



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: September 30, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida and passed to the west of Bluffton. Helene's path shifted farther east than projected and brought strong winds to the region. The biggest impact was trees that were knocked down throughout the community. This led to blocked roads and widespread power outages. Staff responded once safe and have worked to clear trees and debris. There are brush collection locations throughout the town that will be switched out as needed. Cleanup will continue over the next week. We are entering the peak of Hurricane Season and continue to stay vigilant and prepared.
- Town Hall was closed in observance of Labor Day.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Town Councilmembers and staff attended SOLOCO in Bluffton. SOLOCO discussed the new litter committee and the appointments from each partner agency. There was also an update from the Beaufort-Jasper Regional Housing Trust. The Child Care Subcommittee also made a presentation on the overall program they proposed and how they would be moving forward.
- We had meetings with Councilmembers throughout the month to include discussions related to the Council Meeting agenda review and other items.
- Council and staff attended several ribbon cuttings for new businesses within the Town.
- The groundbreaking of the Buckwalter Economic Development Project was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene. We are working to reschedule in October with times that work with the developer and town.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- We completed the reviews and interviews for the Childcare RFP. We have worked with the top candidate to finalize the business plan and will bring a lease agreement to Council in October.
 - Staff from Bluffton, Beaufort County, and LCOG had our first follow-up meeting with the engineer performing the Bluffton Parkway Study.
 - The Town's concert series started August 30th at the Buckwalter Amphitheatre Park. We had to cancel the concert scheduled for September 24th due to Hurricane Helene. We have one more scheduled for this season. It will be held at Buckwalter in late October.
 - The Town held our Inaugural Wellness Fair for employees at the Rotary Community Center. The event allowed employees to have a biometric screening completed, attend educational sessions, and receive their annual vaccinations.
 - Chris, Heather, and I attended the International City/County Manager Association's Annual Conference. We attended sessions related to economic development, public art, artificial intelligence, resiliency, strategic planning, and other topics.
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