

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

December 12, 2007

Members Present: Mayor Samuel Murray and Councilmembers DeLoach, Heyward, Lee and Robinson

Staff Present: Town Manager Van Willis, Planning Administrator Linda Bridges, Police Chief Jim Cadien, Fire Chief Wendell Wilburn, Assistant Fire Chief Jim Colwell and Municipal Clerk Tanya Payne

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Murray called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed those present.

II. PURPOSE:

A. Ordinance 2007-66. An Historic Preservation ordinance for the Town of Port Royal, South Carolina

Mayor Murray read Ordinance 2007-66 by title.

Town Manager Willis explained this ordinance would enable an Historic District in the Town and set the frame work for this district. He said it would also establish a commission that would identify eligible properties for the district. Mr. Willis said properties would then have to be approved by Council.

Mike Jones told Council the Historic Port Royal Foundation was supporting the district.

Eileen Newton encouraged Council to adopt this ordinance saying the historic buildings were very important to the heritage of the Town.

Cameron Smith, whose family owns a historic house in Town asked how the ordinance would affect the owners of the historic property and wanted to know what the next step in this process was.

Town Manager Willis told those present the ordinance would set guidelines for what can and cannot be done to property designated as historic. He said an Historic Preservation Commission would be established and that this commission would identify the properties eligible for the district. Mr. Willis further explained that Council would make the final decision as to whether a property was included. He explained that renovations or possible demolition of buildings would be regulated by the commission in accordance with the ordinance. Mr. Willis explained owners who did not wish to be included in the district could petition the commission and Council for exclusion. He explained benefits of the district were increased property value and said property owners would be eligible for grants to renovate the outside of their homes.

John Ellerbe spoke in favor of the ordinance and asked if Council and the homeowner were to disagree on a matter was there a higher level to take the issue to.

Mayor Murray explained the disagreement could be taken to circuit court.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further comment, Mayor Murray adjourned the hearing at 6:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya L. Payne
Municipal Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Laws, notification of the Public Hearing was posted in the local newspaper and on the Town bulletin board fifteen days before the hearing. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the meeting location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.