



Town of Bluffton
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To: Town Council
From: Stephen Steese, Town Manager
Date: February 2, 2026

Town Operations / Community Meetings

- Town Staff presented proposed updates to the Town's Wetland Buffer Ordinance at the January 27th Workshop. These proposed edits are currently out for public comment. We have sent out a press release, posted on social media, and will be sharing directly with groups and firms.
- We kicked off the FY 26-27 budget process with initial meetings with all departments. Requests for staffing, capital, and other large items were due in January. We will continue to work through revenue projections and other items as we begin to pull together the framework of the budget.
- Mobile Town Halls:
 - We have a Mobile Town Hall for Palmetto Bluff on February 23rd at The Lodge.
 - We have a Mobile Town Hall in The Haven on March 12th in the ballroom of their Community Center.

Town Council/Town Attorney Related Meetings

- Weekly Mayor / Mayor Pro Tempore / Manager meetings.
- Town Council was sworn in at the January 13th Council Meeting and Councilman Hamilton was elected at Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Mayor and Council attended the Hometown Legislative Action Day event in Columbia. MASC put on updates and educational sessions and we were able to meet with our legislators to address priorities and discuss items.
- Mayor, Council, and staff attended the SOLOCO meeting held in Bluffton. There was an update from LATS and presentation on their planning processes. We also heard briefly from the new LCOG Director, on restrictions for balloon releases, and putting together a working group to address e-bike regulations regionally.

Updates and Miscellaneous Information

- We have prepared our event calendar for the year and shared these dates. For the first time we are preparing sponsorship opportunities where businesses and other community partners can sponsor events in whole or part. The goal is to offset portions of the event costs and allow the town to grow our events in scale and number. We plan to start sharing this to the community for potential partnerships in February.
 - We installed Rapid Repeating Flashing Beacon (RRFB) crosswalks at two locations along May River and are working on a third. We are also working with SC DOT on plans to improve the number of crosswalks and improving pedestrian safety on Bluffton Road.
 - Town offices were closed January 1st in observance of New Year's Day and January 19th in observance of MLK Day.
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