the capital project.

All municipal Town Managers met with the county to discuss the status of the Impact fee calculation update. Town Manager believes that any capital sales tax penny list should create a significant impact on the final project fee list and calculations.

Town Manager, Van Willis sent Beaufort County the town's supporting documents for the crossing at the former rail bed onto the Safe Harbor property. Safe Harbor is in the process of reviewing the draft easement to allow a temporary trail on their property. The Town Manager and Beaufort county's personnel discussed the status of the federal grant for the construction of the trail crossings and the stipulations of this easement to comply with the submission of the grant through a wordsmith.

The maritime lawyer is making progress with contacting owners of the boats. Council Members were provided an update email on that process. Town Manager stated that "Little Joe" received a pump replacement and will be in the process of removal. He also stated Safe Harbor being interested in joining use of a building to house a process facility and confirmed that the Town has full ownership of the Docks. Mayor Joe DeVito also made a statement to confirm the Town's ownership of the shrimp dock and asked the public to reach out regarding any questions or concerns regarding that matter.

Council members received a spreadsheet regarding the sidewalk for overview. The town is still working on the refinement and will have it ready to be included in the capital improvement program.

Town Project Updates:

LOCOG has updated the Town on the CDBG projects. Paris Avenue environmental clearance is being wrapped up. Once that is completed, Town should be able to clear start up, release funds, and review all plans and specifications before the project is bid out.

Royal Palms has cleared start up and Michael has begun working on permits and plans. Documents have been submitted to SCDOT for acceptance of the roads by the town.

Public Works staff has installed more stop signs and speed bumps at different locations throughout the Town.

Several different avenues are being pursued for Capital Projects. Town Manager and Lawrence Flynn engaged in discussions with both Arnett Muldrow and Compass Financial Advisors on organizing potential borrowing for the Capital Projects list which includes resurfacing work, sidewalk project list, intersection improvements, and sewer expansion.

There are also other projects to be included such as the Capital Project Sales Tax list, projects for ARPA funds, Impact Fees that includes a meeting with other municipal Town Managers, and projects for the general obligation fund borrowing. These projects will later include in detail conversation with council at the Council Retreat for consideration.

The sign has been installed at the Porter's Chapel. National Park Security is preparing displays for the Porter's Chapel and the Town has added security cameras for security enhancement at both the Porter's Chapel and the Skateboard Park.

Town Manager has still been trying to get an update from the Naval Hospital about adding a sidewalk with no response, he would like for a consideration of the sidewalk be installed without moving the fence. SCDOT indicated that the sidewalk could not be installed without a temporary fence relocation due to slope issues. The Town Manager will have an engineer check out the location.

Town Manager asked BJWSA to consider a sewer expansion on Ribaut Road as well as looking into extending the sewer down along 16th street extension.

Ice Cream Trucks have been accommodated for the Town, and the Town will next look at accommodating Food Trucks. There has been growing interest in food courts, and the Town Manager would like to receive more input from Council to explore the option of Food Trucks for Port Royal.

Planning Director did a brief introduction to accommodating Food Trucks in Port Royal.

Michael Klink is in the process of updating the hydrograph to figure out how much capacity is remaining. The Town has several projects that includes updates on the wetlands, 12 acres on Ribaut/Richmond, and the property located near the Preserve Apartments. Town Manager also advised that he add Anchor Parks and the idea of West Paris Avenue being added to the wetlands system.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council timed into executive session at 6:34 PM.
Council timed out of executive session at 6:40 PM
There were no actions taken at this time.

VII. **COUNCIL ACTION A. Appointments:**

I. **Redevelopment - 5 appointments**

Five appointed members of the Redevelopment Commission concludes Rand Ward, Dick Stewart, Stephen Loderick, Timothy Ball, and Vaughn Keown.

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the appointment of the members of the redevelopment commission. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. Council Member Phillips recused himself from the motion. The motion was voted all in favor with one recusal.

II. **Transportation Referendum - 1 appointment**

Mayor DeVito made a motion to move to approve Dean Moss for the appointment of the Transportation Referendum postpone the appointments of the redevelopment commission until council has an opportunity to discuss all applicants. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

III. **Beaufort Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission - reappointment**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve Charlotte Murray for the reappointment of Beaufort Jasper Economic Opportunity Commission. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

VIII. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES:**

- A. **Friday, February 25, 2022, 8:30AM to 10AM, 2022 Economic Forecast with Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce at the MacLean Hall, Technical College of the Lowcountry - Beaufort Campus.**
- B. **Saturday, February 26, 2022, at 8:30AM, Council Retreat at Town Hall.**

IX. **COUNCIL'S COMMENTS:**

Council Member Owens asked if the drainage issue on Vaigneur Rd and Smilax Ave would be corrected. Town Manager stated that once

Council Member Phillips thanks The Beaufort Chamber of Commerce, he stated that the meeting was very productive and appreciated the set up. There were discussions of Ribaut Rd Development, Port Development, and Military Installations here in Beaufort.

Council Member Heyward also felt that the meeting was very productive. Council Member Owens appreciated being selected for Mayor Pro Tempore and asks that the public continue to communicate with them regarding concerns.

Town Manager, Van Willis added that Victor Dover and Vince Graham showcased the history and evolution of the Town of Port Royal. Victor Dover created the masterplan of the Town.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time, the Mayor will recognize members of the audience who have submitted speaker forms to address the Council on non-agenda items. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes.

Ashley, from Lowcountry Jaycees presented to Council the two awards that they won in the State.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DeVito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kadeeyshja Butler Municipal Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, notification of the meeting was posted on the Town bulletin board two weeks prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the meeting location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

The Town of Port Royal does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or operations of programs, services, or activities. Qualified individuals who need accessible communication aids and services or other accommodations to participate in programs and activities are invited to make your needs and preferences known to the 504/ADA coordinator. If at all possible, please give us at least a three to five day advance notice so we can adequately meet your needs. 504/ADA coordinator at 843-986-2245