



Council

Joe DeVito  
*Mayor*

Mary Beth Heyward  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*

Jerry Ashmore  
Darryl Owens  
Kevin Phillips

Van Willis  
*Town Manager*

T. Alan Beach  
*Chief of Police*

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
*Operations*

Linda Bridges  
*Planning*

**Minutes  
Council Workshop  
Yvonne C. Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Avenue**

**January 2, 2020**

**Members Present:** Mayor Joe DeVito, Councilmembers Jerry Ashmore, Mary Beth Heyward, Darryl Owens and Kevin Phillips

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Van Willis, Town Planner Linda Bridges, Fire Chief Reece Bertholf, Police Chief Alan Beach and Municipal Clerk Brooke Plank-Buccola

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor DeVito called the Council Workshop to order at 6:34 PM.

**II. COUNCIL BRIEFING**

Mr. Willis began his council briefing by discussing the port property. At this time the bluff neighborhood is being reviewed by staff.

The Spanish moss trail is included on the capital project list which will be discussed further later on during this meeting.

Late Tuesday afternoon the Town received a preliminary report from Toole Engineering. The adoption of the traffic calming ordinance will provide a template for implementing the ideas found in the report.

A spreadsheet has been created for Porter's Chapel in order for the Town to request accommodation tax funding from the County. While the contractors are on site the gazebo will be moved, repainted and have an ADA compliant ramp constructed. USCB students will be working on displays for the interior of the museum.

Mr. Joey Morris should be finished with the move to the rear of the building by Monday afternoon. The exterior cleaning will begin soon. The shrimp dock has been included on the capital improvements list.

The Cypress Wetlands received only one bid on its RFP. Town staff was disappointed to find that it was 2 to 3 times more expensive than what was expected.

Short term rentals will be discussed later on as an agenda item.

Old Shell Point has had a problem with its drainage and the Town has been helping them out lot by lot. A stormwater drainage regionalization is still being worked on for the area.

The small house/shed on 13<sup>th</sup> Street has nothing new to report. Town staff will be revisiting the situation in 30 days.

Reconstruction has nothing new going on.

The Town is still working with the Department of Navy of the fence relocation.

The Waddell sidewalk project has been given a large price tag due to SCDOT engineers needed to be retained. Mr. Willis will see if the County engineer would be able to do the project.

Town staff is working on finalizing the right of way issues with the Naval Hospital.

The new landscaping crew that has taken over for the Town is Southern Palmetto.

Councilmember Ashmore wondered about whose role it is to oversee the reconstruction era for the Town. Mayor DeVito explained he is working on getting caught up on that subject.

Mr. Dean Moss says that the crossing of the Spanish Moss Trail is crucial for the expansion of the trail. The County has been asked for some money from the traffic impact fund to help.

Mr. Scot Clark announced that he has been appointed to the Beaufort County CTC. His first meeting is Monday and he would like to sit down with a Town representative prior to the meeting to be debriefed.

### **III. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 8, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING**

The meeting will begin with an election for the Mayor Pro Tempore and then Ms. Lisa Wechsler will give a presentation on the Town's annual audit.

Mayor DeVito asked to discuss public comment. He asked to propose a change to when public comments are received. Mayor DeVito would like to offer public comment after each agenda topic is discussed. Ms. Wendy Zara ask to clarify what Mayor DeVito was suggesting with the public comment. He is suggesting to have public comment between council's discussion of the topic and their vote. Ms. Judy Ailing has been on both sides of this. She feels that if she speaks early before the topic is discussed that what she spoke about is forgotten. During the metro planning commission they take public comment while the topic is being discussed and it helps with decision making. Ms. Bernadette Clayton feels it is important that Council hears public comment while the topic is being discussed. Council has agreed to a trial of having the public comment during council action discussions.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> all of the Mayor's, Manager's and the Sheriff will be getting together on Hilton Head, to discuss safety and disruptions during meetings. Mayor DeVito will not be able to attend, but Council Member Ashmore has agreed to attend in his place.

Second reading will consist of Ordinance 2019-19, an ordinance to traffic calm in residential areas.

Council action will include a position on the historic preservation commission and zoning board of appeals. Town staff will make sure that the members that positions are up are willing to be reappointed. Council still has the decision of the sale of the Shed. The port developers and Perrin Woodworking are both still interested in the procurement of the building. Also on the agenda is the review and recommendation of the short term rentals. Mayor DeVito asked that it be removed from the agenda and to have staff begin working on an ordinance for Council to review. Last is a review of capital projects.

Council decided to schedule this year's Council Retreat from February 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

### **IV. IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:**

#### **A. Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 6:30pm Council Meeting**

Council would like to schedule an executive session for Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

Legislative luncheon is January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Beaufort Holiday Inn.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Plank-Buccola  
Municipal Clerk

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