



Town of Hilton Head Island TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

An Update from Town Manager Steve Riley 5/8/2020

Good afternoon Hilton Head Islanders,

We hope you have been enjoying time outdoors at our beaches and parks that are currently open. We will have more updates on beaches and parks after Town Council's virtual meetings on Tuesday, May 12. The following items will be considered:

- At the 1:30 p.m. Special Meeting, the proposed Ordinance 2020-12 to adopt a budget for the Town of Hilton Head Island, for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021.
- At the 2 p.m. Special Meeting, multiple ordinances and resolutions, and a discussion and possible actions related to Town beach and park access.

We are seeking public comment on these items. The ordinances and resolutions documents for consideration and back-up materials can be viewed at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/documents/>.

Please take a moment and submit your comments regarding these topics using our online comment portal at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov/opentownhall/>

The portal for public comment will close TWO (2) hours prior to the scheduled meeting start times to enable the Town Clerk to compile comments.

Both meetings will take place virtually using video and teleconferencing. We will live-stream the video on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TownofHiltonHeadIslandSC> and our website at <https://hiltonheadislandsc.gov>.

Connecting Our Community - Supporting Our Local Businesses

At the Town, we have shifted from emergency management mode to recovery mode. Just like you, we want to get our community back on track and safely reconnect with each other. As part of our recovery efforts, we have developed a Business Restoration Plan that focuses on four areas:

- (1) Business Assistance – Working with partners like the Beaufort County Economic Development Corporation, the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce and the Native Island Business and Community Affairs Association to ensure businesses are connected to resources as they begin to reopen.
- (2) Business Advocate - Helping local businesses retain their access to utilities and physical spaces.



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- (3) Tax Relief – Defer the collection of local business license fees and taxes. This is something we did early on as we dealt with this pandemic.
- (4) Obtain and Distribute Federal and State Funds – Ensure any currently available federal and state funds are distributed to businesses in need. Seek and apply for additional funds for local businesses.

The plan is available on our website. You will find a Business Resource List, which outlines a number of agencies and resources for business owners.

In addition, we are adding a community business resource inventory to our website where businesses can provide information about their services such as restaurant take-out and delivery, online sales, restricted shopping hours for seniors, discounts and other information to help the community good. This resource will open on Monday, May 11. At that time, businesses may complete a resource survey. You will need your business license number. We will review your information and list it on the Town's website as a community resource. It is our desire to help restaurants and retailers continue to do business while providing a resource for citizens to be notified of benefits and services.

May is National Bike Month

As Gold Level Bike Friendly Community, we join the League of American Bicyclists in celebrating May as National Bike Month. This celebration is motivation to get rolling again and ride more often. Bicycling makes us healthier and happier, two things that are always good for us and that are even more important in 2020. [#BikesUnite](#) us.

Keeping Up With COVID-19

For the latest update on COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and in Beaufort County, visit [SCDHEC.gov](https://www.scdhec.gov).

Complete Your Census and Boost Our Numbers

As of May 6, we had a self-response rate of 38.4 percent, slightly higher than last week's number. Those are households that have responded online, by phone or by mail. Of that number, 35.3 percent of households responded online, so we know that's the quickest way to complete the 2020 Census. Emergency situations like the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the importance of responding to the 2020 Census and the importance of census data. Your response helps shape decisions about how billions of dollars in federal funds flow into communities each year for the next 10 years for critical services like health care clinics, hospitals, EMTs and fire departments. So please go to [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov) and respond.



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Culture HHI

Culture HHI continues to offer virtual experiences on Facebook. Crafty Hour is 5 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. You get a behind the scenes tutorial on how artists create their wares. Also, at 11 a.m. every Thursday, parents can tune in with their kids for a live kids music show.

Support a Charity

Many organizations and agencies - from human services and recreation to arts, culture and history - have helped people with food, rent and utilities. They have also provided programs online to keep you engaged. They need your support to stay afloat and continue providing services.

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful mothers! I hope you enjoy your day on Sunday.