

Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee Meeting

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

August 18, 2026

- I. This meeting can be viewed live on [BCTV](#), on Sparklight Channel 9 and 417 or on Spectrum Channel 1304.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Christy Parker
Nate Pringle
Ellen Shumaker
Scott Thrasher

ABSENT

Vice Chair Sam Britt
Michael Garibaldi
Michael LaPorte

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2026

Motion to approve minutes as drafted made by Pringle, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Shannon Milroy, Budget & Procurement Manager, reported an increase of 31.4% in revenues for the quarter ending June 30, 2026 when comparing to the same quarter last fiscal year. After making the standard allocations, funds available for distribution equal \$676,984. There are six (6) applications to consider this quarter totaling \$172,710 in requested funding.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers: Chair

Shumaker nominated and motioned for Christy Parker to remain as Chair of the committee.
Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

2. Election of Officers: Vice-Chair

Shumaker nominated and motioned for Sam Britt to remain as Vice-Chair of the committee.
Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

3. Grant Application Q&A: Coastal Conservation Association for Conservation Weekend in Bluffton

Motion to recommend award of \$10,000 to Town Council made by Thrasher, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

4. Grant Application Q&A: Historic Arts & Seafood Festival for the 2026 Event

Motion to recommend award of \$80,000 to Town Council made by Shumaker, Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

5. Grant Application Q&A: Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society for Marketing Bluffton as a Destination

Motion to recommend award of \$15,000 to Town Council made by Shumaker, Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

6. Grant Application Q&A: Society of Bluffton Artists for FY2027 Marketing

Motion to recommend award of \$35,000 to Town Council made by Thrasher, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

7. Grant Application Q&A: Congregation Beth Yam for the 2026 Hanukkah Celebration

Motion to recommend award of \$7,710 to Town Council made by Pringle, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

8. Grant Application Q&A: BlacQuity SC for the 2026 Roots & Rivers Festival

Motion to recommend award of \$25,000 to Town Council made by Shumaker, Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

IX. DISCUSSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Shumaker, Seconded by Thrasher.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.