

Regular Town Council Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

June 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Toomer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Pro-Tempore Dan Wood

Councilmember Fred Hamilton

Councilmember Brigitte Frazier

Councilmember Emily Burden

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Toomer.

III. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Burden.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/14/2024

A motion made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/14/2024.

2. Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 5/16/2024

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Councilmember Burden to approve the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 5/16/2024.

3. Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 05/30/2024

A motion made by Councilmember Frazier, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve the Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 5/30/2024.

V. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Beaufort County School District Character Student of the Month - Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, honored Miles Kraycar, from H. E. McCracken Middle School for the character trait of self-control.

2. Beaufort County School District Character Student of the Month - Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, honored Christian Lykens, from Pritchardville Elementary for the character trait of forgiveness.

3. Juneteenth Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, presented the Juneteenth Proclamation to Bridgette Frazier (MLK Observance Committee).

4. National Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, presented the National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 24th) Proclamation to Caroline Bruder, (Everytown for Gun Safety).

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood requested Councilwoman Frazier talk about performing with the Hilton Head Island Symphony. Councilmember Frazier stated she was asked to participate in a series called Gullah Me, Gullah You, in conjunction in Ahmad Ward, Executive Director of Hilton Head's Historic Mitchellville Freedom Park. Hilton Head Island is celebrating Juneteenth for the 10th year. The Town of Bluffton is celebrating Juneteenth for the 9th year. The topics of discussion were history, origin and the background of the importance of the holiday.

Mayor Toomer addressed an event that took place at Oyster Factory Park and the noise complaints that were received. He has requested a review of the current ordinance and for a revision, if needed, moving forward.

Councilmember Burden reminded everyone the July 4th Celebration is taking place on Sunday, June 30th.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL READING

1. Consideration of an Ordinance Approving the Town of Bluffton Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Consolidated Budget – Public Hearing and Final Reading – Stephen Steese, Town Manager

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve an Ordinance Approving the Town of Bluffton Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Consolidated Budget.

Town Council unanimously approved the second and final reading of the Fiscal Year 2025 Consolidated Budget (\$90,620,863).

IX. FORMAL AGENDA ITEMS

1. Destination Marketing Organization Annual Marketing Plan and Consideration of a Resolution for the FY2025 Budget and Marketing Plan Presented by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce in Accordance with Contract 2022-35 as the Town of Bluffton's Designated Marketing Organization – Ariana Pernice, Vice-President Visitor & Convention Bureau, Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and Natalie Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance

A motion made by Councilmember Frazier, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to Approve a Resolution for the FY2025 Budget and Marketing Plan Presented by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce in Accordance with Contract 2022-35 as the Town of Bluffton's Designated Marketing Organization.

Town Council unanimously approved the of this ordinance.

2. Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Taxation - Second & Final Reading - Natalie Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance

Motion made by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve an ordinance amending the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Taxation.

Town Council unanimously approved the second and final reading of this ordinance.

3. Consideration of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations for Quarter Ending March 31, 2024 - Natalie Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance

3a. Society of Bluffton Artists: 30th Anniversary - ATAC Recommends \$20,000

3b. Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra: 2024 Bluffton Concerts - ATAC Recommends \$43,632

3c. BlacQuity: 2024 River and Roots Festival - ATAC Recommends \$25,000

3d. MLK Observance Committee: 9th Annual Bluffton Juneteenth Festival Weekend - ATAC Recommends \$20,000

3e. Historic Bluffton Foundation: Heyward House Welcome Center Q1 Allocation - ATAC Recommends \$40,000

Consideration of Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee Funding Recommendations for Quarter Ending March 31, 2024. - Natalie Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance

- A motion by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Burden to Approve:

3a. Society of Bluffton Artists: 30th Anniversary - ATAC Recommends \$20,000

Town Council unanimously approved the recommended funding.

- A motion by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Councilmember Frazier to Approve:

3b. Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra: 2024 Bluffton Concerts - ATAC Recommends \$43,632

Town Council unanimously approved the recommended funding.

- A motion by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Councilmember Burden to Approve:

3c. BlacQuity: 2024 River and Roots Festival - ATAC Recommends \$25,000

Councilmember Frazier recused herself from this item. Town Council approved the recommended funding.

- A motion by Councilmember Burden, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to Approve:

3d. MLK Observance Committee: 9th Annual Bluffton Juneteenth Festival Weekend - ATAC Recommends \$20,000

Councilmember Frazier recused herself from this item. Town Council approved the recommended funding.

- A motion by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Burden to Approve:

3e. Historic Bluffton Foundation: Heyward House Welcome Center Q1 Allocation - ATAC Recommends \$40,000

Town Council approved the recommended funding.

4. Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bluffton's Comprehensive Plan ("Blueprint Bluffton") to Incorporate a Housing Impact Analysis - Second Reading & Public Hearing (Kevin Icard, Director of Growth Management)

A motion made by Councilmember Burden, Seconded by Mayor Pro-tempore Wood to approve an Ordinance to amend the Town of Bluffton's Comprehensive Plan ("Blueprint Bluffton") to Incorporate a Housing Impact Analysis - First Reading.

Town Council unanimously approved the first reading of this ordinance.

5. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing an Economic Development Incentive Agreement Between the Town of Bluffton and Palmetto Land Associates, LLC in Support of the Development of 11,800 Square Feet of Medical and Healthcare Facility Space – Second & Final Reading – David Nelems, CEO Don Ryan Center of Innovation

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Mayor Pro-tempore Wood to approve an Ordinance authorizing an Economic Development Incentive Agreement between the Town of Bluffton and Palmetto Land Associates, LLC in support of the development of 11,800 square feet of medical and healthcare facility space. – Second & Final Reading.

X. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton, Seconded by Councilmember Frazier to approve the consent agenda as presented. Town Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Monthly Department Reports: Police, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Municipal Court, Projects & Watershed Resilience, Public Services, Don Ryan Center for Innovation, and Growth Management
2. Consideration of Approval of a Resolution Approving Town of Bluffton Council to be Active Employees Under the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority Employer Participation Resolution - Anni Evans, Director of Human Resources
3. Town Manager Monthly Report
4. Consideration to Approve a Resolution for Execution of Memorandums of Agreement Renewals Between the Town of Bluffton and Intergovernmental Entity the Beaufort County School District for School Resource Officers and Crossing Guards – Felicia Roth, Director of Compliance and Contracts
5. Consideration to Approve a Resolution for Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal Between the Town of Bluffton and the Public Defender's Office - Felicia Roth, Director of Compliance and Contracts
6. Consideration of Memorandums of Agreement Renewals Between the Town of Bluffton and Intergovernmental Entities and Non-Profits Including the Historic Bluffton Foundation for Welcome Center Services and University of SC Beaufort for the Bluffton Ambassador Program – Felicia Roth, Director of Compliance and Contracts

7. Consideration to Approve a Resolution to Execute a Contract Between the Town of Bluffton and Bluffton Township Fire District for Vehicle Maintenance – Felicia Roth, Director of Compliance and Contracts
8. Consideration of a Resolution Affirming Council's Support of the Town of Bluffton's Designation as a South Carolina Cultural Arts District and to Designate the Public Art Committee as the Cultural Arts District Steering Committee – Stephen Steese, Town Manager

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1])

XII. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve the following appointments with all terms expiring on June 30, 2027:

Town Council unanimously approved the following appointments with all terms expiring on June 30, 2027:

- Jean Wilson - Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC)
- Sam Britt- Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC)
- John Bowen-Beautification Committee
- Dot Jeger- Beautification Committee
- Dan Stark- Municipal Election Commission
- Corrine Reeves-Wall of Honor Committee
- Second position will remain vacant- Wall of Honor Committee
- Fred Hamilton- Affordable Housing Committee
- Grace Staples- Affordable Housing Committee
- Gwen Chambers- Affordable Housing Committee
- Emily Burden- Affordable Housing Committee
- Don Emerick – Board of Zoning Appeals
- Ryan Yocco -Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals
- Adam Love- Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals
- Bill Hughes -Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals
- Even Goodwin- Historic Preservation Commission
- Kerri Schmelter- Historic Preservation Commission
- Tim Probst- Historic Preservation Commission
- Rich Delcore- Planning Commission
- Dan Grove- Planning Commission
- Jennifer Morrow – Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Committee
- William O'Toole – Law Enforcement Citizens Advisory Committee

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood, Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to adjourn the town council meeting at 6:52PM.

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