

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
BEAUFORT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ROBERT SMALLS COMPLEX  
100 RIBAUT ROAD

POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228

TELEPHONE: (843) 255-2000

FAX: (843) 255-9401

www.bcgov.net

D. PAUL SOMMERVILLE  
CHAIRMAN

GERALD W. STEWART  
VICE CHAIRMAN

COUNCIL MEMBERS

CYNTHIA M. BENSCH  
RICK CAPORALE  
GERALD DAWSON  
BRIAN E. FLEWELLING  
STEVEN G. FOBES  
ALICE G. HOWARD  
WILLIAM L. MCBRIDE  
STEWART H. RODMAN  
ROBERTS "TABOR" VAUX

GARY T. KUBIC  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

JOSHUA A. GRUBER  
DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
SPECIAL COUNSEL

THOMAS J. KEAVENY, II  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

ASHLEY M. BENNETT  
CLERK TO COUNCIL

AGENDA  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, November 7, 2016

1:30 p.m.

Executive Conference Room, Administration Building  
Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex  
100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort

Committee Members:  
William McBride, Chairman  
Gerald Dawson, Vice Chairman  
Rick Caporale  
Steve Fobes  
Alice Howard  
Roberts "Tabor" Vaux

Staff Support:  
Monica Spells, Assistant County Administrator  
Civic Engagement and Outreach

1. CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 P.M.
2. A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA ([backup](#))
3. ADJOURNMENT

2016 Strategic Plan Committee Assignments  
Connectivity in Rural Areas / Wi-Fi Expansion  
Smoke Free Campus  
Residential Homes (2) (South)

RESOLUTION 2016 /

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA GIVE FAVORABLE  
CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW UNIT OF THE  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY  
TO REMEMBER THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America has struggled for a century and a half to remember what happened in the wake of the Civil War, reconstruction and the abolition of slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many history books have blank pages, which one day must be recorded to guide future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout Beaufort County all aspects of reconstruction – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Brick Baptist Church is the most prominent surviving institution of the Reconstruction Era and is historically connected to Penn School, one of the first schools for freed slaves; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort, South Carolina, is the home of Robert Smalls, who escaped a life of enslavement to later become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, authored state legislation providing for South Carolina to have the first free and compulsory public school system in the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has established more than 30 sites that focus on the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has yet to establish a historic site that focuses on the Reconstruction Era; and

**WHEREAS**, an extensive study, commissioned by the National Park Service, recently concluded that Beaufort County, South Carolina is the most appropriate place in the country to create a park service site dedicated to the Reconstruction Era; and

**WHEREAS**, in December of 2000, then U.S. Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt visited Beaufort County as part of a personal push to create a park service site dedicated to the Reconstruction Era; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, U.S. Congressman James Clyburn introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress, cosponsored by U.S. Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction monument in Beaufort County. The sites proposed to represent the Monument include: Darrah

Hall at Penn Center; Brick Baptist Church on St. Helena Island; Emancipation Oak at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Beaufort; Robert Smalls House, Beaufort; and the former Beaufort Fire Station, housed in a two-story structure located on Carteret Street where it remained from 1874 until approximately 1910 when moved to Scott and Craven Streets.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Council of Beaufort County hereby adopts a resolution requesting the President of the United States of America give favorable consideration of establishing a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember the Reconstruction Era.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
D. Paul Sommerville, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Keaveny, II, County Attorney

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley M. Bennett, Clerk to Council

## Resolution

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that the United States understand all of America's past; and

**WHEREAS**, our country learns and grows when we harness our understanding of our past as we seek to shape a better future; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to appropriately remember what happened in the wake of The Civil War, Reconstruction and slavery's abolition; and

**WHEREAS**, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many pages of our history books have blank pages, which must one day be recorded to guide future generations;

**WHEREAS**, throughout the entirety of Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

**WHEREAS**, in Brick Church which would later transition to become Penn School on St Helena Island in Beaufort County was among the very first institutions established to teach freedmen to transition from slavery to freedom is the most prominent surviving institution of the period; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a formerly enslaved slave man who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has established over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War; and

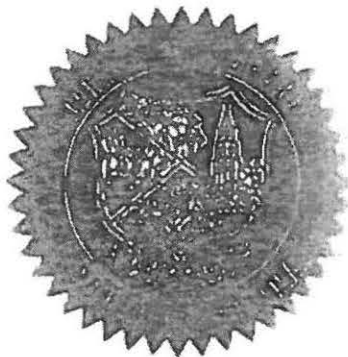
**WHEREAS**, there is not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era exist in the National Park Service; and

**WHEREAS**, an extensive study commissioned by the National Park Service recently concluded that Beaufort County, SC is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction;

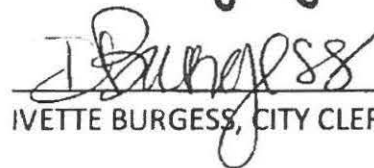
**WHEREAS**, sixteen years ago, with the help of Beaufort's most accomplished Civil War scholars, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recognized the importance of the period and the unique role of Beaufort County in all aspects of what took place in the period; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, Congressmen James Clyburn introduced legislation in the US Congress, cosponsored by SC First District Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort, County;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by Beaufort City Council that City Council strongly urges the President of the United States to move forward with the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.



  
BILLY KEYSERLING, MAYOR

  
IVETTE BURGESS, CITY CLERK

## **RESOLUTION 2016-03**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATING A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA TO RECOGNIZE ITS IMPORTANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION.**

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that the United States understand all of America's past; and

**WHEREAS**, our country learns and grows when we harness our understanding of our past as we seek to shape a better future; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to appropriately remember what happened in the wake of the Civil War, Reconstruction and slavery's abolition; and

**WHEREAS**, most historical accounts of the period are incomplete and many pages of our history books have blank pages, which must one day be recorded to guide future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the entirety of Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story – educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions – are well represented in numerous historic building and sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Brick Church which would later transition to become Penn School on St. Helena Island in Beaufort County was among the very first institutions established to teach freedmen to transition from slavery to freedom is the most prominent surviving institution of the period; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a formerly enslaved slave man who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has established over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, there is not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era in the National Park Service; and

**WHEREAS**, an extensive study commissioned by the National Park Service recently concluded that Beaufort County, SC is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction; and

**WHEREAS**, sixteen years ago, with the help of Beaufort's most accomplished Civil War scholars, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recognized the importance of the period and the unique role of Beaufort County in all aspects of what took place in the period; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 Congressmen James Clyburn introduced legislation in the U.S. Congress, cosponsored by SC First District Congressman Mark Sanford, to establish a Reconstruction Monument in Beaufort County. The sites of Darah Hall at Penn Center, Brick Church, Emancipation Oak at the Beaufort Naval Hospital, Robert Smalls House in Beaufort, and the Old Beaufort Firehouse have been proposed to collectively represent the Monument.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Lowcountry Council of Governments Board of Directors strongly urges the President of the United States to move forward with the designation of a new unit of the National Park Service in Beaufort County to remember Reconstruction.

ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2016.

BY:



Gerald Dawson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Pete Hagood, Secretary







SANTA ELENA  
FOUNDATION



October 28, 2016

Mr. Gary Kubic, County Administrator  
Beaufort County  
PO Drawer 1228  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29901-1228

Summary: Beaufort County Mayors' Heritage Tourism Advisory Board support for the establishment of a National Monument in Beaufort County to remember the Reconstruction Era.

Dear Mr. Kubic:

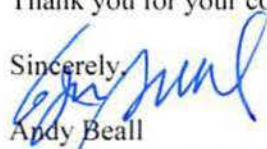
Chairman Sommerville and the Mayors of Beaufort County municipalities formed a Heritage Tourism Advisory Board early this year. Mayors Sulka, Murray, Keyserling, and Bennett named leaders from heritage and cultural organizations across Beaufort County to participate in regular meetings with municipal leaders. The mission of this collaborative effort is *"to celebrate the unique culture and history of the South Carolina Lowcountry by educating, informing and entertaining our local, state, national and global citizens with authentic experiences, access to significant heritage sites and a connection to the culture that makes this place special."*

The current opportunity to pursue a National Monument in Beaufort County remembering the Reconstruction Era as an initiative within the National Parks Service is a project the Advisory Board strongly supports. During the October meeting of the Heritage Tourism Advisory Board members present discussed the initiative and wish to share with you their enthusiasm for this opportunity. The Reconstruction story is integral to Beaufort County history. The more than 100 sites in Beaufort County important to the Reconstruction Era underpin the wisdom to locate the National Monument in our community.

As the facilitator for the Heritage Tourism Advisory Board, I express to you the strong support by our members for this effort and request that Beaufort County Administration and County Council take a leadership role to bring the National Monument to the Lowcountry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Andy Beall  
Chairman Santa Elena Foundation

Cc: Chairman Paul Sommerville, Mayor Lisa Sulka, Mayor Sam Murray, Mayor Billy Keyserling, Mayor David Bennett, and Heritage Tourism Advisory Board Members

---

PO Box 1005 · Beaufort, South Carolina 29901 · [www.Santa-Elena.org](http://www.Santa-Elena.org)

*Santa Elena Foundation is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization*



**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER RECONSTRUCTION.**

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that the United States confront all of America's past, particularly the parts about which we know very little; and

**WHEREAS**, our country learns and grows when we harness our collective power to better understand the past; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has struggled for a century and a half to remember what happened in the wake of Slavery's abolition; and

**WHEREAS**, in Beaufort County all aspects of Reconstruction's story -- educational and political opportunities, transitions in the economy, and new religious and social institutions -- are well represented in numerous historic buildings and sites; and

**WHEREAS**, Beaufort was the home of Robert Smalls, a former slave who became a champion of free public education and was elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Hilton Head Island is the home of Mitchelville, the first self-governed town of former enslaved people in the United States, where the "Dawn of Freedom" occurred. Even prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, carpenters, blacksmiths, clerks, and cooks and their families -- families who had been enslaved for generations --experienced freedom here for the first time; and

**WHEREAS**, these industrious new citizens of Mitchelville built homes and churches on neatly arranged streets, elected their own officials, developed laws, and built an economy. They established a compulsory education law for children between the ages of six and fifteen -- the first such law anywhere in the South; and

**WHEREAS**, after hearing reports of Mitchelville's success, the famous Underground Railroad freedom fighter, Harriet Tubman, was sent to Hilton Head Island to see this bustling town, so she could share the story of Mitchelville's self-governed success with future freedmen towns; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service has over thirty sites that focus on the Civil War and not one single park or monument dedicated to remembering the Reconstruction Era; and

**WHEREAS**, a special study commissioned by the National Park Service has recently concluded that Beaufort County, South Carolina is the most appropriate place in the country for telling the story of Reconstruction;


**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT, AND IT HEREBY IS RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO URGE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE DESIGNATION OF A NEW UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY TO REMEMBER RECONSTRUCTION.**

**MOVED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED ON THIS 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2016.**

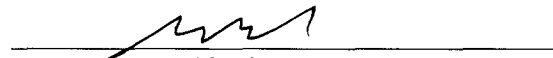


David Bennett, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Victoria L. Pfannenschmidt, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Gregory M. Alford, Town Attorney

Introduced by Council Member: WILLIAM D. HARRIS

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Town Council

**FROM:** David G. Bennett, Mayor

**DATE:** October 31, 2016

**RE:** Resolution Regarding the Telling of the Reconstruction Story  
in Beaufort County

---

At the request of Mayor Billy Keyserling of the City of Beaufort, I have put forward the resolution urging the establishment of a National Park Service Unit in Beaufort County dedicated to telling the story of Reconstruction in this Country. Mayor Keyserling believes that after many years of effort and study that the time may be at hand for creation of a presence in our County to tell this story. Many individuals have worked for many years on this effort; which fits in so perfectly with the Heritage Tourism efforts that I launched with the other local governments in Beaufort County. This would help us to bring the Mitchelville story to a national audience.

Mayor Billy has been working with Representative Clyburn's office and with the Department of the Interior. There is a hope that the President may act before the end of his term. Broad-based support is thus being sought from Beaufort County Council and each of the municipalities. The City of Beaufort has already adopted a resolution similar to the one that is on our agenda under New Business.

As broadly understood, the National Park Service would establish a presence in the County that would encompass several of the more than 101 sites identified in Beaufort County as being part of the story of the Post Civil War Reconstruction era, including Mitchelville. Visitors would start at this central location and then be guided or directed to the many sites throughout the County.

**Council**

Samuel E. Murray  
*Mayor*

Tom Klein  
*Mayor Pro Tempore*

Jerry Ashmore  
Vernon DeLoach  
Mary Beth Heyward



Van Willis  
*Town Manager*

T. Alan Beach  
*Chief of Police*

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
*Operations*

Linda Bridges  
*Planning*

**Resolution 5-2016**

**REMEMBERING RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PORT ROYAL EXPERIMENT**

WHEREAS, the Battle of Port Royal on November 7, 1861 resulted in the liberation of over 10,000 slaves which presented the question of how the society in the area should be reconstructed, and

WHEREAS, as a beginning to Reconstruction, Brigadier General Rufus Saxton, was appointed Military Governor of South Carolina and the Department of the South, and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 1862, Brigadier General Saxton received his orders beginning Reconstruction which orders included "take charge of the inhabitants, ..... with authority to take such measures, make such rules and regulations for the cultivation of the land and for the protection, employment and government of the inhabitants, as circumstances may seem to require, and

WHEREAS, Camp Saxton was formed in the Town of Port Royal as the headquarters from which Saxton and the United States would begin the Port Royal Experiment as the first stage of Reconstruction, and

WHEREAS, Camp Saxton is listed on the United States list of Historic Places, and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was read at Camp Saxton in the Town of Port Royal and former slaves were formally informed of their freedom, and

WHEREAS, the oak tree under which the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and associated celebrations occurred still stands within the Town of Port Royal, and

WHEREAS, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Port Royal, the Orders beginning Reconstruction; the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and the freeing of over 10,000 former slaves is approaching, and

WHEREAS, The Port Royal Experiment and Reconstruction are important events in the history of the Town of Port Royal, the history of Beaufort County, the State of South Carolina and the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, The elected Council of the Town of Port Royal wishes, in partnership with the United States of America, the State of South Carolina and Beaufort County, to create an appropriate monument and interpretive center to memorialize forever these events and to educate citizens and visitors about this unique time in history.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of Port Royal does hereby resolve to appoint a task force of qualified persons to recommend a site(s) to construct such a monument and center within the Town with the intent of celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Reconstruction period of United States history.

Resolved this 13th day of April, 2016.

Signed by: Lamel E. Munas, Mayor

Witnessed by: Tanya L. Payne, Town Clerk