



COOL. COASTAL. FAR FROM ORDINARY.

**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**

**July 12, 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, Police Major Ron Wekenmann, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, Planning Director Noah Krepps, Town Clerk Lisa Graham

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Heyward led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. INVOCATION**

Council Member Owens led the invocation.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Minutes from the Budget Workshop of June 7, 2023**
- B. Minutes from the Public Hearing of June 7, 2023**
- C. Minutes from the Council Workshop of June 7, 2023**
- D. Minutes from the Council Meeting of June 22, 2023**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve the minutes from the Budget Workshop of June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Public Hearing of June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Council Workshop of June 7<sup>th</sup>, and the Council Meeting of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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:

**Sidewalk** – Planning Director Noah Krepps and Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola are getting ready for the next phase of construction and have been interfacing with residents when necessary.

**Repaving roads** – Resurfacing should start in September and wrap up by the end of the year.

**Shrimp boat** – Demolition of the shrimp dock by the end of the year.

**CDBG** – All required documents have been signed, notarized and hand delivered to BJWSA. Hopefully, residents will be tied in as soon as possible.

**VI. PROCLAMATION**

**A. Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week – Queen Quet**

Queen Quet was presented a proclamation in honor of Gullah/Geechee Nation Appreciation Week. She thanked Council and Staff and encouraged all to celebrate Gullah/Geechee Famlee Day on July 29<sup>th</sup> at Penn Center from 12 PM – 4 PM.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

There were no comments from the public.

**VIII. COUNCIL ACTION**

**A. Reduce speed limit on Paris Avenue**

Council and Staff agreed to lower the speed limit on Paris Avenue and other Town owned roads to 22 MPH at the request of AMVETS to bring awareness to the number of veterans that

commit suicide daily. They agreed to add signage explaining the significance of the lowered speed limit. Council Member Owens made the motion to lower the speed limit. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Council Member Owens made the motion to add signage. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor DeVito asked for a break in the agenda to include Resolution 2023-7. Council Member Owens made a motion to include Resolution 2023-7. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Town Manager Willis explained that Metropolitan Planning Organization was created in 2002 for Hilton Head and Bluffton. Beaufort, Port Royal, and the unincorporated areas in Northern Beaufort County are now large enough to constitute their own MPO. Considering limited resourcing and staffing it was determined that creating a new MPO would not be beneficial. The MPO Resolution is a show of support for staying within the current Metro Planning Organization. Council Member Owens made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-7. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

#### **IX. IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DATES**

Manager Willis read the following dates.

- A. July 14-23, 2023 - Beaufort Water Festival**
- B. Thursday, July 18, 2023 – Redevelopment Commission Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM**
- C. July 26-30, 2023 – Municipal Association of South Carolina – Annual Meeting**

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Queen Quet mentioned the DOD Skill Bridge Program for transitioning Service members.

David Stillwell had concerns regarding the upcoming Lowcountry Pride Festival being held in Live Oak Park this fall.

Tim Ball was concerned about a potential Lowcountry Pride parade.

Samuel L. Smalls was pleased hearing that there will be a speed table for Casablanca Circle. He brought up the previous Council Workshop he attended.

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Port Royal representative for Beaufort Council, Member Alice Howard is organizing a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the ADA compliant playground at Bruce Edgerly Park. Reminded everyone of the Book Mobile on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center at 11-11:30 AM.

**XI. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Ashmore made a motion to enter executive session regarding legal advice. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council entered executive session at 7:07 PM.

Council exited executive session at 7:50 PM.

**A. Discussion of legal advice subject to attorney-client privilege regarding vested rights**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Owens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a vote of four. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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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