

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT
Public Services Department



MEETING DATE:	March 10, 2026
SUBJECT:	Public Services Department Monthly Report
DIRECTOR:	Larry Beckler, Director of Public Services

PUBLIC SERVICES UPDATE

1. **MS4 MCM – #6 Good Housekeeping (Ditch, Drainage and Roadside Maintenance)**
 - **Street Sweeping** - Performed weekly street sweeping on Calhoun Street, Highway 46, Bruin Road, May River Road, Pin Oak Street, Bridge Street, Church Street, Lawton Street, Lawrence Street, Allen Street, Water Street, Boundary Street, and curbs and medians on Simmonsville and Buck Island Roads.
 - **Ditch Inspections** - Performed ditch inspections
 - Arrow ditch (2,569 LF)
 - Red Cedar ditch (966 LF)
 - Buck Island roadside ditch (15,926 LF)
 - Simmonsville roadside ditch (13,792 LF)
 - **Ongoing Roadside Mowing, Litter Clean-up and Maintenance** of Hampton Parkway, Buck Island and Simmonsville Roads, Goethe Road, Shults Road, Jason and Able Streets, Whispering Pine Road, May River Road, Bluffton Road, Boundary, Calhoun, Bridge Street, Pritchard Street, Buckwalter Boulevard, Bruin Road, Green Street, James Gadson Drive, Thomas Heyward, Church St, Water St, Lawton St. and Colcock St.

2. **FACILITIES**
 - **Ongoing Maintenance** of Town Hall, Law Enforcement Center, Public Services, Rotary Community Center, Watershed Management, Police Sub-station, Don Ryan Center, The Cove and general repairs of the Garvin House and Sarah Riley.

3. **PARKS**
 - **Ongoing Park Facilities and Landscape Maintenance** of Dubois Park, Martin Family Park, Oscar Frasier, Field of Dreams, Buckwalter Place Park, Oyster Factory Park, Pritchard Pocket Park, May River Pocket Park, Wright Family Park, Eagles Fields, New Riverside Barn, New River Trail, Evercore Park.

4. **ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - Cement Pad and Bench installed on May River at site where pole was struck by vehicle
 - Furniture Assembled for New Riverside Barn
 - Paper Towel holders installed at New Riverside Barn

- Soap Dispensers installed at RCC
- New Trash can enclosure fabricated and installed at Oyster Factory Park
- Stone placed around Fire System Drain at NRB
- Bulbs replaced at Calhoun Station
- Graded Town Hall Parking Lot, Pritchard St ext, Lawton, Green St & Oyster Factory parking lots
- Lighting issues at LEC and Calhoun Station addressed
- Dry & Wet Fire Suppression system repaired due to frozen pipe burst
- Welcome center Fire Alarm tested and passed
- Furniture relocated from DRCl to The Cove
- Final installs for wedding (“green”) room completed at New Riverside Barn
- Banners installed for Black History Month
- Onsite Sunday for water line breaks at park water fountains & Splash Pad
- ServPro responded for clean-up because of burst pipes at Town Hall
- Started layout of Disc Golf Course at New Riverside Park w/ consultant
- Cleared Disc Golf Course – Joint effort Grounds & Maintenance crews
- Duct cleaning performed at Watershed Building and Police Substation
- Installation of base moldings at Town Hall at water damage areas
- Fabricated and installed signs for Golf Cart restricted areas @ Oyster Factory Park
- Installed Paper Towel dispensers, Toilet Paper Holders, soap and sanitizer dispensers at the Cove.
- Replaced filter and diagnosed issue with Water dispenser at the LEC
- Repaired all but one water fountain from past ice storm (Oyster Factory – still waiting on a part)
- Furniture assembly completed and delivered to Watershed
- Irrigation Repairs at LEC & Town Hall
- Underground water line burst at Town Hall under Calhoun Station shed. Myself and 5 Public service staff worked all day on Presidents Day to shut down and secure area.
- Repaired burst water line at Town Hall, re-set shed back to original location and mulched and cleaned area.

5. PREPPING FOR SPECIAL AND CIVIC EVENTS

- Set-up & support for following events:
 - Farmers Market- Martin Family Park
 - Prepped & Setup for Homebuying Workshop at RCC
 - Prepped & Setup for SoLoCo at RCC
 - Prepped for Rotary Club Annual Oyster Roaster, Oyster Factory Park
 - Prepped & Setup for Taste of Bluffton: Lowcountry Edition-Oyster Factory Park

6. EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE REPAIR

- Mowers Serviced
- Blowers Serviced
- Serviced Skid Steer, Forest Mulcher, Articulating Loader

- Serviced chainsaws then maintained daily while working on Disc Golf project
- Service and repair to “water buffalo” – parts ordered
- Diagnosed issue with Ex-Mark mower (cracked block)

7. TRAINING

- Staff completed weekly training topics
- Staff completed Employee Development Plans

8. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

- **Agenda & Minutes Attached**

9. ATTACHMENTS

- **Public Services Monthly Cost Report – (Below)**

Public Services Monthly Cost Reports – February 2026 *(Cost Includes Labor & Equipment)*

ASSETS AND EVENTS	COST
FACILITIES	\$2333
PARKS	\$24271
ROADS AND TRAILS	\$2694
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$2640

Beautification Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Okatie River Conference Room, 20 Bridge Street,
Bluffton, SC

January 15, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 9:01AM.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Bowen

Dan Ciufreda

Jessica Palladino

High Williamson

Larry Beckler

ABSENT

Vice Chair Dot Jeger

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Bowen made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes as written.

Motion was seconded by Hugh Williamson.

Voting Yea: Dan Ciufreda and Jessica Palladino.

All were in favor and motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Paint Out Pollution Storm Drain Art Project Update

Media News Release issued on January 5, 2026.

2. Holiday Decorating / Undecorating Update

The town was undecorated in only three days. Reorganized and constructed new decoration storage. No Christmas decorations came out of BC budget.

3. Steve Doocy's Main Street USA Tour Submission Update

No response from Fox and Friends about whether the Main Street USA show will be continued in 2026.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Non Toxic Neighborhoods Program Implementation

Public Services works with Non Toxic Neighborhoods to use non-toxic turf management. Drafting resolution for council that will make these non-toxic, environmentally friendly practices mandatory.

2. Linear Trail Renovation

Estimated time of completion in early spring. Refurbishing 3 bridges and building an observation/crabbing dock. Connecting path to nearest residential community. Council discussed possibility of having March meeting on location to observe renovations and make plans to add plantings.

3. Wright Family Park Tree Planting

Cedar tree needs to be removed. Replace with large 8" caliper live oak. Also plans to replace live Oak in front of Town Hall for Arbor Day.

4. White Goods Pickup

Larry and Colleen to meet with Victoria Smalls on 1/21/2026. Date of pickup TBD. Expand pick up from last year's locations to Buck Island, Simmonsville, Goethe Road and Schultz Roads. Public Services will post notices in residents mailbox in addition to using social media to advertise. BC to help distribute door hangers.

VII. DISCUSSION

Hugh Williamson questioned when butterfly garden landscape contract will expire. Master Gardeners to take over maintenance of garden in April. No use of insecticides or pesticides. Specify in contract that milkweed, flowering plants and passion vine must be kept. Jessica Palladino can provide native passion flowers.

Council discussed seeking out additional grant opportunities for native trees and flowers.

Council discussed cleaning up Oyster Factory Park to make it more visually appealing. Dumpster is already enclosed behind gate. Promote repopulating native environments. Perhaps use Oyster Shells to create enclosure. disguise trash cans at Oyster Factory Park. Enclose behind fence bump-out. Make sure boaters can maintain access but remove eye sore.

Council discussed replicating Chamelia garden from Hilton Head Honey Hill at New Riverside or across from Eagles Field. Town meeting to ask residents for input on what to include in the new park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 9:33AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026



Beautification Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 9:00 AM

**Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Okatie River Conference Room, 20 Bridge Street,
Bluffton, SC**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Paint Out Pollution Storm Drain Art Project Update
2. Non Toxic Neighborhoods Program Implementation Update
3. Linear Trail Renovation Update
4. White Goods Pickup Update
5. Arbor Day & Tree Planting Update

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Rotary Center/Beautification Committee Pet Waste Station Donation

VII. DISCUSSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

“FOIA Compliance – Public notification of this meeting has been published and posted in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Bluffton policies.”

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Executive Session – The public body may vote to go into executive session for any item identified for action on the agenda.

**Please note that each member of the public may speak at one public comment session and a form must be filled out and given to the Town Clerk. To submit a public comment online, please click here:*

<https://www.townofbluffton.sc.gov/FormCenter/Town-15/Public-Comment-60>

Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per speaker.