



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

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**To:** Town Council

**From:** Stephen Steese, Town Manager

**Date:** February 6, 2023

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#### **Town Operations / Community Meetings**

- The Police Chief participated in a community forum to hear from the community after the death of Tyre Nichols. Members of Council, officers, staff, and some of the Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Committee were present for the meeting.
- The new Emergency Manager started and has been meeting with the County, other Emergency Managers, and working with Lt. Danyov to get up to speed.
- Held a community meet and greet with the new Police Chief that was well attended. We followed this meeting with the dedication of the Police Reflection Plaza.
- Held the groundbreaking for the New Riverside Barn Park project and held a renovation kick-off event for the Squire Pope Carriage House. Both events were well attended and show the excitement for these projects starting.

#### **Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings**

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Mayor Sulka and I attended the court proceedings following the Hoagland versus Town of Bluffton case. The Judge ruled in our favor on the post-trial motion to have the case reheard or the ruling to be changed. The Judge did rule against our request to have our legal fees reimbursed by stating the lawsuit was frivolous.
- Mayor and Council attended the SOLOCO meeting in Hardeeville. There was a legislative update provided and discussion around upcoming priorities. Beaufort and Port Royal were also voted in as members of SOLOCO.
- Mayor and I met with the HHI-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce to discuss the Vacation Planner and ways to better coordinate in the future.
- 1 on 1 budget discussions were held prior to the start of budget preparation.

#### **Updates and Miscellaneous Information**

- Town Council provide the Final Friday lunch for Town Employees, and it was greatly appreciated.
  - Police held a Cookout with Cops as part of the Martin Luther King celebration event and with the Hampton Lakes subdivision.
  - The Regional Housing Trust Fund held it's kickoff event. The committee has been meeting and our representative on the Board will provide an update on the Board at the March Council Meeting.
  - The Lutzie 5K was held and had a great turnout and support. The benefits from the 5K and sponsors go to support scholarships for graduates of Bluffton schools.
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