



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

Yvonne C. Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Ave

September 14, 2022

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

Members Absent: Council Member Mary Beth Heyward

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Deputy Police Chief Ron Wekenmann, Planning Director Noah Krepps, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, Town Clerk Natalia Laney

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Kevin Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. INVOCATION

Council Member Jerry Ashmore led the Invocation

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes from the Special Meeting of July 27, 2022
- B. Minutes from the Public Hearing of August 3, 2022
- C. Minutes from the Council Workshop of August 3, 2022
- D. Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of August 10, 2022

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of July 27, 2022, the minutes of the Public Hearing of August 3, 2022, the minutes from the Council Workshop of August 3, 2022 and the minutes of the regular council meeting of August 10, 2022. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. There were no other additions, deletions, or corrections to the minutes. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Council Member Owens made a motion to break from the original order of the agenda while waiting for the Town Manager to arrive. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion.

VI. COUNCIL ACTION

A. Military Enhancement Committee Funding for Contract

Council Member Ashmore made a motion to approve the MEC funding for contract in the amount of \$15,000.00. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Housing Intergovernmental Agreement

Council Member Owens made a motion to support the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Affordable Housing as written; the authorization to allow the Town Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Affordable Housing; and to allow the Town Manager to negotiate the final fees of the IGA. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion.

Mayor DeVito opened the floor to the public to make any comments regarding the Housing IGA. Councilman Alice Howard made comment to thank Town Council for being a part of this initiative. Mayor DeVito relayed the message of Wendy Zara, representative on the Housing Trust Board, is in full support of the agreement.

Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

V. COUNCIL BRIEFING

Town Manager Willis introduced Alexis Linder, new business license administrator, to Town Council.

Town Manager Willis briefed Council on the following items:

In regard to Safe Harbor, there will be an 18 month turnaround time on the permit from the Corp of Engineers. Town Manager Willis has had discussions with the Corp of Engineers this week regarding the amount of commercial traffic in and out of the channel. The fate of the property between Fishcamp and Shelling. Noah Krepps, planning director, has not received anything regarding demolition permit.

Repairs at the Sands Beach are currently underway.

There has been a significant uptick in the amount of code enforcement activity.

Council Member Owens asked about establishing a walkway to the Robinson Pier at the Sands during construction work. Per Town Manager Willis it had to temporarily be blocked off due to the equipment being used in the area but should reopen in the next couple of weeks. It can be accessed through the parking lot.

Details have been finalized regarding the addition of cameras to the Tower at the Sands. Safe Harbor is allowing the mounting of the cameras on their property.

South Carolina Infrastructure Program Grant through the Rural Infrastructure Authority was submitted Monday for additional drainage work in the Town. Approximate timeframe for those funds to be released is at least 6-7 months.

Council Member Philips inquired about the status of the Stormwater guidelines. Town Manager Willis stated the Town engineer is currently reviewing the manual. Once approved it will be adopted by resolution which is expected to be added to the agenda for October Council Meeting.

Council Member Phillips inquired about the status of commercial tax incentives. Town Manager Willis stated this should be ready for first reading at October Council meeting.

C. October Council Meeting

Council Member Ashmore made a motion to move October Council Workshop and Council Meeting to a single meeting on Thursday, October 6th, 2022 at 6:00pm. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

VII. COUNCIL INFORMATION

Councilman Alice Howard discussed the 60 plus program at the Port Royal Community Center on 16th St.

VIII. IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

- A. Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 6:00 PM, Street Music on Paris Avenue – Backline
- B. Saturday, September 17, 2022, at 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, Walk for Water, Live Oak Park
- C. Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 4:30 PM, Redevelopment Commission at Town Hall.
- D. Saturday, September 24, 2022, at 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM OktoPRfest on Paris Ave
- E. Saturday, October 1, 2022, at 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Food Truck Festival on Paris Ave

Friday, September 16th, 2022 at 8:30 am, Beaufort Chamber of Commerce Coffee with colleagues at Sprenger

IX. COUNCIL'S COMMENTS

Council Member Phillips commented Lowcountry Legal Volunteers, which is an organization that provides free legal services, is hosting a Lowcountry Boil at the Port Royal Beer Gardens next Saturday September 24th from 5pm – 8pm.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lolita Huckabee Watson commented regarding the relocation of HELP of Beaufort by October 1st, 2022.

Shirley Heyward commented regarding the water drainage problems in the areas of Waddell Road, Robinson Street, Sergeants Drive and Casablanca Circle.

Town Manager Willis responded by commenting there was a CDBG project for this area approximately 12 - 15 years ago. This drainage system outfalls to a SCDOT system where the boxes are blocked. Discussions were had last week with Degler regarding this very issue. Heavy rains in the area are creating issues Town wide. Town Manager Willis is working with Tony Maglione on solution for this area currently.

Rose Bennett commented regarding drainage issues and flooding problems at the corner of Casablanca Circle and Robinson Street as well as the water runoff from the sidewalks on Casablanca Circle. She also commented on the lot which is the future home of HELP of Beaufort and recommended council reach out to them to clean up the property. She also commented on the Casablanca area and the need for the Town to address owners who are not keeping their properties clean.

Mayor DeVito commented that they have added another code enforcement officer which will help enforce the ordinances to keep the properties clean.

Patty Crowder commented what defines the Town of Port Royal are the people and thanked Council for their leadership.

Ian Scott with the Beaufort County Chamber of Commerce thanked Council for their support and investment in the Military Enhancement Committee.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Owens made the motion to enter into executive session to have a legal briefing regarding the tree removal on 12th Street. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. Council entered into executive session at 7:16 PM.

Council Member Owens made the motion to exit from executive session. Council Member Ashmore seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Council exited executive session at 7:45 PM. There were no actions taken during the executive session.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Mayor DeVito at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Natalia Laney
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 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