



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

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Stephen Steese, Town Manager  
**Date:** August 30, 2024

---

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

- Hurricane Debby made landfall in Florida and passed over Bluffton as a Tropical Storm. TS Debby moved between 3-10 mph as the eye passed almost directly over Bluffton and Hilton Head Island. This event affected operations of the Town and led to flooding in several areas throughout the Town and region. It took about 4 days for all water levels to return to near pre-event levels after we received over 12 inches of rain in 72 hours. We worked with the communities that were impacted and will continue to do so. We are entering the peak of Hurricane Season and continue to stay vigilant and prepared.
- The Town held our second community meeting related to flooding impacts. This is part of our partnership with Furman University's Shi Institute and the research they are performing for the Town. Many residents impacted by TS Debby attended even though this project started prior.

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

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilmen Hamilton and Wood, and staff attended SOLOCO in Hardeeville. SOLOCO approved establishing committees that will focus on expanding childcare and another to address trash and littering through the region.
  - Representatives from BJEOC (Head Start), HHI-Bluffton Chamber, The Children's Center, and Doug McGill volunteered to help establish the childcare committee and mission. They will work to establish the committee, meet, and report back in September.
  - Member governments are supposed to name an appointee for the litter committee ahead of the September meeting with Beaufort and Jasper County's litter programs helping to guide the committee.
- I had meetings with Councilmembers throughout the month to include discussions related to the Bluffton Community Center, resiliency efforts the town is working on, council meeting agenda review, and other items.
- Council and staff attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses within the Town.

### **Updates and Miscellaneous Information**

- We completed the reviews and interviews for the Childcare RFP. We have worked with the top candidate to finalize the business plan and will bring a lease agreement to Council in September.
  - Staff from Bluffton, Beaufort County, and LCOG met with the engineer performing the Bluffton Parkway Study. We reviewed future growth along the corridor as they study potential improvements to help with traffic flow.
  - The Town's concert series started August 30<sup>th</sup> at the Buckwalter Amphitheatre Park. We will have another one there in a few months but will hold the next one at Oyster Factory Park. They run from 5:30 – 7:30 and feature local bands.
-