

# Regular Town Council Meeting

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

April 07, 2026

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Councilmember Frazier was absent from this meeting.

## **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Toomer

## **III. INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Wood.

## **IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

### **1. Regular Meeting Minutes of 03/10/2026**

Councilmember Wood noted a correction to the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes, as he was absent from that meeting. A scrivener's error occurred, and the minutes were corrected to reflect that the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Councilmember Frazier and seconded by Councilmember Burden.

A motion was made by Pro-tempore Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Wood to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of 03/10/2026, incorporating the correction noted by Councilmember Wood regarding the scrivener's error.

All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **V. PRESENTATIONS, CELEBRATIONS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

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

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, honored May River High School 11<sup>th</sup> - grade student, Kenneth Ford, for the character traits of honesty and integrity.

### **2. Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer**

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council, honored Teacher Appreciation Week with a proclamation for the week of May 4-8, 2026. The Education Committee and the League of Women Voters accepted the proclamation.

### **3. Volunteer Month Proclamation, Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine - Mayor Larry Toomer**

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council presented a National Volunteer Month Proclamation. Volunteers from Bluffton Jasper Volunteers in Medicine, Bluffton Self Help, and Legal Aid Volunteers accepted the proclamation.

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

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council presented the National Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month Proclamation. Members from Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) and Hopeful Horizons accepted the proclamation.

5. Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Mayor Larry Toomer

Mayor Larry Toomer, on behalf of Town Council presented a Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation to Hopeful Horizons member Larry Jones.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kerri Schmelter - 35 Bridge Street – Reported ongoing speeding, loud vehicle noise, and unsafe e-bike activity; requested traffic calming measures.

Debbie Wunder - 41 Bridge Street – Highlighted dangerous speeding along Bridge Street due to lack of stops; suggested speed bumps and increased enforcement.

Kim Ward - 48 Bridge Street – Noted traffic growth and conflicts between vehicles, bikes, and pedestrians; recommended visual narrowing and renewed enforcement.

Shere Colburn – Described worsening noise and speeding issues, including late-night disturbances; urged stronger action to protect residents.

Bob Colburn - 82 Boundary Street – Suggested lowering speed limits, adding signage, and addressing delivery truck noise and traffic issues.

Rusty Pistachio - 41 Bridge Street – Reported frequent stop sign violations and speeding; supported enforcement and traffic calming solutions.

Rochelle Jones – Announced the upcoming National Day of Prayer event, inviting the community to gather for prayer and unity at Veterans Memorial Park on Thursday, May 07, 2026.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Pro-tempore Hamilton – Extended well wishes to the community following the Easter holiday and offered a message of hope and blessing for all residents.

No communications were reported by Mayor Toomer or Councilmembers Wood and Burden.

## **VIII. WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Amendments to the Town of Bluffton's Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 23, Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), Article 4 - Zoning Districts and Article 5 – Design Standards to Establish a Planned Unit Development District for Village at Verdier and Related Standards, and to Add Appendix A to Include the Master Plan, Building and Sign Standards from the Soon-to-Expire Village at Verdier Development Agreement Workshop - Kevin Icard - Director of Growth Management

Staff provided an overview of the Village at Verdier Development Agreement, noting its upcoming expiration on December 17, 2026. Background information was



reviewed, including prior amendments affecting residential units, commercial square footage, and affordable housing requirements. Staff requested direction from Council to proceed with filing the notice of expiration and incorporating the development into the Unified Development Ordinance. Upcoming steps include a Planning Commission Workshop, coordination with affected POAs and residents, and subsequent Council readings. Council discussed remaining development rights, affordable housing obligations, and the need to ensure no additional density is added once the transition to the UDO occurs. Staff and legal will continue evaluating options as the agreement is finalized.

## **IX. PUBLIC HEARING & FINAL READING**

### **X. FORMAL AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Consideration of Public Financial Support for a Wall Art Mural by Amiri Faris at 89 Bridge Street with a Fiscal Impact of 50% of the Cost, Not to Exceed \$4,250 – Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager

A motion was made by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Mayor Pro-tempore Hamilton to approve the Public Financial Support for a Wall Art Mural by Amiri Faris at 89 Bridge Street with a Fiscal Impact of 50% of the Cost, Not to Exceed \$4,250.

Town Council unanimously approved and the motion passed.

2. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing an Economic Development Incentive Agreement between the Town of Bluffton and The Bluff Orthodontics, LLC - First Reading – David Nelems, Director of Special Projects, Don Ryan Center for Innovation

A motion was made by Councilmember Burden and seconded by Councilmember Wood to approve the first reading of an ordinance authorizing an Economic Development Incentive agreement between the Town of Bluffton and The Bluff Orthodontics, LLC.

Town Council unanimously approved the first reading of this ordinance.

3. Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2027 - Heather Colin, Assistant Town Manager

A motion made by Mayor Pro-tempore Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Burden to approve a Resolution to approve the Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2027.

Town Council unanimously approved the resolution.

4. Consideration of a Funding Request Supporting the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority - Natalie A. Majorkiewicz, Director of Finance & Administration and Mary Lou Franzoni, Interim Executive Director

Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority representative Mary Lou Franzoni presented a supplemental funding request for Fiscal Year 2026, noting a revised shortfall of \$93,000. She provided background on LRTA funding, urban versus rural transit funding sources, and described services offered in Bluffton, including commuter routes, Bluffton Breeze, ADA door-to-door service, and coordinated transportation. Councilmembers asked questions regarding ridership, route

effectiveness, year-over-year trends, and proportional funding. Council requested additional data, including ridership history and service breakdowns, before considering the supplemental request.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Burden to table the item requesting additional data, including ridership history and service breakdowns, before considering the supplemental request.

Town Council unanimously agreed to table the item pending additional information.

#### **XI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tempore Hamilton and seconded by Councilmember Burden to accept the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Town Council unanimously agreed to the motion to accept 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 Kinetic Art Sculpture Donation Created by Jim La Paso from Jill Kanatzar – Chris Forster, Assistant Town Manager
4. Consideration of Planning Commission Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Improvement Program Projects Prioritization - Pat Rooney, Capital Improvement Program Manager
5. Consideration of a Resolution to Accept the Updated Americans with Disability Act Transition Plan - Anni Evans, Director of Human Resources
6. 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 – Victoria Smalls, Director of Affordable Housing
7. Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Mayor Larry Toomer
8. Arbor Day Proclamation - Mayor Larry Toomer

#### **XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Legal Advice Relating to Obligations and Buckwalter Ninth Amendment. (Pursuant to SC Freedom of Information Act 30-4-70 [a] [2])

#### **XIII. ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action was taken during or after Executive Session.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wood and was seconded by Mayor Pro-tempore Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.





Marcia Hunter, Town Clerk  
Town of Bluffton, South Carolina



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



APPROVED

