



Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge St.
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To: Town Council

From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager

Date: January 3, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Registration for Councilman Toomer's seat opened December 1st and closed December 11th. We received three candidates, but one withdrew shortly after the filling period closed. The election will be held February 13th, and the winner will be sworn in at the March 13, 2024, Council Meeting.
- Council and Staff attended a public meeting on potential transportation improvements around the Highway 170 and Highway 46 corridors. It was put on by the County, but many Town representatives were there to hear from residents.
- We had a celebration of service for Mayor Sulka ahead of the December Council Meeting.
- I have continued to work on a potential partnership for the Willow Run property and had follow-up meetings on moving this forward.
- Staff met with our Affordable Housing Partner to begin plans for development of 115 Bluffton Road. We are working on updating their term sheet so that design can begin for the development.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Stoney Creek meetings have continued, and we have reached a finalized IGA that has been approved by all boards. We will meet monthly after the first of the year to monitor progress, address any issues that arise, and discuss the public relation aspect of the project.
- Councilmen Toomer and Wood and I attended a meeting to discuss ways to expand affordable education-based childcare within the community. It was a good meeting and Councilman Wood is going to take the discussion to Mayor Williams for discussion by SOLOCO.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Town Offices were closed December 25th and 26th in observance of the Christmas holiday and were closed January 1st in observance of New Years Day. Thank you for allowing employees to take this time off to spend with their families. Also, a special Thank You to the Police Officers and others that worked on Christmas.
 - The Town's Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade were held and well attended. They went off with no major issues and we were able to miss any bad weather. These events are always a highlight of the year. Thank you to all that helped to make these events successful and participated.
 - Mayor and some town staff attended the Menorah lighting event on December 9th. It was also well attended and went smoothly.
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