



TOWN OF HOLLYWOOD *South Carolina*

STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

July 1, 2022

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We, the Municipality and the Staff of Hollywood began July 2020 under the grave threat of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Following the Federal and State mandates, we followed procedures and closed the Town Hall & Senior Center to protect ourselves and the community. By working with Franklin C. Fetter Network and Charleston County, we brought both Covid-19 testing and vaccines to the Town of Hollywood.

Similar to the rest of the nation, we the council and staff found new ways to connect and engage. For example, Town Council members made the transition from in-person to virtual meetings. We also identified areas of improvement for effective communication.

The Pandemic is not over and the CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccines for everyone 6 months and older, and boosters for everyone ages 5 year and older. In collaboration with community leaders and clergy members vital up-to-date information regarding Covid-19 has been shared community-wide. As our nation moves forward, we will take lessons learned as a result of the pandemic to strengthen and unite our community.

In 2022, we now know that elements of Covid-19 continue to linger in our community. We have relaxed most of the protocols and thankfully the vaccines have saved lives. I have reopened our parks and buildings. Safety continues to be the primary concern as we restart living outside the fear of the pandemic.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Dunmyer, III".

Mayor John Dunmyer, III

In this 2022 State of the Town Address, we have outlined how we are committed to the community of Hollywood, South Carolina:

MUNICIPAL STAFF

- ◆ Redivision of responsibilities has allowed the Sewer Coordinator to work through the maintenance problems of our sewer system. Carolyn Simmons has excelled in her role and is in constant interaction with Carolina Lift, our maintenance contractor. She has requested various repairs to our pump system; this has resulted in an increase of productivity. She worked with our planner and engineer to successfully obtain a \$500,000 grant for enhancements to pump stations #6 and #7.
- ◆ The staff has continued to effectively respond to the public in a professional & courteous manner. Even the most difficult individual has praised the professionalism of the staff.
- ◆ The Planning Director has worked closely on a page-by-page review of the Comprehensive Plan with the Planning Commission. The Town Council has a plan that is a good path forward for smart growth with responsible planning.

TOWN INFRASTRUCTURE & RURAL PRESERVATION:

- ◆ SC Highway 162 and 165 paving was halted in 2020 due to Covid-19. Sanders Brothers Construction Company was awarded the contract to be completed by September 2022.
- ◆ SC Highway 162 has been completed and the sub-contractor will begin on driveways and connecting streets.

BUILDING PERMITS & BUSINESS LICENSES:

- ◆ Many municipalities had their staff work remotely during the pandemic. However, the Town staff was able to work in the office in spite of the challenges and produced incredible results.
- ◆ An expression of deep gratitude for the Town Clerk/Treasurer (Ms. Tynetta White) and the Permit Clerk (Ms. Tammy Haynes) for the constant engagement with the businesses and contractors of our Town.

ANNEXATIONS:

- ◆ Currently, we have 4 requests to annex into the Town of Hollywood. We welcome these annexations that help maintain the rustic (rural) beauty of our Town.
- ◆ The goal is to continue to connect with our neighboring properties to the South and West of the Town limits to join us in protecting our quality of life and the avoidance of over development of the land.

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION:

- ◆ Reverend Charles Linen gathered a group to work the ditches in Pineland and made a huge difference for the benefit of all. Baptist Hill Senior Class stepped in to clean up Salters Hill Road, Towles Road and SC Highway 162. They did a wonderful job. Mayor Pro Tem Salters has encouraged the Town Council to fund a quarterly contractor to handle the litter issues on SC Highway 162.
- ◆ SC DHEC has begun monthly travels through the Town of Hollywood to identify State Code violations.

LAND DEVELOPMENT:

- ◆ Through the strict adoption of Development Agreements, the Town Council has identified the timing and impact any new subdivisions will have on the residents.
- ◆ The Planning Commission has a new resolve to send forward worthy projects that responsibly grow the town. All commissioners provide a well balance of community knowledge.

PARKS:

- ◆ Our grounds staff maintained the 3 Parks (Pineland, Manor & Serenity) of Hollywood. SC grant money was utilized to make Pineland Park ADA compliant.
- ◆ A current project to build an ADA compliant restroom's at Serenity Park has started and should be completed by the end of 2022.
- ◆ Charleston County Parks continue to provide insight and will have a new vision for the SAP Park by 2023.
- ◆ Changes were made to the entrance of Trexel drive to Serenity Park

EDUCATION:

- ◆ Staff changes at Baptist Hill High School has been made to improve the students' performance and the quality of the student's education.
- ◆ Our graduating Bobcats endured a tremendous challenge due to the pandemic. The graduating class of 2022 will make exceptional leaders as they were able to adapt successfully to virtual learning.

SEWER SYSTEM:

- ◆ The worst year for the Town was 2018 when a pipe leaked into a stream which emptied into the Stono River. Our engineer, Mr. Mickey Seabrook has led the efforts to exceed compliance issues and plans that are needed for improvements. Carolina Lift Station contract was extended due to their effective repairs to the sewer system.
- ◆ The small sewer charge increases adopted by Town Council will continue to fund the repairs dictated by SC DHEC while we continue under a Consent Order.
- ◆ We are continuing to seek State and Federal funding to support future infrastructure.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY:

- ◆ A property tax will be the best way to pay down the fixed debts of the Town Hall, extend water lines, and partner with SC DOT to improve the roadways.
- ◆ The State of South Carolina seeks to take over the business license issuance in the coming year.
- ◆ By encouraging the developers to pay for the repairs and improvements to the sewer system, will eased the burden for the Town of Hollywood.

GRANTS:

- ◆ The Town continues to search for government grants from all sources. Charleston County is an exclusive source of funds from HUD and the Federal Government for repairs to housing.
- ◆ We hope to be more successful this year in obtaining grants to improve the quality of life for our residents.

SAFETY & PROVISION:

- ◆ The Town Council and I strive to keep Hollywood safe for all residents and visitors.
- ◆ Sergeant Harold Phillips of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office has retired after 31 years of service.
- ◆ The Town Council has done many great things to serve the residents of Hollywood; I appreciate their guidance and support.

QUALITY OF LIFE:

- ◆ Councilmember Michelle Heyward-Dunmeyer is actively involved with the administration for the Sheriff's Office. She has orchestrated a Unity in the Community event bringing the first responders to engage with the residents of Hollywood. Her July 3rd Fireworks event was a great show of community support for people within the St. Paul's area.
- ◆ The First Firework Show in Hollywood brought our community together
- ◆ The Town Senior Center upgrade has made a new and welcome for our seniors.