

Wall of Honor Ceremony

Honoring Queenie Jenkins

Regular Town Council Meeting

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

April 08, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Toomer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Toomer.

III. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 03/11/2025

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton Wood; Seconded by Councilmember Burden to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 03/11/2025 as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Beaufort County School District Character Student of the Month - Mayor Larry Toomer

On behalf of Town Council, Mayor Larry Toomer honored the student of the month, Ariel Haina, a senior from Bluffton High School. Ariel was recognized for the Character Trait of Honesty/Integrity for her ability to persevere. Ms. Haina was acknowledged for going above and beyond in her classroom and extracurricular activities as well as her efforts to guide younger students.

2. National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

On behalf of Town Council, Mayor Larry Toomer presented Chris Wilbur (Child Abuse Prevention Association CAPA), Jo Kuehn and Carole Pritchard (Hopeful Horizons board members) a proclamation detailing the activities of the organization and asking everyone to be advocates of all children. April is National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

3. Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

On behalf of Town Council, Mayor Larry Toomer presented a proclamation honoring all teachers in the region to Linda Gustafson and JoAnne Gatti-Petito, Co-Chairs of the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Area.

4. Arbor Day Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

On behalf of Town Council, Mayor Larry Toomer presented an Arbor Day proclamation to members of the Town's Beautification Committee. The Town will have an Arbor Day ceremony Friday, April 25, 2025, at Oscar Frazier Park.

5. Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Mayor Larry Toomer

On behalf of Town Council, Mayor Larry Toomer presented a Fair Housing Month proclamation to Victoria Smalls, the Town's workforce and affordable housing manager. This proclamation advocates activities which promote fair housing for all residents. Victoria Smalls is also the coordinator of the Town's Neighborhood Assistance Program, an award-winning program, which helps with "safe and dry" repairs for income-qualified residents.

6. Don Ryan Center of Innovation - Quarterly Update - David Nelems CEO

David Nelems, CEO of the Don Ryan Center for Innovation, gave an update on the Center's activities to Town Council.

7. Summary Presentation of Town of Bluffton Employee Survey Results - Anni Evans, Director of Human Resources

Anni Evans - Human Resources Director, presented the Employee Survey results to Town Council. Some of the highlights of surveyed employees includes an overall employee satisfaction rating of 94%, with 93% of employees feeling they are part of "something meaningful" as a Town Employee.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Alberio 182 S. Drayton Street - Mrs. Alberio expressed concerns and the impact felt by Palmetto Bluff residents due to the increasing number and size of Montage sponsored events resulting in noise complaints.

Lisa Sulka 37 Stalk Farm Road - Former Mayor Sulka discussed the upcoming week as Heritage Week - RBC Heritage Week sponsored by Boeing. She shared the benefits of the Heritage Classic Foundation and the six pillars of the foundation which have funding is directed to within the community.

John Meltaus 53 Waterfowl Road – Mr. Meltaus shared concerns related to the noise issues in Palmetto Bluff and has requested clarification of the existing ordinance.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Frazier - Ms. Frazier addressed the members of the Palmetto Bluff community, she advised all voices are taken into consideration regarding the noise ordinance.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood - Mr. Wood spoke of his experience at the unveiling of Historical Monument Marker at First Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He encourages everyone to go and see the monument as well as attend services at the church.

Councilmember Hamilton and Burden had no comment.

Attorney Finger - Attorney Finger spoke of the 1700 volunteers that are needed to run the tournament. Among the volunteers, he praised the Bluffton Football team who are assigned to waste collection during the week of the tournament.

Mayor Toomer - Discussed the importance of the tournament and the overall fiscal impact directly benefiting the local economy.

VIII. WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

1. Consideration and Direction on Proposed Amendments to the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances, Chapter 23, Unified Development Ordinance, Article 5 Design Standards – Accessory Buildings - Kevin Icard, Director of Growth Management

Town Council members provided guidance for staff regarding proposed amendments to the Town of Bluffton Code of Ordinances for accessory buildings, specifically carports. Staff was provided with direction regarding the need for a separate classification in the ordinance for carports. Other items discussed were landscaping, protection of esthetics qualities of the town and the addition of electricity and water sources to the structure.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL READING

X. FORMAL AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval to Authorize a Construction Contract with Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. for Phases 4, 5 and 6 of the Historic District Sewer Extension Project (Fiscal Impact \$863,784.90) - Patrick Rooney, Capital Improvement Program Manager

A motion made by Councilmember Burden; Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood for approval to authorize a construction contract with Jordan Construction of Hilton Head, Inc. for Phases 4, 5 and 6 of the Historic District Sewer Extension Project (Fiscal Impact \$863,784.90).

Town Council unanimously approved the authorization of the construction contract.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A motion made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood; Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Town Council unanimously approved the consent agenda as submitted.

1. Monthly Department Reports: Police, Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Municipal Court, Projects & Watershed Resilience, Public Services, Don Ryan Center for Innovation, and Growth Management
2. Town Manager Monthly Report
3. Consideration of a Resolution to Affirm the Continued Dedication of the Town of Bluffton to Fair Housing Principles and Regulations Established by the State of South Carolina and the United States Federal Government – Kevin Icard, Director of Growth Management
4. Consideration of an Ordinance and Ratification of an Easement Over Certain Real Property owned by the Town of Bluffton, Identified as Beaufort County Tax Map No. R610 039 000 0498 0000, in favor of Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. to Provide Service to 1095 May River Road – Second and Final Reading - Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager
5. Consideration of Planning Commission Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Program Projects Prioritization - Pat Rooney, Capital Improvement Program Manager

6. Approval of Public Art Committee Recommendation to Award a Public Art Commission for the Splash Pad Equipment Enclosure to Murray Sease with a Fiscal Impact of \$7,500 - Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters Regarding Town Council Appointments of Boards, Committees, and Commissions (Pursuant to Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][1])
2. Legal Advice Relating to Potential Legislation. (Pursuant to SC Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a][2])

XIII. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion made by Councilmember Frazier; Seconded by Councilmember Hamilton to appoint the following individuals Town of Bluffton's Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Hugh Williamson to the Beautification Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2026;

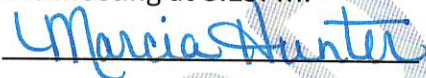
Jessical Navarro to the Realtor position on the Affordable Housing Committee with a term expiring June 30, 2027;

Will Howard to the Town Resident position on the Planning Commission with a term expiring June 30, 2028.

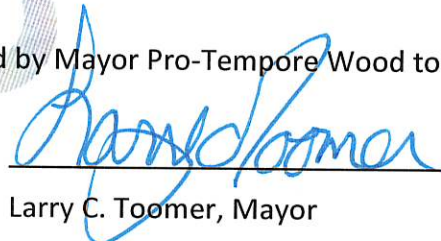
Town Council unanimously approved the appointment of members.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Councilmember Hamilton; Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tempore Wood to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM.



Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina



Larry C. Toomer, Mayor
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina