



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: August 2, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- The Town's Annual Independence Day Celebration was held June 30th and included food trucks, music, and games for children on Bridge Street and Martin Family Park. The event was attended and went well. Town offices were also closed on Thursday July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- Growth Management staff held a property owner meeting for Bluffton Village. We have several property owners stop by to ask questions related to the expiration of the Development Agreement. The Ordinances necessary to end the Development Agreement and set future zoning will come to Council for adoption.
- Held meeting with County and SC DNR to discuss abandoned boats and how other municipalities are addressing. There are currently 8 boats that are within our boundaries that are anchored, and SC DNR are monitoring. Our State Representatives and the Town have heard concerns about these boats, and we are looking to bring policies to Council to allow us to address.
- The Police Chief and I met with CPSM as they continue to review staffing and policies.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilmen Hamilton and Wood, and staff attended the SOLOCO Meeting at the Bluffton Rotary Center. We heard from the Coastal Conservation League about potentially updating the plastic bag ban to include "thick" plastic bags, straws, single use Styrofoam, and plastic utensils. We also heard from County Council Chair Joe Passiment about the penny transportation tax and the County's education campaign and proposed uses.
- Councilmembers Frazier, Hamilton, and Wood, along with executive staff, attended the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Annual Conference in Greenville.
- Council and staff attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses within the Town.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Our summer interns will be leaving over the next couple of weeks. The program continues to be successful with the Town hiring two former interns over the last few months.
 - We completed the reviews and interviews for the Childcare RFP. We will review the process, next steps, and recommendation with Council, and plan to bring an agreement and award to Council.
 - The MOU with Beaufort County School District is completed. We are working on next steps to address the items within the MOU and will update Council.
 - The Town will be starting our concert series next month with one concert at Oyster Factory and two at the Amphitheatre at Buckwalter Park.
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