

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	March 14, 2023
PROJECT:	Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Bluffton
PROJECT MANAGER:	Stephen Steese, Town Manager

REQUEST: Town Council to review for approval a Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Bluffton in accordance with the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Civility Initiative.

BACKGROUND: The Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) has made restoring civility a priority as part of their 2021 Strategic Plan and has discussed restoring civility at their Annual Meeting and Hometown Legislative Action Day. They have asked municipalities to adopt a Resolution to Practice and Promote Civility with a focus on running effective meetings, communicating thoughtfully, and building relationships.

This topic was discussed by the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Executive Team and the consensus was to bring to Council for adoption and inclusion in future agendas. We would hope that the adoption would also encourage civility by those that would address Council.

NEXT STEPS: By adopting the Resolution Council would enact a civility pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of the Town of Bluffton. The Resolution would be signed by all members of Town Council that approved.

If adopted, we would add an agenda item to future Council Meetings for the Civility Pledge. The pledge would be displayed and read aloud by the Mayor or all Councilmembers during this time as a reminder. The pledge (Attachment 2) reads:

"I pledge to build a stronger and prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city and town."

Lastly, we would share and encourage the Pillars of Civility that have been drafted and outlined by MASC. (Attachment 3)

SUMMARY: Council is recommended to adopt the Resolution Pledging to Practice and Promote Civility in the Town of Bluffton in accordance with the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Civility Initiative. This will add a Civility Pledge item to the agenda and encourage the Pillars of Civility as drafted by MASC.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Civility Pledge
3. Pillars of Civility
4. Recommended Motion