



Town of Port Royal

Established 1744

“Behold Us Rising”

Town of Port Royal Special Called Town Council Meeting Monday – April 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

The Port Royal Town Council met on Monday, April 18, 2016, at 7:00 pm for a special meeting called by Mayor Heimbach under Virginia Code 15.2-1418. The single topic of the meeting was crime in the Town, including assessment of the extent of such crime (which includes vandalism, public nuisance, breaking-in, burglary, and armed robbery) and how it can be addressed.

Notices were publically placed on the Town Bulletin Board at the Post Office advising citizens of the meeting. Members of Council were notified by E-mail and phone correspondence.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Clerk called the roll; members present were Mayor Jim Heimbach, Vice Mayor Della Mills, Bill Henderson, Phyllis Sue Carpenter, J.P. Wilkerson, Gladys Fortune, and Monica Chenault. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Terri Harrison and Town Manager Bill Wick.

A quorum was established.

Several citizens of the Town were also in attendance.

By invitation, the meeting was attended by Caroline County Sheriff Tony Lippa, Major Scott Moser, Crime Prevention Lead Sgt. Chris Hall, and Lt. S.L. Cary.

The meeting opened with an update of recent crime activity around the Town and how the Town might address these issues. The Mayor introduced Sheriff Lippa and turned the meeting over to him.

Sheriff Lippa introduced his staff members present with him and discussed the various ways that the Town could work towards deterring crime and vandalism. He spoke of the deputies' response time; generally it takes a minimum of 15 to 20 minutes from the time a call comes in. If it is taking longer, after 30 minutes, Sheriff Lippa suggested calling again. If response time is an issue and you are unhappy, then report it to the Sheriff in real time. Don't wait and complain at a later time when nothing can be done to correct it.

Sgt. Chris Hall addressed the Council on ways to help deter crime. Lighting is a top priority, eliminating dark areas, watching out for neighbors' homes. He stated that the Town could consider starting up the Neighborhood Watch program again. He offered his services in initiating the meetings and getting people trained. Sgt. Hall offered to go around the Town and determine areas which are in need of additional lighting or removal of shrubbery in order to help deter crime.

The Council shared various instances of times and places where crime has occurred in the recent past.

The Town Manager offered to take on the project of working with Sgt. Hall to initiate a Neighborhood Watch program. The manager will recruit folks from around the Town who are not currently serving on Town Council to be a part of the program.

The Mayor thanked the citizens and the Sheriff's Department for taking their time to come out and address the citizens of the Town of Port Royal.

The meeting came to a close at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Therese Harrison