



**Town of Bluffton**  
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**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Stephen Steese, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 3, 2025

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

- Winter Storm Enzo brought ice, snow, and extreme cold to the area January 21- 24, 2025. This led to town offices closing for most of the week. Operations returned to normal by Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- We are preparing for two ribbon-cutting events.
  - February 22<sup>nd</sup> –Celebration of the opening of New Riverside Park with music, drinks, and food. This was rescheduled from 1/25 due to winter weather.
  - February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Grand Opening of the Welcome Center.
- Staff met with the engineer that is reviewing the entire Bluffton Parkway as part of the LATS study. They will have a public input session in February and will present to the LATS committee in the future.
- Town Hall was closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Years and on January 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

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

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilman Wood, Councilwoman Burden and Executive attended SOLOCO on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Chair and Vice Chair was reelected, and Mayor Toomer was elected as Secretary. An update from the Childcare Committee was presented and topics for 2025 were prioritized.
- Mayor Toomer, Executive, and DRCI staff attended the Converge 2025. This is the regional economic development forum put on by BCEDC and held at Pickney Hall on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Following the Council Quarterly Workshop on January 28<sup>th</sup>, staff will be doing research as directed. We will be monitoring decibel levels at upcoming special events, drafting a minor amendment to address enforcement, and doing some research how any potential changes may have affected previous events.
- Hometown Legislative Action Day was cancelled due to winter weather. It will not be rescheduled.

### **Updates and Miscellaneous Information**

- We have put out new banners for Black History Month on the light posts and across Boundary Street. The banners were designed by local artist Randell Chambers in partnership between the Public Art Committee and MLK Jr. Observance Committee.
  - The FY 25-26 Budget Process is starting to move forward as all budget requests, including potential staff and capital requests, were due in January.
  - The New Riverside Park opened February 1<sup>st</sup> after a delay from the Winter Storm. We will have the celebration of the park on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
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