

**Majorkiewicz, Natalie**

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** ATax Communications  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Accommodations Tax Grand Application

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## Accommodations Tax Grand Application

### TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION

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## TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION

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Accommodations Tax Grant Application Instructions [Accommodations Tax Grant Application Instructions](#)

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Accommodations Tax Grant Application Instructions I have read and acknowledged the Town of Bluffton, SC Accommodations Tax Grant Application Instructions.

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Application Date	9/19/2023
Full Legal Organization Name	The New Bluffton Worship
Project Name	Christmas Eve Under The Stars
Total Project Costs	40,345.00
Total ATAX Funds Requested	24,743.00
Percent of Total Budget	63%
Address	39 Prisimmon Street, suite 203
Street Address Line 2	<i>Field not completed.</i>
City	Bluffton

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State	SC
Zip Code	29910
Applicant must be designated as a non-profit entity to receive ATAX funds. Please include a copy of your organization's non-profit status, such as your IRS Designation Letter.	<a href="#">The New Bluffton Worship IRS Designation Letter.pdf</a>
Please upload a copy of your current Town of Bluffton Business License, which is required of all applicants.	<a href="#">The New Bluffton Worship Biz license.pdf</a>

### **TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION**

#### Organization Primary Point of Contact

First Name	Bruce
Last Name	Trimbur
Title	ATAX / Christmas Under Stars team
Phone Number	704-236-6275
E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:trimburgroup@gmail.com">trimburgroup@gmail.com</a>

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#### Organization Secondary Point of Contact

First Name	Monica
Last Name	Barricks
Title	Associate Pastor
Phone Number	864-838-5227
E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:BlufftonWorship@gmail.com">BlufftonWorship@gmail.com</a>

### **TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION**

Project Description:	Christmas Eve Under The Stars first launched on December 24, 2012, on an empty lot at Buckwalter Place. The hope of the inaugural event was to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and to bring together our beloved community on this amazing night.
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Now, 10 years later this event has moved to the Bluffton Oyster Factory Park and has grown Pre-Covid to over 1,500 participants. It is presented by diverse congregations: The New Bluffton Worship and First Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The purpose remains the same; to celebrate Jesus and to bring our community together as one from all walks of life and creating an event that has become a tradition for locals and visitors alike. Every year we also take up a community offering for local charities. As a result, we have attracted people from all over SC including Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties as well as families from many other states in the country who have made Bluffton a destination to celebrate Christmas Eve. The goodwill fostered by this event invites people back to explore Bluffton's hospitality. We also livestream our services weekly and will be promoting Bluffton and Christmas Eve Under the Stars in future services to people watching all the way across the country to Oregon, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio to name a few and international as far as Scotland. We also livestream this service for all to see who can't be there for the event but can encourage folks to come and experience the Bluffton State of Mind in the future. Every year Christmas Eve Under the Stars has been featured in numerous media and on TV stations such as WSAV. What makes this evening so special is that you can worship outside showcasing one of Bluffton's most beautiful locations at the Bluffton Oyster Factory Park and for one evening there are no races or divisions. Attendees are immersed in the true beauty of our precious home. We have found this event without walls creates a place at Christmas where people living in or traveling to our community can experience genuine local hospitality and the peace and goodwill of our Bluffton community. As a result, visitors frequent Bluffton stores and restaurants, and return at other times of the year. Christmas Eve Under The Stars is a true gift to our community.

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**All advertising/marketing paid for with Town of Bluffton Accommodations Tax dollars must incorporate the branding shown here: **Town of Bluffton Brand Standards**. The use of the Town's logo must meet the design standards outlined at the aforementioned link and be approved by the Town. Designs may be submitted electronically using this **link**. Please allow five (5) business days for approval.**

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Impact on or Benefit to  
Tourism:

Tourists come to celebrate Christmas in a unique setting, showing off the beauty of Bluffton. While doing so they stay in Bluffton spending money in our restaurants, retail and lodging

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options. What a great way to show off our community and the Bluffton State of mind with a family friendly event.

**“Tourist”** means a person who does not reside within the corporate limits of the Town or within a Town zip code that takes a trip into the corporate limits of the Town for any purpose, except daily commuting to and from work.

**“Travel”** and **“Tourism”** mean the action and activities of people taking trips outside their home communities for any purpose, except daily commuting to and from work.

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Project/Event Start & End Date: 12/24/2023 - 12/25/2023

Multi-Year Project/Event? Yes

Permits Required, if any: Yes working with Lyndee Simoneaux

Additional Comments: *Field not completed.*

## TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Project/Event Line Item Budget [The New Bluffton Worship Budget for 2023 Christmas Eve Under the Stars.docx](#)

Most Recent Fiscal Year Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Accounting Statement [The New Bluffton Worship Financial 08 2023.pdf](#)

Financial Guarantee [The New Bluffton Worship ATAX minutes 2023.docx](#)

*Applicant must provide a copy of official minutes wherein the sponsoring organization approves the project and commits the organization to financial responsibility for carrying it out to the stage of completion.*

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**Please list all contributions made to the project/event by the sponsoring organization. This shall include both monetary and in-kind goods and/or services, as applicable.**

Contribution	n/a
Amount/Value	00
Contribution	n/a
Amount/Value	00

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Have you requested,  
received or been awarded  
funding from other sources  
or organizations (including  
additional ATAX funds from  
other local entities) for this  
project/event?

No

If yes, please list all sources and amounts:

## **TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION**

### **PRIOR RECIPIENT'S REPORT**

If your organization has received ATAX funding from the Town of Bluffton in previous years, you must complete the below information. Only the information for the most recent round of funding is required.

If you have not received ATAX funding from the Town of Bluffton, please answer "No" and skip this section, and sign and submit your application.

Has your organization  
previously received ATAX  
funds from the Town of  
Bluffton?

No

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## **TOWN OF BLUFFTON ACCOMMODATIONS TAX GRANT APPLICATION**

**All applicants will be required to come before the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee (ATAC) and answer any and all questions when scheduled to do so.**

**Any organization awarded funds for advertising/marketing must incorporate the Bluffton Heart of the Lowcountry brand logo in all promotional materials and advertising.**

**The South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) defines a “public body” as any organization or corporation supported in whole or in part by public funds or expending public funds. If awarded, your organization’s acceptance of public funds from the Town of Bluffton may cause your organization to come within the meaning of “public body” as defined by the Freedom of Information Act. S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-10, et seq. (Supp. 2002). Accordingly, this is to advise that by accepting public funds, your organization may be subject to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.**

**By submitting this application, the organization certifies that it has read and understands the paragraphs above. The organization additionally certifies that it does not discriminate in any manner on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, religion, or language and that all funds that may be received by the applicant organization from the Town of Bluffton, South Carolina will be solely used for the purposes set forth in this application and will comply with all laws and statutes, including the South Carolina Code of Laws regarding Allocations of Accommodations Tax Revenues.**

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**By typing your name below, you are signing this application electronically. You agree that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this application.**

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Signature

Rob Houston

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Signatory's Title or Position

Chair of Board of Dorectors

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**Additional Information related to Project Description and Marketing Funds:**

Event's Agenda: As people arrive there will be pre-music from our worship band (bass, electric guitar, drums). Then there will be a performance from a choir along with more music from the band. An inspirational message given by two pastors. Throughout the night, people are encouraged to visit the pavilion at Oyster Factory Park so that they can get some hot chocolate, coffee, a sweet treat and more information about our churches and the community. The landscape of the park lends itself so well as to have Christmas lights and the firepit lit.

Marketing: The banners will be hung in various locations. A couple will go on First Zion Missionary Baptist Church property (which is located on Wharf Street in downtown Bluffton. Another couple will be hung in Sheridan Park where The New Bluffton Worship is located. The postcards will be sent out to the surrounding areas – primarily we want to target Beaufort, Jasper County (Hardeeville) and parts of Chatham County. We also have many members in our congregation that have family and friends that live in other states (VA, GA, NC, TN) and the postcards will be mailed directly to them inviting them to visit Bluffton during the Christmas Season and worship with us. We love to have the opportunity to give out items the night of Christmas Eve so that people who visit have something to remember us by and also remind them that they want to come back and visit again next year.



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

THE NEW BLUFFTON WORSHIP INC  
39 PERSIMMON STREET BUILDING 203  
BLUFFTON, SC 29910

Date:  
06/29/2023  
Employer ID number:  
88-4321470  
Person to contact:  
Name: Mrs. Johnson  
ID number: 31287  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending:  
December 31  
Public charity status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(i)  
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:  
No  
Effective date of exemption:  
October 24, 2022  
Contribution deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum applies:  
No  
DLN:  
26053441004723

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

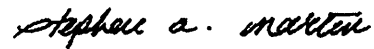
If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.



For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen A. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

# TOWN OF BLUFFTON

September 18, 2023

DATE ISSUED

April 30, 2024

EXPIRES

LIC-09-23-052083

LICENSE NUMBER

019791-2023

BUSINESS ID

**The New Bluffton Worship**

COMPANY NAME

**The New Bluffton Worship**

DBA NAME

**Non Profit - Other Similar Organizations (except Business, Professional,  
Labor, and Political Organizations)**

BUSINESS TYPE

**Church**

DESCRIPTION/CONDITIONS

39 203 PERSIMMON ST STREET 203  
BLUFFTON SC 29910

BUSINESS LOCATION

39 203 PERSIMMON ST STREET 203  
BLUFFTON SC 29910

MAILING LOCATION

ALL BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON MUST POST THE BUSINESS LICENSE IN A VISIBLE LOCATION WITHIN THE BUSINESS LOCATION AS REFERENCED ABOVE AND IS VALID FOR THIS LOCATION ONLY. ALL BUSINESSES LOCATED OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON MUST KEEP A CURRENT COPY WHILE CONDUCTING BUSINESS INSIDE THE TOWN OF BLUFFTON. CHANGE IN LOCATION OR OWNERSHIP REQUIRES A NEW LICENSE. IF THE BUSINESS IS CLOSED, CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 843-706-4501 TO UPDATE ACCOUNT.

## **Section 6-21 Purpose and Duration of Business License**

The business license levied by this ordinance is for the purpose of providing such regulation as may be required for the business subject thereto and for the purpose of raising revenue for the general fund through a privilege tax. Each license shall be issued for one (1) calendar year ending December 31. The provisions of this ordinance and the rates herein shall remain in effect from year to year as amended by Town Council.

## **Renewal Process**

Renewal notices are mailed in January of each year to all active businesses.

## **Section 6-22-A License Tax**

The required license tax shall be paid for each business subject hereto according to the applicable rate classification on or before the thirtieth (30th) day of April in each year.

The New Bluffton Worship  
39 203 PERSIMMON ST STREET 203  
BLUFFTON SC 29910

Construction within the Town of Bluffton  
shall only occur during the hours of  
7:00am - 7:00pm Monday thru Saturday  
and 12:00pm - 7:00pm on Sunday.

## Budget for 2023 Christmas Eve Under the Stars

Police officers -4 (16man hours x \$90hrs)	\$1440
Stage and sound	\$8500
Tent over stage	\$1200
Chairs, rental, set up	\$2000
Candles and holders during the event that we use for Silent Night	\$300

## Marketing Budget

Take away gifts with Bluffton Logo – this will create an opportunity for people to take something home from a special event to entice them to come back next year	Water bottles \$1930.00 Draw sting bags \$2460.00. Shirts for all the volunteers \$2000.00  Total = \$ 6360.00
Banners hung around the community	\$1000
2000 post cards sent to the surrounding areas, Hardeeville, Jasper County, Beaufort, Chatham County and family that are connected with our congregation members who live in other states (GA, VA, NC, TN, AL) who could potentially visit during Christmas time.	\$2500
Social Media Post and Boosts	\$1000
Directional Signs for traffic to get out of towners to our event	\$500
Misc advertising opportunities	\$2000
Apparel for the volunteers to wear not just the night of the event but we find that our volunteers wear their apparel all year long, especially when they are traveling	\$3000
Total Marketing	\$ 16,390.00

# The New Bluffton Worship

## Statement of Activity

January - August, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>Revenue</b>	
4010 General Fund Donations	186,942.21
4020 Start Up Donations	1,775.00
4040 Other Income	2,460.00
4050 Restricted Income	92.41
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$191,269.62</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$191,269.62</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
5000 Salaries and Compensation	133,421.01
5100 Worship Expenses	5,135.22
5124 Ministries	746.72
5200 Communication and Outreach	6,570.38
5300 Facilities and Maintenance	47,060.31
5400 Insurance	1,204.75
5500 Administration	9,886.19
5999 Uncategorized Expense	91.95
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$204,116.53</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ -12,846.91</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>	
6010 Interest Earned	3,592.15
6050 Other Misc Revenue	311,490.44
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$315,082.59</b>
<b>NET OTHER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$315,082.59</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$302,235.68</b>

**The New Bluffton Worship**  
**Statement of Financial Position Summary**  
As of August 31, 2023

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	718,115.50
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$718,115.50</b>
Other Assets	2,435.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$720,550.50</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	123.17
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$123.17</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$123.17</b>
Equity	720,427.33
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$720,550.50</b>

# The New Bluffton Worship & First Zion Missionary Baptist Church Christmas Eve Under Stars ATAX committee meetings minutes recap

July 24 - introduction of ATAX grant and possible use for Christmas Eve Under Stars to the Ministers for the church-Daniel Burbage & Monica Barricks

July 27 – Town Hall workshop meeting Q/A, possible use for TNBW and 1st Zion

July 28 – Present finding of town hall mtg to Daniel and Monica, next steps, present to Finance committee, Marketing committee, Board of Directors for approval.

August 02 – Monica pre meeting for our presentations for approval from Finance, Board of Directors and Marketing committee.

August 14 – Finance committee presentation, received go ahead with unanimous vote of approval.

August 23 – Board of Directors presentation, received unanimous vote to proceed.

August 29 – Marketing team meeting for suggestions on items needed for event with unanimous vote to proceed.

September15 – Monica meeting regards gathering necessary application requirements, financials business license, 501c3, Nonprofit, marketing items, advertising etc..

September 18 – attorney meeting for filings of 501c3 certificate, gathering all required information, Monica and Rob Houston Chair for Board of Directors