

Beautification Committee Meeting

Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building, Okatie River Conference Room, 20 Bridge Street,
Bluffton, SC

January 15, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bowen called the meeting to order at 9:01AM.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Bowen

Dan Ciufreda

Jessica Palladino

High Williamson

Larry Beckler

ABSENT

Vice Chair Dot Jeger

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Chairman Bowen made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes as written.

Motion was seconded by Hugh Williamson.

Voting Yea: Dan Ciufreda and Jessica Palladino.

All were in favor and motion passed.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Paint Out Pollution Storm Drain Art Project Update

Media News Release issued on January 5, 2026.

2. Holiday Decorating / Undecorating Update

The town was undecorated in only three days. Reorganized and constructed new decoration storage. No Christmas decorations came out of BC budget.

3. Steve Doocy's Main Street USA Tour Submission Update

No response from Fox and Friends about whether the Main Street USA show will be continued in 2026.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Non Toxic Neighborhoods Program Implementation

Public Services works with Non Toxic Neighborhoods to use non-toxic turf management. Drafting resolution for council that will make these non-toxic, environmentally friendly practices mandatory.

2. Linear Trail Renovation

Estimated time of completion in early spring. Refurbishing 3 bridges and building an observation/crabbing dock. Connecting path to nearest residential community. Council discussed possibility of having March meeting on location to observe renovations and make plans to add plantings.

3. Wright Family Park Tree Planting

Cedar tree needs to be removed. Replace with large 8" caliper live oak. Also plans to replace live Oak in front of Town Hall for Arbor Day.

4. White Goods Pickup

Larry and Colleen to meet with Victoria Smalls on 1/21/2026. Date of pickup TBD. Expand pick up from last year's locations to Buck Island, Simmonsville, Goethe Road and Schultz Roads. Public Services will post notices in residents mailbox in addition to using social media to advertise. BC to help distribute door hangers.

VII. DISCUSSION

Hugh Williamson questioned when butterfly garden landscape contract will expire. Master Gardeners to take over maintenance of garden in April. No use of insecticides or pesticides. Specify in contract that milkweed, flowering plants and passion vine must be kept. Jessica Palladino can provide native passion flowers.

Council discussed seeking out additional grant opportunities for native trees and flowers.

Council discussed cleaning up Oyster Factory Park to make it more visually appealing. Dumpster is already enclosed behind gate. Promote repopulating native environments. Perhaps use Oyster Shells to create enclosure. disguise trash cans at Oyster Factory Park. Enclose behind fence bump-out. Make sure boaters can maintain access but remove eye sore.

Council discussed replicating Chamelia garden from Hilton Head Honey Hill at New Riverside or across from Eagles Field. Town meeting to ask residents for input on what to include in the new park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bowen adjourned the meeting at 9:33AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026