



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: August 3, 2026

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- The Town held numerous events as part of our Independence Day celebrations including:
 - Flag Ceremony at Buckwalter Veteran's Park
 - Chase the Chief and Stay Safe Bluffton 5K
 - Drone Show and concert
 - Independence Day Celebration in Old Town
 - Fireworks on the River

The events were all well attended and we received very positive reviews on the new Drone Show. As always, we will review and make any necessary improvements for next year.

- We started our Parks and Recreation Master Planning process with community input last month and have worked to push out the community survey portion this month.
- We received seven proposals for Affordable Housing at 115 Bluffton Road. We conducted reviews of the proposals and brought in the top ranked ones to make presentations and answer questions. This was completed and we will provide an update to Council at the August Council Meeting.
- We held our first meeting of the Events and Venue Committee that was appointed by Town Council. The committee reviewed survey questions to go out to residents and approved a bi-weekly meeting schedule for the next couple of months.
- We are continuing our Golf Cart Shuttle Pilot. We have had positive reviews and input, and have seen steady ridership. Our partner has provided guidance on ways to improve the routes and worked to implement. We are looking to put out for proposals to operate past our pilot.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting held in Bluffton on July 28th. Presentations were made on the I-95 widening project and on the Jasper County Penny Tax projects. There was also an update on the new service partnership between Jasper County and Hardeeville Fire Department on coverage and response.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended several ribbon-cutting and celebrations throughout the month.
- Councilman Wood and Executive attended the MASC Annual Meeting in Greenville.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Town held a Waterslide Event at the Buckwalter Park on July 18th.
 - Town held our Glow in the Dark Ballet event at the Buckwalter Amphitheatre on July 26th.
 - Officers were closed on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.
 - Town staff installed the new 4-way stop at the intersection of Boundary and Lawrence.
 - The Bluffton Bookshop Mural was installed and unveiled on July 11th as part of a partnership with the Town.
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