



Consideration and Approval of Amendments to the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 Businesses and Business Regulations Article V – Short-Term Rental Units – First Reading

November 12, 2024
Department of Growth Management
Kevin Icard, AICP

Request:



Town Council approve the proposed amendments to Code of Ordinances, Town of Bluffton, Chapter 6, Businesses and Business Regulations, Article V, Short-Term Rental Units, Section 6-114 Application, Section 6-120 Violations and Penalties.

Background:



In 2020, the Town of Bluffton established a short-term rental ordinance and permit application. The intent was to ensure that the integrity of residential neighborhoods were not compromised; life-safety measures were provided; property management was in place and responsive and permits and taxes were identified. This Ordinance created the provisions that have been in place for the past 3 years.

As outlined in the October 8, 2024 Council workshop, staff is proposing changes to align the permit application with the business license calendar to limit confusion on when the permit and license is required. This workshop also included creating provisions for the enforcement of violations and penalties.

Proposed Amendments:



The proposed amendments include the following.

- Aligning the short term rental unit permit with the business license calendar;
- Updating South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to Department of Agriculture; and,
- Adding a section to regulate violations and penalties.

Suggested Motion:



Short Term Rental Ordinance Amendments	Date	Complete
Step 1. Town Council – Workshop	October 8, 2024	✓
Step 2. Town Council – 1 st Reading	November 12, 2024	✓
Step 3. Town Council – 2 nd and Final Reading	December 10, 2024	✓



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

Proposed Amendments:



Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Businesses and Business Regulations, Article V, Short-Term Rental Units. – First Reading

"I make a motion to approve the Ordinance Amending the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Businesses and Business Regulations, Article V, Short-Term Rental Units as presented."