



Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge St.
PO Box 386
Bluffton, SC 29910
843.706.4500

To: Town Council

From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager

Date: October 4, 2023

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Filing for the 2023 Mayor and Town Council elections closed at noon on September 8th. We have two candidates for Mayor and four candidates for two open Council seats. The elections will be held on November 7th and the winners will be sworn in at the January 9th Council Meeting.
- We are working to prepare for Strategic Planning on November 2nd. We met with the consultants for the kick-off of the two-year planning cycle, and you should have received questions from them to help guide the meeting. Invitations to community partners will go out shortly and we are finalizing the packets for the meeting.
- We have held meetings with partners to push forward projects and partnerships. These include the Stoney Creek Sewer Project, potential land acquisitions, and our new Economic Development Initiative Ordinance.
- We held our kick-off meeting with SCAD Pro students and held a walkthrough of the Squire Pope Carriage House as part of our partnership on the Squire Pope renovations. We have partnered with SCAD to design the interior and help with telling the history of Bluffton within the Welcome Center. We will provide updates at milestones throughout the partnership.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Councilman Hamilton, Councilman Wood, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting in Bluffton. Jared Fralix gave a great presentation on traffic conditions, planning for improvements, and the status of projects. Several state level officials were in attendance to hear the presentation. I would recommend watching the meeting to see the presentation and discussion.
- The Mayor and I attended a countywide mayor/manager meeting here at Town Hall. This was held with the Beaufort-Jasper Regional Housing Trust to discuss progress to date and priorities of the parties.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- The Town held several community events including the Annual Beach/River Sweep, 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, Movie Night, and a Police Chief Forum. We are also working on preparations for the holiday season to include the Christmas Parade and Employee Luncheon.
 - Town Council and staff attended several ribbon-cutting events that were coordinated by the Greater Bluffton and HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce. We are excited to see the commercial development and growth throughout the community.
 - I will attend the ICMA Annual Conference September 30th – October 4th. Thank you for the opportunity to attend this annual training session that provides continuing education and ideas on improving service delivery and town operations.
-