



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: March 2, 2026

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Town Staff presented proposed updates to the Town's Wetland Buffer Ordinance. These proposed edits are currently out for public comment until March and have been shared via press release, posted on social media, and directly with groups and firms.
- Offices were closed February 2nd due to a few inches of snow from a snowstorm.
- We held a community input session for the proposed Buck Island Park. We had about 15 residents attend and provide input on potential park features.
- The Town held our Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting for the New Riverside Barn. The facility events start the end of February and is booked most of the year.
- The Town will host the Beaufort County Transportation Advisory Committee at The NR Barn on March 4th. We will present recommendations to the committee as they create a proposed list of projects for the potential 2026 Transportation Penny Referendum in November.
- Mobile Town Halls:
 - We held a Mobile Town Hall for Palmetto Bluff on February 23rd at The Lodge. There were right around 20 residents present for the meeting.
 - We have a Mobile Town Hall at The Haven on March 12th in the ballroom of their Community Center.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting held at the New Riverside Barn on February 23rd. This was a special meeting to hear updates from our State Legislators. Senator Davis and Rep. Hager presented and answered questions on items including power utility priorities, state transportation modernization, concurrency, and other topics.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the 2026 HHI-Bluffton Chamber Ball.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the ribbon-cutting event for New Beginning Childcare on the first floor of The COVE at Buckwalter.
- Mayor, Council, and staff visited, toured, and met with staff at four (4) Performing Art Centers to hear how they were set-up, funded, and operate.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Councilmembers and staff attended the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation's Converge Conference. We heard updates from each of the mayors, DRCI, and other partners on economic development successes and programs.
 - Town held our Family Night at the Savannah Ghost Pirates' game on February 13th, with Mayor Toomer dropping the ceremonial first puck.
 - Town offices were closed February 16th in observance of President's Day.
-