

Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee Meeting

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

August 19, 2025

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 6:00 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairperson Christy Parker

Vice Chair Sam Britt

Nate Pringle

Ellen Shumaker

Scott Thrasher

Jean Wilson

Michael Garibaldi

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2025

Motion to approve minutes as drafted made by Pringle, Seconded by Vice Chair Britt.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

Shannon Milroy, Budget & Procurement Manager, reported an increase of 5.1% in revenues during FY2025 over FY2024. Funds available for distribution equal \$657,128. There are seven (7) applications to consider this quarter totaling \$275,500 in requested funding.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Grant Application Q&A: Michael C. Riley High School Alumni Association - Project Face-Lift

Motion to recommend award of \$20,000, subject to final permitting, to Town Council made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Garibaldi.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers: Chair

Shumaker nominated and motioned for Christy Parker to remain as Chair of the committee. Seconded by Vice Chair Britt.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

2. Election of Officers: Vice-Chair

Garibaldi nominated and motioned for Sam Britt to remain as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Chairperson Parker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

3. Grant Application Q&A: Coastal Conservation Association - Celebrating Conservation Weekend in Bluffton

Motion to recommend award of \$10,000 to Town Council made by Thrasher, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

4. Grant Application Q&A: Society of Bluffton Artists - Getting the Word Out Part 2

Motion to recommend award of \$40,000 to Town Council made by Garibaldi, Seconded by Wilson.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

5. Grant Application Q&A: Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival Inc. - Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival

Motion to recommend award of \$80,000 to Town Council made by Wilson, Seconded by Shumaker.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

Voting Abstaining: Chairperson Parker

6. Grant Application Q&A: Campbell Chapel Community Development Ministry - Historic Campbell Chapel Restoration and Rehabilitation

Motion to recommend award of \$109,000 to Town Council made by Vice Chair Britt, Seconded by Pringle.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

7. Grant Application Q&A: Campbell Chapel AME Church - 162nd South Carolina Conference of the AME Church

Motion to recommend award of \$10,000 to Town Council made by Garibaldi, Seconded by Wilson.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

8. Grant Application Q&A: Historic Bluffton Foundation - Fall Tour of Homes

Motion to recommend award of \$6,500 to Town Council made by Thrasher, Seconded by Wilson.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

IX. DISCUSSION

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Pringle, Seconded by Vice Chair Britt.

Voting Yea: Chairperson Parker, Vice Chair Britt, Pringle, Shumaker, Thrasher, Wilson, Garibaldi

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

XI. NOTES:

- Town Council will review recommendations at the TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 P.M., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.