

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Bluffton Town Council Unanimously Approves Public Sewer Connection and Extension Policy to Further Implement the Town's Priority to Provide Public Sewer Access to All Residents

Bluffton Town Council unanimously approved a resolution at its September 26 Town Council Meeting which adopts the Town of Bluffton Sewer Connection and Extension Policy.

This policy is the blueprint for how the Town will further implement Town Council's goal of providing public sewer access and connection for all Town residents. The policy is designed to address and implement four priorities which include Town of Bluffton strategic planning, regional coordination, Town of Bluffton code revisions/program development, and proactive community education and programs.

Plan Highlights include:

- Promote sanitary sewer extension projects throughout the Town's jurisdiction as part of the 5-year Capital Improvement Program projects until sanitary sewer is available and all residents are connected.
- Prioritize acquisition of roads with unclear ownership located in Bluffton and within 500 feet of the May River and Heyward, Huger and Verdier Coves to accommodate sanitary sewer extension construction projects.
- Explore partnerships with Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority (BJWSA) and Beaufort County to implement the May River Watershed Sewer Master Plan to eliminate septic systems throughout the May River Watershed which are outside the Town limits.
- Revise Town of Bluffton Code and develop programs which better address individual sewer connection hardships and incentivize resident connection.
- Develop a proactive community education program which provides residents with knowledge and skills to properly operate and maintain their septic systems until sanitary sewer is available throughout the next several years.

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- Respond to reported septic failures to ensure proper functioning to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and environment.

Larry Toomer, Mayor Pro Tempore and member of the May River Watershed Action Plan Advisory Committee (WAPAC), worked with the committee and the Town's Engineering Department, especially the Town's Watershed Management Division, to help establish the plan.

"As owner of a multi-generational business, the Bluffton Oyster Company, I see firsthand how delicate the May River is and how its health impacts every facet of the Bluffton way of life. I am pleased our committee has tackled this complex issue to arrive at a consensus recommendation for Town Council, which was unanimously approved."

Town Manager Marc Orlando said this Sewer Connection Policy is a major component of Town Council's strategic priority of protecting the May River and surrounding rivers and watersheds.

"Town Council's adoption of this policy sets the framework for all future Town actions related to sanitary sewer extension and connection within the May River Watershed and this policy is a crucial step to further protect the May River," Orlando said.

For more information about the Town's Sewer Connection and Extension Policy contact Bryan McIlwee, the Town's Director of Engineering, at (843) 706-7824 or [BMcIlwee@townofbluffton.com](mailto:BMcIlwee@townofbluffton.com).