



Council

Joe DeVito
Mayor

Darryl Owens
Mayor Pro Tempore

Jerry Ashmore
Mary Beth Heyward
Kevin Phillips

Van Willis
Town Manager

T. Alan Beach
Chief of Police

Jeffrey S. Coppinger
Operations

Noah Krepps
Planning

**Minutes
Council Meeting
Port Royal Town Hall, Yvonne C. Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Avenue**

June 22, 2023

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

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Fire Chief Tim Ogden, Police Captain Andre Massey, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, Planning Director Noah Krepps

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor DeVito led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

III. INVOCATION

Council Member Ashmore led the invocation.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes from the Budget Workshop of May 3, 2023**
- B. Minutes from the Public Hearing of May 3, 2023**
- C. Minutes from the Council Workshop of May 3, 2023**
- D. Minutes from the Budget Workshop of May 10, 2023**
- E. Minutes from the Council Meeting of May 10, 2023**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the minutes from the Budget Workshop of May 3rd, the Public Hearing of May 3rd, the Council Workshop of May 3rd, the Budget Workshop of May 10th and the Council Meeting of May 10th. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

V. COUNCIL BRIEFING

Town Manager Willis provided an update on the following.

Redevelopment Commission - Chairman Rand Ward stepped down. At the last meeting they appointed Vaughn Keown as Chairman, Stephen Loderick as Secretary and Dick Stewart will remain the Vice Chair.

Spanish Moss Trail – The RFP for the crossing will go out sometime in August. The 93-inch fallen Water Oak on the trail was removed earlier this week.

Naval Hospital Sidewalk – SCDOT has received the funds from the Federal Highway Administration. Upon receipt of the conveyance from the Naval Hospital they will be paid and construction will commence.

Replacement of the Shrimp Dock – Have received a \$1 Million allocation in the state budget. Please thank Shannon Erikson and the legislative delegation for that allocation. The shrimp dock budget is \$2.6 million which is to include the demolition, reconstruction, removal of the sunken boats, and the processing facility. Manager Willis is meeting with the engineering firm ATM next week in Charleston.

VI. PROCLAMATION

A. Friends of Cherry Hill Oak – Hope Cunningham

Mayor DeVito read the proclamation into record. See attached letter of thanks from Hope Cunningham.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Kate Schaefer – Director of Land Protection for the Beaufort County Open Land Trust serving as the staff contractors for the County’s Rural and Critical Lands Program thanked Council for the Friends of Cherry Hill Oak proclamation and the continued support of Rural and Critical Lands investment in Port Royal.

Grant McClure with Coastal Conservation League thanked Council for protecting Cherry Hill Oak, the gravestone residing underneath and the continued support of protecting trees and setting an example to other municipalities to follow.

VIII. SECOND READING

- A. Ordinance 2023-8. An ordinance to authorize the Town Manager to convey excess real property to facilitate construction of sidewalks within the Town described as Beaufort County Tax District 110, Map 10, Parcel 0073 (1201 16th St.).**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-8. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- B. Ordinance 2023-9. An ordinance to amend as follows section I of Ordinance 2022-4 to provide for the levy of taxes for ordinary town purposes in the Town of Port Royal, South Carolina, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and to provide for the expenditures thereof.**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-9. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- C. Ordinance 2023-10. An ordinance to approve the court department budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-10. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. Council Member Phillips recused himself from the vote. The motion was carried by a vote of four.

- D. Ordinance 2023-11. An ordinance to rezone approximately 0.39 acres of real estate described as Beaufort County Tax District 110, Map 10, Parcel 343 located in Beaufort County South Carolina to be rezoned from T3 Edge to T4 Neighborhood Center – Open (2001 Berkely Cir.).**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2023-11. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

- A. 5-2023. A resolution establishing a Civil Rights Committee and Grievance Procedures as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve Resolution 5-2023 from the agenda. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- B. 6-2023. A resolution to approve and adopt a Reasonable Accommodation Policy as required by the ADA-Americans With Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336.**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve Resolution 6-2023 from the agenda. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

X. COUNCIL ACTION

A. Appointments:

- i. Accommodation Tax Committee – appointment**
- ii. Historic Preservation Committee – appointment and reappointment**
- iii. Military Enhancement Committee – reappointment**
- iv. Zoning Board of Appeals – reappointment**
- v. Civil Rights Coordinator – appointment**

Council Member Ashmore made a motion to appoint Jorge Guerrero to the Accommodation Tax Committee. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Heyward made a motion to appoint Pamela Courtney and reappoint Mike Jones to the Historic Preservation Committee. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Owens made a motion to reappoint Jimmy Boozer to the Military Enhancement Committee. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Ashmore made a motion to reappoint Phil Lafountain to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council Member Owens made a motion to appoint Town Manager Willis as the Civil Rights Coordinator. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

XI. IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

Town Manager Willis read the following important date.

- A. Tuesday, July 4, 2023 – Port Royal Hometown 4th of July Celebration at the Sands Beach at 12:00 PM to 10:00 PM.**

Council Member Owens added that there will be a SoLoCo Meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Council Member Ashmore mentioned that there will be a Northern Beaufort County Regional Plan Implementation Meeting at the Beaufort County Council Chambers on Friday, June 23, 2023 at 9:00 AM. Alice Howard, the Beaufort County Council Port Royal Representative announced that Amanda Dickman will be presenting an update on the new Port Royal Library at the July 5, 2023 Council Workshop. Council suggested that there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the ADA compliant Bruce Edgerly Park.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Joe Lee – Requested a public forum regarding the Port development.

Samuel L. Smalls – Would like improvements at the Casablanca Park.

Colleen Johnson – Concerned with the condition of the entrance and parking at the Sands Beach.

William Murphy – Also concerned with the Sands Beach.

Stephen Loderick – Asked to bring back Port Royal Porch Parties.

XIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Owens thanked staff and the community for supporting the Street Music Concert Series.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Town Manager Evaluation

Council Member Owens made a motion to enter executive session regarding Town Manager evaluation. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council entered executive session at 7:13 PM.

Mayor DeVito made a motion to exit the executive meeting session regarding Town Manager evaluation. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council exited executive session at 7:45 PM.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DeVito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Graham
Town Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (a)(d)(e), as amended, notification of regular meetings was given at the beginning of the calendar year. A copy of the agenda was posted on the Town Hall's bulletin board and website www.portroyal.org twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and requested public on file.

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 Civil Rights Coordinator. If at all possible, please give us at least a three to five day advance notice so we can adequately meet your needs. Civil Rights Coordinator at 843-986-2211.