

TOWN COUNCIL



STAFF REPORT

Executive Department

MEETING DATE:	August 13, 2024
PROJECT:	Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13 – Public Property, Article 2 – Public Park, Dock and Boat Landing Rules as it Relates to New Town Parks and Facilities
PROJECT MANAGER:	Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager

REQUEST: Town Council approve Second and Final Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13 – Public Property, Article 2 – Public Park, Dock and Boat Landing Rules as it Relates to New Town Parks and Facilities.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTION AT FIRST READING: At first reading on July 9, Town Council voted 3-1 (Councilwoman Burden voted against and Mayor Toomer abstained) to table the proposed changes related to the noise ordinance, special events and the Oyster Factory Park. All other amendments were approved with a vote of 5-0, with the condition that the hours of operation at the Splash Pad begin at 10:00 a.m. rather than the initial recommendation from staff to open at 11:00 a.m.

BACKGROUND: The Town's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 identifies a Splash Pad as a strategic initiative and Capital Project. The Town anticipates the completion of a Splash Pad at Oscar Frazier Park in the next couple of months. With the opening of the amenity, we propose updating the overall park rules to incorporate this portion of the park. According to South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Controls (SC DHEC), the splash pad must follow the same rules as public pools. The Town does not have any regulatory authority to modify SCDHEC rules; however, we need to include them in the Town's Municipal Code of Ordinances for the purpose of enforcement. A separate shower is not included in the design and is not required by SCDHEC.

As the result of a public private partnership with the developer and owner of New Riverside Village, the developer constructed a public park with a pond stocked with fish. The park is now complete; and we propose including rules for this unique Town amenity. SCDNR requires a fishing license for all fishing including catch and release ponds.

SUMMARY: This is a summary list of proposed amendments further included in Attachment 2, Exhibit A.

- Splash Pad Rules at Oscar Frazier Park
 - Hours of Operation
 - Operating Season
 - SC DHEC Regulations

- New Riverside Park
 - Address fishing in the ponds
 - SC DNR regulations related to alligators

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Presentation
2. Ordinance
3. Proposed Motion