

# Budget Workshop Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20  
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

May 27, 2025

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## I. Call to Order

Mayor Toomer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

## II. Public Comment - Pertaining to Agenda Items Only

No Public Comment

## III. Formal Items:

1. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing an Economic Development Incentive Agreement Between the Town of Bluffton and Ninety Seven, LLC. First Reading – Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton; Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood to approve the authorization of an Economic Development Incentive Agreement between the Town of Bluffton and Ninety Seven, LLC.

Town Council unanimously approved the Economic Development Incentive Agreement.

## IV. Workshop Items:

1. Reserve Funds - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager, presented each of the following topics regarding Reserve Funds:

GFOA Recommended Practices, Risk Based Reserve Assessment, Peer Comparison, Disaster Recovery Risk, Rating Agency Comments and Reserves

2. USCB Bluffton Ambassador Program - Sarah Beachkofsky, Executive Director, University of South Carolina

Sarah Beachkofsky, Executive Director, University of South Carolina conducted the annual USCB Bluffton Ambassador Program.

3. Discussion of Carryover Items of May 22, 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting

Stephen Steese, Town Manager, provided the recap & updates from the FY26 Consolidated Budget First Reading and first Budget Workshop meeting. Each of the following topics were discussed:

Consolidated budget increase- Land Acquisition budget increase and Capital Improvement Projects increase, Resident Rates to include property owners for rentals on Master Fee Schedule, Adding FTE for Affordable Housing position to be funded after study and Affordable Housing Committee review and recommendation, Recommend 30% increase from FY2025 for Lowcountry Regional Transport Authority.

4. Capital Improvement Program Fund

The topics for discussion were as follows as well as a breakdown of the Capital Improvement Program Process:

FY26 Proposed Consolidated Budget with each transfer being made by category/project name: General Fund, Hospitality Tax Fund, Local Accommodations Tax Fund, Stormwater Fund, Debt Services Fund.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The workshop adjourned at 7:06 PM.

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Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk

Town of Bluffton, SC

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Larry C. Toomer, Mayor

Town of Bluffton, SC