



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: July 1, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- The Police Chief held a Community Meeting in Cypress Ridge to address a shooting that took place near their amenities. Mayor Toomer and Councilwoman Burden both attended. Mayor Toomer also addressed those in attendance.
- The FY 24-25 Budget was adopted at the June Council Meeting and will go into effect July 1st. We are working to finish the last bit of FY 23-24 while transitioning into next year.
- Representatives of the BJHTF and funding partners in the Regional Housing Trust Fund met to review current operations and discuss proposed amendments to the IGA. These would address mostly minor to include the official name of the Trust and changing the fiscal agent language since CommunityWorks is no longer serving this role. We hope to bring these edits in August for review.
- The Town's Annual Independence Day Celebration is June 30th starting at 6:00 pm with Fireworks starting around 9:00. There will be food trucks, music, and games for children on Bridge Street and Martin Family Park. Town offices are closed on Thursday July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- The Town held our annual Juneteenth Luncheon on June 18th and then Town Hall was closed in observance of Juneteenth on the 19th.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilmen Hamilton and Wood, and staff attended the SOLOCO Meeting at Hardeeville Town Hall. We heard about childcare needs in the region and barriers to them opening within the State and region. We will have a mix of updates at the July Meeting.
- Mayor Toomer and Executive Staff attended the State Historic Preservation Awards in support of former Mayor Sulka winning the Elected Official of the Year for 2023. She was very happy about being nominated, winning and having Governor McMaster present her the award. It was great ceremony followed by a reception hosted by the State Historical Preservation Office.
- Council and staff attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses within the Town.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Staff met with the new director of the Bluffton Ambassador program at USC-B to hear her plans and goal for the program.
 - Our summer interns are starting the week of June 3rd.
 - Town was notified that we received our \$1,000,000 grant from the SC Power Team to support our Economic Development project at Buckwalter to specifically include the building we will receive.
 - Attended the SCCMA Annual Conference where I serve on the Board.
 - Chris attended the GFOA Annual Conference where he was appointed to the National Board.
 - Heather was accepted into Leadership South Carolina and will attend over the next year.
 - We have everyone attending the MASC Annual Conference registered and you should have received your confirmation. It is July 18 – 20, 2024 in Greenville.
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