



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: October 2, 2026

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- We had positive progress on two Affordable Housing Projects:
 - 97 Goethe Road recorded their covenants and received their Certificate of Occupation.
 - Council approved the Letter of Intent for 115 Bluffton Road, and it was finalized and executed by all parties.
- The Entertainment Venue Exploratory Committee continues to meet every two weeks. They have heard from venue managers, from fundraising consultants, and from the consultants that completed the feasibility study on the Performing Arts Center. An update will be provided at the October Council Workshop.
- We received the results from our Parks and Recreation Master Planning process. An update will be provided on these results and process at the October Council Workshop.
- The Holly Hill Road and Buckwalter/Washington Square connector road projects continue to move forward. Both have been submitted for review and permitting, and we continue to work with the County and other partners for the funding and construction.
- The Town held our River Sweep on Saturday, September 19th at Oyster Factory Park. We had over 200 participants as they worked to pick up litter around town and in the May River.
- We held Community Meetings for the following:
 - To provide updates on the expiration of the Village at Verdier Development Agreement.
 - To seek input from residents on the Buck Island Road Park Design.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Mayor Pro-Temp, Council, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting held in Beaufort on September 22nd. We heard updates from Port Royal and Beaufort on projects and initiatives they are undertaking. We were asked to draft a Joint Resolution asking our State Legislators to fix the Affordable Housing Tax Abatement loophole. We plan to have this ready for the October meeting in Hardeeville.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended several ribbon-cutting and celebrations throughout the month.
- Mayor Toomer and I attended the quarterly Mayor/Manager meeting. There was discussion on several topics including the single-use plastic ordinance, economic development, and other regional topics.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Town held our September Concert featuring Tru Gentlemen at the New Riverside Barn on September 4th.
 - Town held our 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Buckwalter Place Veteran's Memorial.
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