



To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: January 4, 2022

Town of Bluffton
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Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Town Operations have begun to shift back to more normal operations. However, we are watching the new increase in cases with the Omicron variant and how it may affect operations. We are also updated protocols on exposure and return to work based on new CDC guidelines. We are also waiting on the Supreme Court to review the President's Vaccine Mandate and what we may need to do for compliance. We have also reached out to Beaufort Memorial for any recommendations and/or adjustments they may make.
- We completed interviews and have hired a new Emergency Manager that will start January 13th. His name is Stephen Combs and comes from Anderson County Sheriff's Office. An email was sent to Council with information and background.
- I made a presentation to the Bluffton Regional Business Council about growth and capital projects that we are working towards.
- Town Manager from Beaufort County and Hardeeville met with Beaufort County to discuss updating the Transportation and Park Impact Fees. This update included requests from the town's and led to a larger discussion of road improvement funding. An update on this meeting was shared with Council.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Town Manager meetings.
- Council voted to send Palmetto Bluff's development amendment request to Negotiating Committee at the November meeting. The Negotiating Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday, January 6th at 10:00 am in Council Chambers. An update from that meeting will be shared with Council.
- The Mayor and I met with Scott Wierman on December 6th. He is the President and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. Allen Ward, a Foundation Board member, was also at the meeting. We discussed the purpose and success of the Foundation and potential ways that we could work together. We also discussed their partnership with Hilton Head Island in administering some of their ARPA grant programs.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Hamilton and staff meet with the County virtually for our bi-monthly meeting. An update on this meeting and topics of discussion were sent to Council.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- We held an Employee Appreciation Cookout at the Heyward House on December 17th to thank everyone for helping to put on the Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade.
 - Some upcoming dates:
 - Town Hall is closed on January 17th in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
 - MLK Jr. Celebration at the May River Theatre is from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm
 - Hometown Legislative Action Day in Columbia is February 1st and 2nd.
 - Council's Strategic Planning workshop at the Rotary Community Center on February 15th
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