



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

**July 5, 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 Chief Alan Beach, Town Clerk Lisa Graham

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PRESENTATION:**

- A. Lowcountry Pride – Angela Wright**
- B. Port Royal Library Update – Amanda Dickman**

Angela Wright with Lowcountry Pride, a non-profit that serves the LGBTQ community announced that there will be a family friendly Pride Festival on November 18, 2023, at the Live Oak Park.

Amanda Dickman, the Beaufort County Library Director gave an update on the Port Royal Library. See attached presentation.

**III. COUNCIL BRIEFING**

Town Manager Willis gave an update on the following:

**Redevelopment Commission** – Vaughn Keown was elected chairman. Dick Stewart will continue to serve as vice chairman. Stephen Loderick is replacing Mr. Keown as secretary. Not much to update from their last meeting outside of reorganization efforts.

**Spanish Moss Trail** – Mayor DeVito stated that they may go out to bid in August to cross Ribaut Road. He read a letter from SCDOT approving funding of the extension from Ritter Circle to Fishcamp. \$1,150,240 was granted from the Federal Transportation Alternative Funds. Ultimately, the beginning of the trail will be the boardwalk.

**Safe Harbor** – Working on the survey work and title search for Lot G and the former beer garden.

**Shrimp Dock/Federal Order** – Manager Willis and Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola met with the engineering firm ATM regarding the demolition of the existing shrimp dock and its potential replacement. Demolition is included in the current permit for the marina which is held by Safe Harbor. Discussing configuration for the shrimp dock with the marine contractor. The Town's Maritime lawyer confirmed that once demolition is complete the dock can be reconstructed.

**Landing Craft** – Nick Borreggine has partnered with Craig Reese to relocate the landing craft.

**Vested Rights/Tree Ordinance** – Planning Director Noah Krepps is working on a report for the potential impact of the ordinance. Manager Willis would like to have an executive session with the Town's attorneys and Council discussing implications.

**Building Inspection** – Manager Willis and Director Plank-Buccola are evaluating a couple options relative to Building Inspector Mike Wesson's departure. There is a private option and an option to expand the contract with the City of Beaufort until someone is permanently hired as a residential and commercial building inspector.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Police Department** – Moving slower than expected. Still dealing with some mechanical drawing issues with the architect.

**CDBG Project** – Royal Palms Sewer – Still waiting on connectivity. Need to submit drawings reflecting as built information for BJWSA. Town Engineer Michael Klink thinks it may take a few more weeks. The construction is complete waiting on the close out packages.

**Paris Avenue Project** – There will be a July 20<sup>th</sup> design workshop.

**SOLOCO** – Current topic is growth boundaries and how they relate between the municipalities and counties. Discussed the City and Town's relationship due to the passages of the Northern Regional Plan and how the growth boundary has been abided between them as well as

respecting growth in incorporated areas. We have staff that have been volunteered to participate in the subcommittee to discuss. Next month's meeting will solely be on housing efforts.

**Personnel** – Replacing building inspector, adding an administrative person, and hiring more personnel at Public Works.

**Legal** – Burton lawsuit regarding the assessed versus taxable value has been settled. Hired an appellate lawyer for the remainder of the litigation.

**Reimagine Ribaut** – Many of Council participated. The Town's focus through Staff and Council attending was to convey the importance of the Toole Study and the Arnett Multro Study and make sure that anything that happens along Ribaut reflects the plans that that the Town has significantly invested in the last few years.

**Penny Sales Tax** – Meeting with Jared Fralix and the City of Beaufort to discuss how this process will move going forward. The commission they are creating will need representation from Port Royal and City of Beaufort. Mayor DeVito added that he met with Mayor Murray and have agreed to submit a Port Royal representative to represent both municipalities.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July** – Logistically went well despite the rain and the heat. Next year there will be more signage for handicap parking and additional parking, so people do not have to walk so far. Many residents helped carting people to and from the Sands Beach. Council thanked the Fire and Police Department for their assistance and applauded Kevin Graves for stepping up last minute to DJ for the crowd.

**Parks and Recreation** – Down to two members.

#### **IV. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE JULY 12, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING**

Manager Willis mentioned that the Gullah Geechee Nation Proclamation is on the agenda for the next meeting. Council discussed the increased speeding on the newly paved roads. Mayor DeVito asked to reduce the speed on Paris Avenue per a recommendation from the AMVETS in honor of the veterans committing suicide daily.

#### **V. IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION**

- A. Thursday, July 6, 2023 – Design Review Board Meeting at 5:30 PM**
- B. Wednesday, July 12, 2023 – Council Meeting at 6:30 PM**
- C. Tuesday, July 18, 2023 – Redevelopment Commission Meeting at 4:30 PM-5:30 PM**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor DeVito adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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](http://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.**

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