



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 1, 2023

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- The budget process is moving forward as we have completed the Draft FY 23-24 Budget. It will be presented to Council at our May Council Meeting. We have 2 budget meetings scheduled for May between First and Second Reading.
- Town staff held a Mobile Town Hall at Lawton Station. We had about 40 residents from the community attend and asked many questions about the Town. They were appreciative of the meeting.
- We held a Buck Island Neighborhood Meeting to kick off the process to update the Buck Island – Simmonsville Neighborhood Plan. There was a good turnout from the community with many completing surveys and stating they were willing to serve on the steering committee.
- The Town held a Family Fun Day at Amphitheatre Portion of Buckwalter Park. We had blowups, games, and food for employees and their families that attended.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Councilmen Hamilton, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting in Bluffton. There was an update from the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust on some of their next steps. SOLOCO also discussed future priorities to include having more uniform traffic impact analysis studies and looking at growth maps and zoning designations to see where we can better coordinate countywide. The Board agreed to bring recommendations to the June meeting for a committee to study and make recommendation for stronger and more uniform traffic impact analysis studies throughout both counties.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the Bluffton MLK Martyr Day Luncheon and presented on priorities and outreach from the Town.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended The Heritage Golf Tournament to support the impact that the tournament and foundation have on the community.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- We attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses and are excited to see the continued investment in the community.
 - We held the dedication and opening event at the Amphitheatre Section of Buckwalter Park. This was the portion we purchased from Cigna (Evicore) last year. We are excited for the potential this park has for events and for use by the community.
 - Kim Gammon's last day as Town Clerk was April 13th. We completed the interviews and have hired a new Town Clerk that will start May 18th. Kerry Guzman has served as Interim Clerk. Kerry and Melinda Penny have stepped up and helped to ensure efficient operations during this transition.
-