



# CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH

CITY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 20, 2018

Council Meeting Room

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

305 SOUTH COASTAL HIGHWAY  
PORT WENTWORTH, GA 31407

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Gary Norton called the meeting to order.

**2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member Bill Herrin led in the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL - CLERK OF COUNCIL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Gary Norton	Mayor	Present	
Linda Smith	Council Member	Present	
Shari Dyal	Council Member	Present	
Debbie Johnson	Council Member	Present	
Bill Herrin	Council Member	Present	
Thomas Barbee	Council Member	Present	
Ray Smith	City Attorney	Present	
Shanta Scarboro	Clerk of Council	Present	
Brian Harvey	Director of Development Services	Present	
Tiffany Lancaster	Director of Leisure Services	Present	
Matt Libby	Director of Public Safety	Present	
Mark Stephens	Council Member	Present	
Phil Jones	City Administrator	Present	

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Shari Dyal made a motion to approve the agenda with the following additions:

1. Under **Elections & Appointments**, add Item 6 #C., Appointment for the position of Mayor Pro Tem;

2. Under **New Business**, change Item 12 #E to F and F to G; add as Item 12 #E Parcel of Land for 133 sq. ft. Phase 1C;

add Item 12 #H, 2019 Major Medical Cost Analysis - Request to cover 100% of the Medical Insurance Premium per employee; and

3. Under **Executive Session**, add Item #A Personnel and Item #B Property Acquisition. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Vote was unanimous.

**5. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

There were none to report.

**6. ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS**

A. Mark Stephens for City Council Seat, District 2

James L. Coursey, Jr., City Attorney, asked the Clerk of Council to state whether or not Mark Stephens was qualified to hold the position of Council Member, District 2. Clerk of Council, Shanta Scarboro, confirmed that Mr. Stephens met all requirements to qualify for the position of Council Member, District 2.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Debbie Johnson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

B. Planning Commission Candidates

Brian Harvey, Director of Development Services, stated that there were four (4) candidates that submitted a letter of interest for the City of Port Wentworth Planning Commission: James Coursey-305 Clifton Drive, Joseph Dobry-309 Phillips Avenue, Lauree Morris-831 Barnsley Road and Rebekah Francis. However, due to Mrs. Francis not residing within the City limits of Port Wentworth her letter was withdrawn.

James L. Coursey, Jr., City Attorney, addressed Mayor and Council to state that he was unaware that his father, James Coursey, had submitted a letter of interest for the Planning Commission and wanted to go on record to state that he has checked with the Georgia Municipal Association legal counsel and the State Bar of Georgia who has satisfied that he would not have any direct conflict of interest, so long as "I do not advise and counsel the Planning Commission." In this instance, if my father were appointed and an issue posed a conflict, he would have to abstain from a vote.

Council Member Debbie Johnson asked the City Attorney to put this statement in writing.

**Council voted in the following manner:**

Council Member Linda Smith made a motion to appoint **Joseph Dobry** to the City of Port Wentworth Planning Commission. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Motion failed.  
 Council Member Thomas Barbee - No/Nay  
 Council Member Linda Smith - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Bill Herrin - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Shari Dyal - No/Nay  
 Council Member Mark Stephens - No/Nay  
 Council Member Debbie Johnson - No/Nay

Council Member Linda Smith made a motion to appoint **Lauree Morris** to the City of Port Wentworth Planning Commission. Seconded by Council Member Bill Herrin. Motion passed.  
 Council Member Thomas Barbee - No/Nay  
 Council Member Linda Smith - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Bill Herrin - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Shari Dyal - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Mark Stephens - Yes/Aye  
 Council Member Debbie Johnson - Yes/Aye

**RESULT:**        **APPROVED [5 TO 1]**  
**MOVER:**        Linda Smith, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**    Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**AYES:**         Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Stephens  
**NAYS:**         Barbee

C. Mayor Pro Tem

1. Motion

Council Member Thomas Barbee made a motion to appoint Council Member Debbie Johnson as Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Council Member Shari Dyal. Motion passed.

**RESULT:**        **ADOPTED [4 TO 2]**  
**MOVER:**        Thomas Barbee, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**    Shari Dyal, Council Member  
**AYES:**         Dyal, Johnson, Barbee, Stephens  
**NAYS:**         Smith, Herrin

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

A. City Council - Regular Meeting - Nov 15, 2018 7:00 PM

**RESULT:**        **ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**        Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**    Mark Stephens, Council Member  
**AYES:**         Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

B. Special Called Meeting - November 26, 2018

Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Called Meeting on November 26, 2018. Seconded by Council Member Mark Stephens. Vote was unanimous.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

Council Member Linda Smith invited the public to a community wide blood drive sponsored by First Baptist Church on Saturday, December 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mayor Gary Norton thanked the Public Safety Department for assembling all the bicycles that were donated for distribution to local Port Wentworth churches for needy families.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Committee Reports

Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to dispense with the reading of the committee reports and make them part of the minutes. Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Linda Smith, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

## 10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Pay Request No. 10 from Griffin Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$23,746.86 for the Phillips Ave Paving Project
- B. City of Savannah Capital Cost Recovery bill for the month of August 2018 in the amount of \$354,933.10.

## 11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none to report.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Vehicle Replacement

Matt Libby, Director of Public Safety and Police Major, Lee Sherrod was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Linda Smith, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- B. Request to Waive Building Permit Fees for the 2019 St. Jude Dream Home constructed by Village Park Homes, LLC in the Rice Hope Subdivision

Trisha Growe, President/CEO Port Wentworth Chamber of Commerce, shared with Mayor and Council about the 2019 St. Jude Dream Home constructed by Village Park Homes, LLC in the Rice Hope subdivision. Mrs. Growe stated that the Groundbreaking Ceremony would be held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 and that tickets would go on sale for the Dream Home, at a cost of \$100.00 per ticket, on April 8, 2019. Mrs. Growe encouraged everyone to take part in the event and stated that this was an awesome opportunity for the City of Port Wentworth.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Thomas Barbee, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Debbie Johnson, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- C. Site Plan Review Application submitted by Jay Maupin, Maupin Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Rayfield Reeves, R&R Property Ventures for PIN #'s 7-0976C-01-002, 7-0976C-01-004, 7-0976C-08-001, 7-0976D-08-002 (Highway 30) for a General Development Site Plan to allow a flex space development in a P-C-3 (Planned General Business) Zoning District.

Jay Maupin, Maupin Engineering, Inc., was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**           Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**       Thomas Barbee, Council Member  
**AYES:**             Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- D. Subdivision Application submitted by Lamar Mercer, PE., Thomas and Hutton Engineering Inc., on behalf of BEP Rice Hope LLC., for PIN # 7-0906-04-076 (Lakeside Boulevard) located in a M-P-O (Master Plan Overlay) Zoning District for a Preliminary Plat of a Major Subdivision (Lakeside at Rice Hope Phase 1C) for the purpose of Single-Family Homes

Lamar Mercer, Thomas and Hutton Engineering, Inc., was present to answer any questions of Mayor and Council.

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**           Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**       Thomas Barbee, Council Member  
**AYES:**             Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- E. Parcel of Land for 133 sq. ft. Phase 1C

1. Motion

**RESULT:**           **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**           Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**       Debbie Johnson, Council Member  
**AYES:**             Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- F. Zoning Map Amendment Application submitted by Jay Maupin, Maupin Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Rayfield Reeves, R&R Property Ventures for PIN #'s 7-0976C-01-002, 7-0976C-01-004, 7-0976C-08-001, 7-0976D-08-002 (Highway 30) to Rezone from R-A (Residential Agriculture) to P-C-3 (Planned General Business) Zoning District.

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**  
**MOVER:**           Bill Herrin, Council Member  
**SECONDER:**       Debbie Johnson, Council Member  
**AYES:**             Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

- G. Alcoholic Beverage License Application submitted by Yomikaben Patel for a Beer / Wine and Sunday Sales License for Rameswaram, LLC (101 North Coastal Highway) located in a P-C-2 (Planned Community Business) Zoning District.

- H. 2019 Major Medical Cost Analysis - Request to cover 100% of the Medical Insurance Premium per employee

1. Motion

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Debbie Johnson, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Bill Herrin, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Smith, Dyal, Johnson, Herrin, Barbee, Stephens

**13. RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES/PROCLAMATIONS**

**14. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of a personnel matter and property acquisition. Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Council Member Linda Smith. Vote was unanimous.

**15. PUBLIC COMMENTS - REGISTERED SPEAKERS**

Randall Matthews, 1 Drakie Court, addressed Mayor and Council to state that he did not believe that City Council offered enough proper notice for the Special Called Meeting held on November 26, 2018. Council Member Thomas Barbee asked the Clerk of Council to state for the record the procedures for advertising a meeting. Clerk of Council, Shanta Scarboro, responded by stating that for special called meetings, written or oral notice must be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and that this was done via the City's website, Facebook page, and City Hall marquee. Mr. Matthews stated that he is simply asking that more communication be given, if at all possible.

Alex Dyal, 20 Noble Jones Court, approached Council to request their assistance with two issues: (1) the lack of service being provided by Republic Services concerning trash and recycling collection and (2) for more policing with fireworks being disbursed in the Rice Creek neighborhood and all the debris left behind on the streets.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Council Member Bill Herrin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Council Member Shari Dyal. Vote was unanimous.

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Mayor Gary Norton

The foregoing minutes are true and correct and approved by me on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

ATTEST:

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Shanta M. Scarboro, Clerk of Council