

Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Henry “Emmett” McCracken Jr. Council Chambers, 20
Bridge Street, Bluffton, SC

February 18, 2025

- I. This meeting can be viewed live on [BCTV](#), on Sparklight Channel 9 and 113 or on Spectrum Channel 1304.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Christy Parker
Vice Chair Sam Britt
Scott Thrasher
Michael Garibaldi

ABSENT

Nate Pringle
Ellen Shumaker
Jean Wilson

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2024
Motion approving minutes made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Garibaldi.
Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Thrasher, Garibaldi

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Natalie Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance, reported that State ATAX collections are up \$42,340 compared to the same quarter last year and \$706,350 is estimated to be currently available for distribution. Three applications were received this quarter but two were withdrawn before the meeting. Therefore, only one request for \$24,000 remains for consideration this quarter.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Grant Application Q&A: The Rotary Club of Bluffton - MayFest
Motion to recommended award of \$18,880 with ability to increase up to full ask of \$24,000 based on reported tourism numbers with final report made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Garibaldi. Voting Nay: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Thrasher, Garibaldi. Motion Failed.

Motion to recommend award of \$24,000 made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Garibaldi.
Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Thrasher, Garibaldi

2. Grant Application Q&A: Historic Bluffton Foundation - Heyward House
Withdrawn for consideration by Historic Bluffton Foundation
3. Policy Updates Regarding Eligible Reimbursables
Discussion surrounding adoption of guidelines related to awarding operating expenses for museums, cultural facilities. Staff recommendations included not funding personnel/salary expenses and including an award cap. ATAC amended these recommendations to include a not to exceed dollar amount.
Motion to accept staff recommendations as amended made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Garibaldi. Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Thrasher, Garibaldi

IX. DISCUSSION

1. Scoring Sheet Updates
Discussion continued regarding possible updates to the applicant scoring sheets. For the most part, no significant changes have been recommended. Newer members of the committee will consider and discussion will continue.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Garibaldi, Seconded by Vice Chair Britt.
Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Thrasher, Garibaldi
Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

XI. NOTES:

- Town Council will review recommendations at the Tuesday, March 11, 2025 5:00 p.m. meeting.
- Please be reminded that all advertising sponsored with Town of Bluffton ATAX dollars must incorporate the Bluffton Heart of the Lowcountry brand logo.
- All funds awarded must be committed within two (2) years of award.
- Next deadline for ATAX applications is by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 31, 2025.