



Council

Joe DeVito
Mayor

Jerry Ashmore
Mayor Pro Tempore

Mary Beth Heyward
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**

April 7, 2021

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

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Planning Administrator Linda Bridges, Police Chief Alan Beach and Municipal Clerk Brooke Plank-Buccola

Watch live and participate via Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PortRoyalSC/>

or you can teleconference in by dialing: 978-990-5000 Access Code: 732583#

As per Ordinance 2020-15. "Members of the public may submit written public comments to the Town Clerk bplank-buccola@portroyal.org no later than one hour prior to any regular meeting, which shall be distributed to the members of the Governing Body at such meeting."

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor DeVito called the Council Workshop to order at 6:31pm.

II. INTERVIEW FOR BOARD POSITIONS

Two applicants submitted paperwork to be considered for one vacancy on the Metro Planning Commission. Council heard from:

Ms. Wendy Zara
Mr. David Strange

Two applicants submitted paperwork to be considered for two vacancies on the Redevelopment Commission.

Mr. Rand Ward
Ms. Mare Deckard

III. COUNCIL BRIEFING

The Town is waiting for the Corp of Engineers permit for the Cypress Wetlands' water control device. Whenever the permit is received, installation will be delayed until after the birds nesting season. Mr. Willis has met with Chris Marsh from Folk Land Management and Solitude (the invasive control company) at the Wetlands to create a schedule for pruning, mowing, and maintaining the area. The aerator for the Madrid Pond has been scheduled to be installed soon.

Both CDBG project (sewer expansion and streetscape improvement) contracts have been signed, and the funding is in place.

Residents have lodged complaints about parking along the Town's right of way. Some of the concerns are limitations on view, damage to right of way (which is where utility lines are buried), possible impediment for emergency vehicles, etc. Mr. Willis has found ordinances from other municipalities that restrict the weight and/or size of residents' vehicles and has shared this with Council. Council Member Phillips feels if Town property is or possibly can be damaged then this is something to look further into. Mayor DeVito asked Mr. Willis to continue to work on this and draft a potential ordinance for Council's review.

No new developments with Grey Ghost/Port Development at this time.

The Town has reached out to Representative Shannon Erickson to aide in the Town's request for grant money for the docks and shrimp facility. If the Town eliminated shrimp processing, the boats would need to find an alternate source for ice and fuel. Council will have the opportunity to discuss more of the shrimp facility and funding at the Town's budget workshops this next month.

The temporary stop work order is still in place at Baynard Cove. Both parties continue to work out concerns over easement and tie-ins.

Town staff met with Bihl Engineering and Beaufort County to discuss traffic solutions in Port Royal. The two areas that would be considered short-term projects along the corridor are the left turn from Parker's on Paris Avenue to Ribaut Road and the left turn off Mascaro Lane onto Ribaut Road. The other would be the left turns off Lenora and Drayton. Council asked to have the Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail attend the next meeting to explain their thoughts on the crossing.

The landscaping and fence installation have been completed at Porters Chapel. Mr. Willis will be meeting with Scot to see the results of the master sign plans. The USCB semester is nearing completion, and design plans from the course work will be presented then.

SCDOT found a small inconsistency in their documents compared to what the Department of Navy in Jacksonville have. The documents will need to be reconciled. Once this is cleared up, it should help progress with the naval hospital sidewalk project.

Beaufort County Executive Committee voted on adding the local option sales tax to the referendum. It failed with a 5 – 5 vote. Mayor DeVito noted that that this does not stop the request. There is one more chance for it to be approved by the full Beaufort County Council. Municipalities have begun the process of getting this before the full Council for a vote.

Mr. Willis has provided Council with a proposal letter from 303 Associates regarding Smilax Road. Council feels that they are not guaranteed access for utilities or for property owners. They would like a little more time to review the letter.

Mr. Michael Wesson has joined the Town Staff as the new building inspector. He will be introduced to Council next month. An offer has been extended to a potential planning director. Mr. Willis hopes for a response soon. In the meantime, Ms. Linda Bridges has agreed to assist the Town during a transition period.

As directed by Council, Mr. Willis has reached out to Short Term Rental Software companies for information. One company has responded and is willing to give a presentation to Council. The purchase price for this software is within the procurement code. Council would like to see the Short-Term Rental Ordinance amended to include that rentals would need to have an identifier. This is an ongoing statewide issue. The Town Attorney Ms. Mary Lohr has been involved with this matter.

The flags and poles have been ordered for the corner of Paris Avenue and Ribaut Road. The Town has received an approval letter of the installation from Dominion Energy.

Beaufort County has determined that they do not own the Sands Boat Landing. Historically they have provided maintenance and repair. O'Quinn Marine has been contacted to identify and provide a cost estimate for repairs.

The County is exploring a county-wide solid waste impact fee. Currently, they are considering a \$169 annual fee per resident. Mr. Willis needs to get more details on how this may affect the Town. Mayor DeVito asked to receive a presentation by Mr. Greenway.

Mr. Willis has reached out to the concert series band booker and has directed her to begin setting up bands for the fall concert series.

Council Member Heyward voiced her concern about the adjacent property owner blocking Fort Frederick Circle to the garbage trucks and moving their roll carts to 16th Street in the middle of the night for garbage pickup.

IV. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 14, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor DeVito read through the proposed agenda.

Council Member Phillips asked about opening the Council Chambers. Mayor DeVito said he plans to have all of Council back in the Council Chambers for meetings in May. In June, all of Council, staff, and presenters will be in person, and in July, the meetings will be open for the public to attend.

V. IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

- A. Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 5:30PM Parks and Recreation Meeting**
- B. Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6:30PM Regular Council Meeting**

On Friday, April 9th at noon, the Village of Battery Creek will hold their grand opening/ribbon cutting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Council Workshop adjourned at 8:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Plank-Buccola
Municipal Clerk

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