



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council

From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager

Date: August 1, 2023

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- We are in the process of closing out FY 22-23 and have transitioned to FY 23-24. We are working to reconcile the previous year and will bring the carry-forward budget amendment to Council in September.
- Town staff held a Mobile Town Hall at Hampton Hall. We had a few dozen residents from the community attend and ask many questions about the Town. They were appreciative of the meeting.
- We have held a few meetings with the Buck Island – Simmonsville Neighborhood Plan Steering Committee. We have a couple meeting left to finish hearing from them and to summarize their input before taking the recommendations back for community meetings.
- The Town held our Independence Day Celebration on July 1st. We had food, events for families and kids of multiple ages, and ended the celebration with fireworks over May River. It was well attended, and we are looking at ways to grow and improve the event in the future.
- We held an event to dedicate the improvements at the Calhoun Street Dock to Rep. Bill Herbkersman. We had a hand painted sign made outlining the dedication and it will be placed at the entrance to the dock.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Mayor, Councilman Wood, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting in Bluffton. There was an update from the Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust on progress to date and their proposed six-month plan. SOLOCO also heard the first update from the committee appointed to review zoning, transportation requirements, and other planning and growth guideline areas. They will provide a more detailed update at the August meeting.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the MASC Annual Meeting. We attended sessions on Affordable Housing, Engaging Future Leaders, Legal Updates, and a powerful Keynote on civility.
- Council and Staff did a facility walkthrough and property tour of Old Carolina Golf Course.
- I held 1-on-1 meetings with most of Council to provide updates on projects and seek input.
- Mayor and I met with Palmetto Bluff, at their request, to hear updates on improvements and discuss ways that we can work better together in the future.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- We attended ribbon cuttings for new businesses and are excited to see the continued investment in the community.
 - We continued our movie series and our Kids Summer events with water fun.
 - Staff met with our Affordable Housing Partner to receive updates and look at next steps. We are anticipating items for permitting and working through our permitting process soon.
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