



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 Workshop

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

September 6, 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 Willis, Fire Chief Tim Ogden, Police Chief Alan Beach, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, Planning Director Noah Krepps, Town Clerk Lisa Graham

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeVito called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

II. PRESENTATION

Wendy Zara and Dixie Lanier gave an update on the Beaufort Jasper Regional Housing Trust Fund. See presentation.

III. COUNCIL BRIEFING

Manager Willis gave an update on the following:

Redevelopment Commission – Continuing to work on the “why” of locating along the Gateway. They made some recommendations on infrastructure. Particularly sewer, be it master planning or actual insulation. They are working on the marketing program. They have made a suggestion regarding the overlay which Director Krepps is working on.

Royal Palms Gravity Sewer Project – Plumbing connections are being made.

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Dawson Place Drainage Improvements – Came up with a design for addressing some of the runoff in that area.

Speed Humps – Town Engineer Michael Klink has contacted SCDOT about the installation of the speed hump tables and is waiting on a response. Manager Willis sent out an email to them questioning whether they knew this was a priority of Council.

Port Property Shadow Moss Trail Path (TAPS) – One of the grants received to run the trail through the Bluff neighborhood. Meeting with Ward Edwards this week to discuss scheduling a path forward with them on design, permitting, and construction. Have a goal of establishing the trail by the end of 2023.

W Paris Ave and Villages (SCIIP) – The South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program. A grant was received for the West Paris Avenue drainage and the Villages. Still working on the final surveys. These are significant variant improvements and will help tie in with Madrid Avenue and connectivity with the Cypress Wetlands.

Paris Ave Streetscape – Had a conversation about that earlier.

12th St School Parking – School parking and layout has been a challenge. Working out the configuration accommodating the parking as well as sidewalk location while enhancing pedestrian safety.

Council Member Owens inquired if they have evaluated parking during peak hours. Manager Willis confirmed that they had.

Mayor DeVito asked if these were the last two sidewalks. Director Plank-Buccola confirmed they were, and it would be the end of the original project.

Naval Heritage and Casablanca Park – Replaced the split rail fence that surrounded the ship at the Naval Heritage Park with a living fence. Looking to replace the split rail fence along Casablanca Road with a living fence as well.

Casablanca (Fyall) Drainage Improvements – Not grant funded but using stormwater utility funds as well as ARPA funds to address that complete drainage system. This is a million-and-a-half-dollar project.

RIA Town Stormwater CIP Master Plan Application – Submitting another grant for a CIP Master Plan for stormwater drainage. Pulling all the documents together, they need to be submitted by September 11th.

Sanitary Sewer Ribaut Road Master Plan – Reached out to Beaufort Jasper Water Sewer Authority, specifically the Mayor reached out to the new General Manager about completing that master plan and they were receptive.

Safe Harbor – Continued dock work. Discussions regarding Safe Harbor’s most recent presentation to Council: their lack of providing a closing date, looking for clarification on the contamination, and what is the regulation on rental versus home ownership. Contacted the Town Attorney to look into it and asked Safe Harbor as well, waiting for a specific code section that provides an explanation.

Mayor DeVito asked if there was a change in the fence line and if signage was moved. Manager Willis explained that he had asked them to relocate some of the Safe Harbor signage to have a better vista down Paris Avenue and out to the water.

Shrimp Dock – Most of the demolition has been completed. Refining the plan for its replacement, O’Quinn Marine has moved on that quickly. Working with ATM out of Charleston to come up with a new dock design. Making it more user friendly for shrimping and docking vessels. The backward F design was not the best idea with the tides in that area, looking to build something to complement the marina. Maybe do the same configuration as the previous dock but go farther out.

Mayor DeVito mentioned that over the years they have discussed whether the permit needs to be split between what is being built. Manager Willis clarified that in the current permit was the ability to demolish that dock, to move forward with that portion of the permit to get that accomplished and remove the sunken boat.

Building Inspection – Contract with Safe Built is going well. They are completely caught up on inspections and now have the Town on a more regular schedule. Still transitioning from the old software to the new program.

Mayor DeVito inquired whether Safe Built was a temporary measure. Manager Willis stated Staff will be interviewing someone for that position in the next week or so. However, with the number of permits that are in place, there will be continued use of both the City and Safe Built to keep the process seamless.

2nd Floor of Police Department – Construction has begun, and a lot of progress has been made.

Capital Projects – Covered in this briefing and Director Plank-Buccola provided an updated spreadsheet in the folder.

SOLOCO – With the earlier housing trust presentation not much needs to be covered. Drafted Director Krepps into participating in the growth boundary and discussion. Northern Beaufort County has done a good job of identifying the growth boundaries not only between the Municipalities in the County but also the Municipalities. Having provided a decent blueprint, the South end of the County is wrestling with creating the lines of demarcation.

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Director Krepps added that a host of different things have been proposed that could be accomplished as a group to SOLOCO during the last meeting. They narrowed the scope a little bit, so mostly focused on growth boundaries, shared boundaries, making sure that there are not any egregious zone differences on those lines. Working on compiling maps of everybody's expectations for future land uses and what will be useful to the Board in the long run.

Personnel – Beyond the search for the Building Official there is someone working in the building department assisting with CO's and everything associated with that process. A new hire will start Monday to handle the administrative side of Public Works and assist with work orders and scheduling.

Director Plank-Buccola informed Council that she was working on putting a flyer together regarding bulk pick up and yard debris. She sat down with Jeff Coppinger from Public Works, the Police Department, and Codes Enforcement agreed to keep it weekly in two different zones: everything from the Russell Bell Bridge to the right of the Village would be on Monday and everything from the Russell Bell Bridge to the left side of Robert Smalls would be on Wednesday. Working on the details like calling ahead of time and not putting out items before scheduling pick up.

Manager Willis explained that most clean-out work is done on the weekend which is why Monday was chosen. He added that there are several signs around town reminding residents to call for pick-up, in addition to the signs it is mentioned in the newsletter and on Facebook.

Director Plank-Buccola stated that a spreadsheet was created to track the requests and given to Public Works and Liter Patrol.

Council Member Ashmore added that he was pleased that there was a distinction between bulk pick-up and yard debris and that it was addressed in the flyer.

Mayor DeVito asked if there was information provided defining what was allowed to be put out. Director Plank-Buccola was still tweaking the information before providing it to Council but has identified yard debris as something separate and if it can fit in your roll cart it goes in the roll cart. This service is for residential only, not commercial or apartments.

Legal – Looking for an appellate attorney for the ongoing litigation.

Penny Sales Taxes – Presentation at last Joint Council Meeting. The appointment will be formalized next week, despite City and Town sharing an appointment to that Penny Sales Tax study group. The County and largest Municipality will make their appointment, that person will make the other appointment based on recommendations from the Municipalities.

Parks and Recreation Commission – A discussion to determine how to go forward with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mayor DeVito asked Staff if it was time to put together a task force to look at the Sands Beach Park and start the planning process. Manager Willis confirmed that the swap was completed and can move forward. Council will advertise for a task force and landscape architect, so that the park complements the Spanish Moss Trail.

IV. COUNCIL ACTION

A. Intergovernmental Service Agreement for the purchase of transportation equipment – Kimberly Fleming

Kimberly Fleming, the Deputy Director of Operations, Plans, and External Affairs and David Trail, the Government External Relations Director with MCAS Beaufort asked for assistance purchasing transportation equipment. See presentation.

Council agreed to vote on it at the September 13th Council Meeting.

V. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Manager Willis read the proposed agenda for the September 13th Council Meeting.

VI. IMPORTANT DATES

Manager Willis read the following important dates:

- A. Saturday, September 9, 2023 – Fall Street Series – Angela Easterling at 6 PM**
- B. Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – Council Meeting 6:30 PM**
- C. Thursday, September 14, 2023 – Reimagine Ribaut “Open House” at TCL 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

Fire Chief Ogden added Patriot’s Day on September 11th from 5:30 – 6:30 PM at the Waterfront Park. The Fire Department will be recognized at the event.

Director Krepps mentioned that there is a Design Review Board Meeting, September 7th at 5:30 PM. Also sending out notification for a Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting on October 2nd at 5:30 PM.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor DeVito reiterated that over the past three months there have been comments regarding the upcoming Pride Festival. Staff have done their due diligence. Council and Staff have received separate

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legal advice from two different directions. Council wants to make sure that everybody understands that they will stand behind the Constitution of the United States. There has been a lot of conversation about a parade. There is no Pride parade scheduled in Port Royal. There has been talk of potential illegal behavior. Participants will not break the law and one cannot presume that there is going to be a break of law. There will be no drag show at the Pride Festival in Port Royal. The festival permit will be approved by Staff if they choose to move forward. Please keep in mind any comment regarding the Pride Festival should be associated with the relevant items. This is a staff decision not an action to be voted on by Council.

Kevin Greaves, Brian McClaskey, and Qwen McClune expressed support for the upcoming Pride Festival.

Tim Ball, David Stillwell and Olivia Achor stated their concerns regarding the upcoming Pride Festival.

Judy Alling, a member of the Metro Planning Commission, voiced her dissatisfaction of Beach Company's potential development of the Bluff Neighborhood.

Philip Ailing questioned the presentations from Beach Company and Safe Harbor from the last Council Meeting.

Stephen Loderick wants Council to consider the public safety risks with the future Ribaut Road crossing of the Spanish Moss Trail.

Chester Thomas asked for assistance with a fence encroaching on his property.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor DeVito adjourned the meeting at 8:04 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.

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