



**Town of Hilton Head Island  
Gullah-Geechee Land & Cultural  
Preservation Task Force Meeting**

**Monday, January 8, 2018 - 1:00p.m.**

**Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers**

**AGENDA**

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*As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting.*

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance**  
Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2017 Meeting**
- 5. Business**
  - a) Beaufort County Property Tax Information - *Beaufort County Treasurer – Maria Walls*
- 6. Appearance by Citizens**
- 7. Adjournment**

*Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four or more of their members attend this meeting.*

*Please note that a quorum of Planning Commission may result if five or more of their members attend this meeting.*

**Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes**

December 11, 2017 - 1:00 PM  
Council Chambers – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens (Chairman), Martha Davis, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Todd Theodore, Joyce Wright, Theresa White

Town Council Members present: David Ames

Community Development Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Nicole Dixon, Teri Lewis

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- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the December 4, 2017 meeting were accepted by general consent.
- Chairman Stevens introduced Ariana Pernice from the Hilton Head Island - Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Pernice went over a presentation of marketing efforts that contain information regarding Gullah culture and businesses. Ms. Pernice and the Task Force members discussed education and classes offered by the Chamber, what percent of media and funding goes toward Gullah related topics, communication with the Gullah community, and partnerships within the Gullah community.
- Chairman Stevens introduced Larry Holman from the Beaufort County Black Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Holmes passed around the Gullah Geechee Guide that is published by the Black Chamber; however, funding is limited so only 50,000 copies are available statewide. Mr. Holmes stated that the Black Chamber is not a typical Chamber in that it helps disadvantaged small businesses by offering classes and loans to help them get started and stay in business. There are currently 32 businesses that have received loans totaling just over \$1 million (only 3 of these loans were for businesses on Hilton Head Island, 15% of 32 loans were for non-African American businesses). The Black Chamber supports and advertises all cultural events, but they have limited funding available.
- Jayme Lopko opened the discussion on Land Management Ordinance (LMO) changes by describing the kind of information that would be needed to hire an attorney or consultant to work toward resolution of issues facing the Gullah Geechee Native Island families. Chairman Stevens stated that he would be asking a couple members of the Task Force to work with Ms. Lopko to make a list of concerns or issues with regard to the LMO.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received: we need to make sure that we are talking to the people in the community and getting stories right, Chamber should be promoting more Gullah businesses, more emphasis should be placed on Mitchelville – one of most important stories in the country but it is not known, we need to encourage people to come to Gullah businesses before they are gone, the Chamber should have a staff person acting as a liaison to the Gullah community on the island, education is key – need to reach the young people, there are no sweetgrass basket makers on the island, Hilton Head brand cannot be complete if you do not tell the whole story and you need buy in from all to drive it, the Town liaison should work with the Chambers to package information and make sure discussion is kept open, discussion on changes to the LMO should be kept general and get guidance on the best ways to accomplish items, LMO changes should be general ideas now to see if they are legal and get specific later when we talk to property owners, are there other places that face what we face that we can

learn from, and there was discussion on Public Service District fees, when they are collected, who collects them, and how it impacts development.

- The Task Force will have their next meeting on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Town Hall in Council Chambers.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 3:06 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko  
Meeting date: December 11, 2017

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