



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**

**October 11, 2023**

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

**Member Absent:** Council Member Jerry Ashmore

**Staff Present:** Police Colonel Ron Wekenmann, Town Manager Van Willis, Director of Administrative Services Brooke Plank-Buccola, Town Clerk Lisa Graham

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor DeVito called the Council Meeting to order at 6:39 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 Public Hearing of September 6, 2023**
- B. Minutes from the Council Workshop of September 6, 2023**
- C. Minutes from the Council Meeting of September 13, 2023**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Council Workshop of September 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Council Meeting of September 13<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**V. PRESENTATION**

- A. Beaufort County EMS – Virginia Marshall**
- B. Safe Harbor**

Beaufort County EMS, Public Information Officer Virginia Marshall gave a presentation on the 2023 Beaufort County First Responder Food Drive. See presentation.

Safe Harbor did not attend the meeting.

**VI. COUNCIL BRIEFING**

Manager Willis informed Council that Beaufort County approved the Memorandum of Agreement for the Cherry Hill Oak preservation efforts. Town is participating through the ongoing maintenance and landscape contract once it is constructed.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**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.**

Tricia Fidrycht, Barbara Berry, and Gail Tramontano voiced concerns regarding Safe Harbor and the proposed Bluff Neighborhood.

Tina Kelly stated that she had reservations about Ordinance 2023-16.

#### **VIII. FIRST READING**

- A. 2023-17. 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 0103 (1102 13<sup>th</sup> Street).**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- B. 2023-18. 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 0155 (1210 Madrid Avenue).**

Council Member Owens made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-18. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- C. 2023-19. 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 11, Parcel 0045 (907 10<sup>TH</sup> St.).**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-19. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

#### **IX. SECOND READING**

- A. 2023-14. An ordinance annexing to the Town of Port Royal approximately 37.8 acres of real estate located in Beaufort County described as Beaufort County Tax District 100, Map 28, Parcels 121A and 146 (located at 61 Brookins Path, Bridges Preparatory School).**

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Council Member Owens recused himself. Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-14. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried by three votes.

- B. 2023-15. An ordinance to zone approximately 37.8 acres of real estate located in Beaufort County described as Beaufort County Tax District 100, Map 28, Parcels 121A and 146 in Beaufort County South Carolina to be zoned as T3 Neighborhood.**

Council Member Owens recused himself. Council Member Heyward made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-15. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried by three votes.

- C. 2023-16. An ordinance to authorize the Town Manager to convey excess real property to facilitate development within the Town described as Beaufort County Tax District 110, Map 11, Parcel 0095 (1310 London Avenue).**

Mayor DeVito made a motion to postpone Ordinance 2023-16 until there is a survey including flags on the ground to show the location of the right of way. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

## **X. COUNCIL ACTION**

### **A. Appointment**

#### **i. Redevelopment Commission**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to make an adjustment to the agenda to reflect the Redevelopment Commission appointment will be made after the Executive Session. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

- B. Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Port Royal and Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) – Northern Beaufort County Transit Study**

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Council Member Heyward recused herself. Council Member Owens made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Port Royal and Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) – Northern Beaufort County Transit Study. Council Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried by three votes.

## **XI. IMPORTANT DATES**

Manager Willis read the following important dates:

- A. Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – Redevelopment Commission Meeting - 4:30 – 5:30 PM**
- B. Monday, October 23, 2023 – Municipal Election Commission Meeting at 5:30 PM**
- C. Sunday, October 29, 2023 – “Trunk or Treat” – 3:00 -5:00 PM**

Sammy Smalls added that Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> is John Parker Day and there will be a celebration on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at John Parker Park at noon.

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Karen Sartori made a formal request for a stop sign at Madrid Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

Scot Clark and Kat Bray announced that a sculpture was commissioned reflecting the importance of keeping the Cypress Wetlands clean. Artist Cathy Pender Emmert described her design. There will be an unveiling on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5:30 PM at the Cypress Wetland Amphitheater.

David Stilwell asked for prayers for Praise Assembly and the passing of their pastor. He questioned “Keep Port Royal Weird” t-shirts.

Sammy Smalls thanked Council for the new Casablanca fence. He mentioned dangerous tree limbs at John Parker Park and the delayed yard debris pick up.

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Colleen Johnson and Steve Jones questioned public safety regarding alligators.

Stephen Loderick was disappointed with the Beach Company and Safe Harbor.

### **XIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor DeVito wanted to clear up any confusion on his involvement with Safe Harbor. He clarified that he has no authority over them or any of their developmental requests. The proposed development presentation does not represent the fabric of Port Royal. Manager Willis has been communicating with them and sharing with Council. He cautioned Council about the way they approach Safe Harbor. This development is one of the most important developments to the town of Port Royal.

Council Member Owens added Council has heard the community concerns. Per the agenda they are going into executive session again to discuss Safe Harbor. The cries are not being unheard or neglected but they must operate within the confines of the law. They are the property owners. Council's job is to ensure that they operate in accordance with the PUD and development agreement.

Council Member Heyward echoed the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore. Knowing how important the waterways are to the community, she initially demanded that Safe Harbor build a promenade so everyone can enjoy the waterfront.

Council Member Phillips agreed with Council. He was dismayed with the "No Trespassing" signs and suggested that because the Town owns 13<sup>th</sup> Street to the water, they should organize nightly sunset parties there. He added "Keep Port Royal Weird" is his campaign shirt logo and wanted to explain what they meant to him.

Mayor DeVito stopped him and reminded him he could not campaign during a Council meeting.

Council Member Phillips continued that "Keep Port Royal Weird" refers to a small, quaint community that knows and cares about each other and he feels that is weird today. Using the Port Royal logo "Cool, Coastal and Far from Ordinary" he explained that far from ordinary is another phrase for weird.

Mayor DeVito asked for clarification as to the extent that the Town owns 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Receipt of Legal Advice – Advice related to Port of Port Royal Development Agreement and PUD**

Council Member Owens made a motion to enter executive session regarding Town appointments and legal advice related to Port of Port Royal Development Agreement and PUD. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion to enter executive session. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council entered executive session at 7:50 PM.

Council Member Owens made a motion to exit executive session regarding Town appointments and legal advice related to Port of Port Royal Development Agreement and PUD. Council Member Heyward seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Council exited executive session at 8:41 PM.

**XV. POSSIBLE ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Heyward made a motion to appoint David Stilwell to the Redevelopment Commission. Council Member Owens seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Graham  
Town Clerk

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**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.**

**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.**