

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

January 2, 2008

Members Present: Mayor Samuel E. Murray and Councilmembers Vernon DeLoach, Mary Beth Heyward, Joe Lee and Henry Robinson

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. REVIEW AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 9, 2008 COUNCIL MEETING:

Town Manager Willis reviewed the agenda for the upcoming January 9th Council Meeting. He briefed Council concerning the Shrimp Docks and a small business plan that was being created for the seafood business located there. Other items discussed included:

- searching for an architectural firm to assist with redevelopment of the port
- plans for the Shed are still very preliminary
- upgrading stormwater management policies within the Town
- work planned for the shield on the new sign at Paris Avenue and Ribaut Road
- nothing new to report on the Northern Regional Plan

Councilmember DeLoach expressed concern over the amount of density allowed by the Beaufort County Northern Regional Plan. He said now is the time to address this problem.

Town Manager Willis told Council the annual audit report would be presented at the February meeting rather than January in order to give Council ample time to review the document. He also said he was in the process of scheduling Jane Peebles for a Visioning Retreat sometime during the first quarter of the new year. Mr. Willis told Council the West Paris Avenue sidewalk project was almost completed, Anchor Park would be reseeded and that a replacement plaque for the anchor was being prepared. He asked Council to read the report concerning the parking lot law suit at the port property and discussed Portrait Homes and Island Pines drainage problems.

Town Manager Willis read Ordinance 2008-1 concerning LED signs by title. He told Council the Joint Municipal Planning Commission had denied recommendation for this change to the sign ordinance.

Jonathan Yates, speaking on behalf of Adams Sign Company, spoke concerning LED signs. He showed a presentation of how the signs could be used for public information in times of emergency and said the signs were helpful in catching criminals and for Amber Alerts.

Major Kinard from the North Charleston Police Department spoke in favor of the signs and told how they had assisted in the arrest of two murder suspects.

Mr. Yates explained the signs were controlled by an ambient light sensor which would keep them from distracting traffic. He explained there was a network of these signs in Charleston County and that they were hoping to get them all over the state. He said the ordinance had been prepared using South Carolina Department of Transportation standards.

Town Manager Willis read Ordinance 2008-2 by title and explained that due to the delay in the sale of the port, the prospective buyers were requesting a change in the start date of the development agreement.

Neil Robinson representing the proposed port developers asked Council to extend the beginning date to allow for time lost due to the delayed sale of the property. He explained the extension would give them the time needed to complete the development as established in the beginning.

Councilmember DeLoach told those present he thought any extension of the development agreement between the Town and the developer or Ports Authority needed to be tied to a satisfactory resolution to secure continuance of the shrimp docks.

Town Manager Willis explained that potential buyers of the port property had asked for a one year extension of the development agreement. He also said the swap was shown on the first renderings of the proposed development. Mr. Willis told Council the company had already located an office in the Town and said they were planning to hold an open house within the next few months.

Councilmember Lee had questions about when the Town would receive its share of funds from the sale of the port.

Port Attorney George Bullwinkel told Council an initial sum of \$250,000 would be paid at closing of the sale. He said after the sale was finalized they would then review the total net proceeds from the sale and if the Town was due any amount above the \$250,000, it would be paid at that time.

III. IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION:

- A. Monday, January 7, 2008, 5:30 pm – Joint Municipal Planning Commission, Town Hall, 700 Paris Avenue**
- B. Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 6:30 pm - Council Meeting, Yvonne Butler Council Chambers, 700 Paris Avenue**

Town Manager Willis reviewed the list of important dates and information.

Councilmember Lee said a list of names of prospective members for the Historic Preservation Commission would be available the following day. He suggested that the appointment of members be added to next week's agenda.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Robinson moved to adjourn the Workshop.

The Workshop adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya L. Payne
Municipal Clerk

In accordance with South Carolina Code of Ordinances, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended notification of the workshop was posted on the Town bulletin board two weeks in advance of the meeting. A copy of the agenda was given to the local news media and posted at the Workshop location twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.