



**Town of Bluffton**  
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**To:** Town Council

**From:** Stephen Steese, Town Manager

**Date:** June 5, 2023

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#### **Town Operations / Community Meetings**

- The budget process is moving forward as we have completed the Draft FY 23-24 Budget. We held both Budget Workshop meetings and will have second and final reading at the June Council Meeting.
- Town staff held the Historic Preservation on May 18<sup>th</sup> highlighting four historically black churches in the Bluffton community and their history. This was followed by a reception at the Heyward House.
- Town has hired six interns for the summer that will be serving in different departments.
- The Town held several community meetings including the Buck Island-Simmonsville Community Plan Update, Cookout with Cops, our movie series, etc.
- Town, County, and BJWSA continued meetings on the Stoney Creek project. We discussed finalizing budget, schedule, and the IGA for all parties.

#### **Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings**

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Councilman Wood and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting in Hardeeville. There was an update from the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust. Each jurisdiction appointed a representative to a committee to study uniform traffic impact analysis studies, growth maps, and zoning designations. The goal of the committee is to make recommendation for stronger and more uniform traffic impact analysis studies throughout both counties and look at how we can all better partner on zoning districts and allowances.
- Mayor held the Mayor Service Awards to recognize high school students that complete community service goals throughout the school year. We recognized over 150 students this year from five different high schools.
- Councilman Toomer and staff met at Oyster Factory Park to look at ways to address kayak, and similar watercraft, unloading and loading. We also looked at some improvements that can provide additional trailer parking spots with minimum impact.
- I held 1-on-1 meetings with council to receive input on town operations and discuss any items of concern. I will look to do this again towards the end of July.

#### **Updates and Miscellaneous Information**

- We attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses and community partners and are excited to see the continued investment in the community.
  - Marcia Hunter started as Town Clerk. Kerry has continued to assist in her interim role through the June Council Meeting. Kerry and Melinda have stepped up to ensure this transition was smooth.
  - The MASC Annual Meeting will be held in Greenville July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. The registration drawing was held, and we came in 6<sup>th</sup>. Please get your registration information to Marcia and we will send more information out as details are finalized for the meeting.
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