

TOWN COUNCIL

STAFF REPORT

Projects and Watershed Resilience Department



MEETING DATE:	September 12, 2023
PROJECT:	Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Finalize an Encroachment Agreement Necessary to Complete the Approved New River Linear Trail Project
PROJECT MANAGER:	Kimberly Washok-Jones, Director of Projects and Watershed Resilience

REQUEST: Town Council approve a Resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Town Manager to finalize an Encroachment Agreement (Attachment 2) between the Town of Bluffton and Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. ("Central Electric") and South Carolina Public Service Authority ("Santee Cooper") over 3.2 miles of real property owned by Town of Bluffton at Tax Map No. R614 035 000 0011 0000 and R610 028 000 0018 0000. The agreement is necessary to complete the approved New River Linear Trail project improvements, a portion of which will be situated in the power line right of way easement along the trail.

As part of the Encroachment Agreement negotiations, the Town and Central Electric will simultaneously enter into a Letter of Agreement (Attachment 3) in which Central Electric will provide the Town with a one-time cost-sharing contribution in the amount of \$412,700. This amount will be applied to the construction and future maintenance of the three (3) bridges along the trail.

BACKGROUND: On June 23, 1992, Central Electric Power Cooperative was granted an easement along the New River Linear Trail to construct and maintain electric transmission lines. The Town is requesting to encroach onto a portion of the easement for the purpose of completing bridge improvements and installing the proposed 10-foot paved path from the New River to the boundary line of Sun City Hilton Head.

NEXT STEPS: Should Town Council desire to approve the Resolution, the following next steps will be implemented:

1. Execute Encroachment Agreement and Letter of Agreement
2. Record Encroachment Agreement

SUMMARY: Consideration of a proposed Resolution related to authorizing the Town Manager to finalize an Encroachment Agreement with Central Electric and Santee Cooper.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution
2. Draft Encroachment Agreement
3. Draft Letter of Agreement
4. Proposed Motion