



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

To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: April 1, 2024

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Emily Burden was sworn in at the March Council Meeting and provided a complete Town Council.
- The Town Budget process is underway, and departments have submitted requests and had initial review meetings. Staff met with Council to review the draft details of the budget and received input. The input from these meetings will be included and the FY 24-25 Budget will be presented at the May Council Meeting.
- We closed on 140 Buck Island Road and have received our recorded deed.
- We held a community meeting to present the draft Buck Island-Simmonsville Neighborhood Plan. We received several questions on construction within the community and some discussion on future land use and development within the community. Staff is working on some edits and will bring this to Council at the May Council Meeting for adoption. Thank you to Councilman Hamilton, Councilman Wood, and Councilwoman Burden for your attendance.
- I presented at the Kiwanis Club Meeting and Councilwoman Burden and several staff presented at the Bluffton Middle School Career Day event.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Mayor Toomer, Councilman Wood, and Councilwoman Burden along with staff attended the SOLOCO Meeting at the Rotary Center. We received updates from our regional utility providers on capital projects to handle growth and future capacity demands. We will hear from the Beaufort County Human Services Department on the region's unhoused population and receive an update from the BJRHTF next month.
- Continued our monthly meetings with BJWSA and Beaufort County related to the Stoney Creek Project. The project is progressing in design, and we worked through some topics related to community outreach and encouraging connection to the system. Staff and I had some follow-up meetings with BJWSA representative to discuss our septic-to-sewer program.
- Mayor Toomer, Police Chief, and I have our bi-monthly coffee meeting on April 2nd.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the Chamber Ball.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- Managers and The Don Ryan Center for Innovation attended the Golden Oyster Awards put on by the Greater Bluffton Chamber. DRCl was a finalist for Chamber Member of the Year and ended up winning the award.
 - We received notice that the passed Federal Budget included \$1.34 million in funds that Senator Graham recommended. These funds will go towards updating and replacing equipment at the Police Department to include radios, body and car cameras, and other equipment.
 - Continuing to work on partnership for Willow Run property and are awaiting the appraisal.
 - Town offices are closed on March 29th in observance of Good Friday.
-