



Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge St.
PO Box 386
Bluffton, SC 29910
843.706.4500

To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: June 3, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- The Town Budget Workshops were held in May. Public Notice has been posted for the Public Hearing that will be held during the June Council Meeting. The only change in the Proposed Budget since First Reading has been to include a \$144,000 grant from the Regional Housing Trust.
- The Town's Annual May River Cleanup occurred May 4th from 9:00 – 11:00 am with over 250 people participating. Thank you to Mayor and Council for attending, Watershed for coordination, Kevin and the Police Department for preparing lunch for participants.
- We are finalizing the repair schedule and cost for the shelter at Dubois. We hoped to get it back open as soon as possible. We are also beginning an update of our tree survey to identify any additional trees that may be at risk.
- The Town held out Hurricane Preparation Meetings as Hurricane Season starts June 1st.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilpersons Hamilton, Wood and Burden, and staff attended the SOLOCO Meeting at the Rotary Center. We received updates from Novant Health, former Tenet Health, about their transition and operational plans. We will hear from groups about childcare needs in the region in June.
- Mayor Toomer, Police Chief, and I had our bi-monthly coffee meeting on May 14th. We discussed some concerns he heard from citizens related to traffic enforcement, and preparations for Memorial Day.
- Mayor and Council held a groundbreaking ceremony for the New Riverside Trail improvements. The restrooms are being completed in June and paving of the southern half of the trail will go to bid soon.
- Mayor and Council held a groundbreaking ceremony for our Affordable Housing development at 1095 May River Road. Workforce State of Mind is finalizing their work start and will be working to complete the property transfer.
- Mayor, Council, and staff participated in a Mobile Town Home at The Haven. The event went well and the community was appreciative of the information.
- Mayor Toomer presented Mayor Service Awards for about 70 students and also awarded 4 Stay Safe Bluffton Scholarships to Seniors.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- The first Lean Process analysis of our process for our permitting a commercial construction project was held May 20 - 24. The team did a great job and provided some ideas on how we can work to reduce the processing time and make it more efficient for applicants and our staff. We will have follow-up meetings schedule implementation steps.
 - Our summer interns are starting the week of June 3rd.
 - We are waiting on the drawing for the MASC Annual Conference to find out where we will fall in the registration order.
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