



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

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Stephen Steese, Town Manager  
**Date:** May 4, 2026

---

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

- We held our Quarterly Workshop on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Staff presented updates on research and site visits related to the feasibility of a Performing Arts Center. There were also discussions on potential next steps and forming an Advisory Committee. Executive is working on recommendations on the charge for the committee and potential members.
- We held a public meeting to answer questions on the upcoming Bridge Street Streetscape Phase II project. There were several residents present for the meeting, and work will begin soon.
- Met with a group that will put up temporary Storybook Trails around three town parks. They hope to get them in place by the end of May and rotate them during the summer.
- Held our second quarterly Talks with the Town Managers Lunch on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting held in Hardeeville on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We heard updates from the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust. Councilman Wood also presented on research and recommendations from the E-bike Committee.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended several ribbon-cutting and celebrations throughout the month.
- Held our initial budget meetings with Councilmembers. The draft budget will be presented at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.
- Council and staff took a tour of the progress on the New River Linear Trail on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and got to see the new bridges and New River Dock.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilman Hamilton, and staff hosted students from Bluffton High School and heard presentations on ideas to improve Bluffton. The students did great and discussed some topics that Council and staff are already working to address.
- Mayor and staff had a few meetings with developers and/or builders on questions they had related to their plans, town policies, or if Council may be supportive or not of a project. These include potential projects on May River, Buckwalter, and Bluffton Parkway. Individual emails on these items were sent to Council.

### **Updates and Miscellaneous Information**

- The Heritage Golf Tournament was held April 14 – 19. The Town put banners up and saw an uptick in visitors during the event.
  - Town held our Bunny Bonanza at New Riverside Barn Park on April 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Town held a Movie Night on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Oscar Frazier Park.
  - Offices were closed on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of Good Friday.
  - Chris graduated from the Leadership South Carolina Program April 24<sup>th</sup>.
-