



TOWN OF
HOLLYWOOD
South Carolina

STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS

July 3, 2020

We, the Municipality and Staff of Hollywood began on July 3rd, 2019 with a shared vision inclusive of community for the Town's people. We have strategized how to continue to invest in our community for smart growth with responsible planning and rural preservation. This year we are facing unprecedented times due to the coronavirus health pandemic (COVID-19), but we are committed to adopting safe ways to keep our residents and visitors safe. We will continue to work hard in the days and years ahead, through team work and civic partnership with our community. In my devotion to servant leadership, I share with you the 2020 State of the Town Address. In this Address, we have outlined over the last year, how we have soared in priority areas of our town and remain united as a community.

John Dunmyer, III
Mayor of The Town of Hollywood

“Leadership with Character”

Municipal and Staff Restructure

I and the Council started with a new Planner. Mr. Roy DeHaven responded to my request and will serve the town well. I sought a new legal counsel, Mr. Dean Porter who had served the town in prior years. He brought the experienced guidance needed to resolve the legal concerns of Hollywood and move the town forward.

- In my experiences as Town Councilman for more than 20 years I did not comprehend how many daily phone calls, emails, requests, etc. received on a consistent basis. We now have created a streamlined system for quick responses and tailored procedures for meeting requests. We have also developed an additional layer of communication through a bi-annual Town newsletter.

Town Infrastructure & Rural Preservation

- **Highway Repaving.** Thanks to the many efforts of Mayor Pro Tem Townsend and Representative Robert Brown, a large portion of Highway 162 was repaved. Unfortunately, the SCDOT funding was cut by the State before the horrible sections of Highway 162 from Highway 165 to US 17 could be completed.
- **Building Permits and Business Licensures.** We had another record year for both main sources of revenue for the Town. An Expression of gratitude is extended to the Town Clerk (Ms. Tynetta White) and the Permit Clerk (Ms. Tammy Haynes) for the constant engagement with Charleston County to assist the applicants for permits and businesses doing business in our town.
- **Annexation.** We only had three requests this year to annex into the town. Any town that stops growing, normally has less than optimal outcomes for growth. I envision a concerted effort to find property owners South and West of our boundaries who wish to join us.
- **Town Beautification.** The beauty of our town is marred by some long-standing distasteful images and trash along our roadways. This year we plan to implement a new code enforcement with our partners at SC DHEC and Charleston County to clean up the properties that have become an eye sore.

- **Community Kindness.** I would like to thank the Town of Hollywood for your prayers for my family in the past year. We needed it as my mom began a battle with health issues that led to her death at our home in May. Her counsel was key to successes I have had in my life and her commitment to this community. I hope to continue to make her and my family proud through servant leadership in the town.
- **Land Development.** The Planning Commission has a key role in setting the pace of development and redevelopment. This year is the five-year review of the Comprehensive Plan to set a course over the next 5-10 years. Mr. Roy DeHaven has started the review process with the Planning Commission. The loss of Mr. Bert Moore, who served even when his health was failing, cost this town a unique perspective.
- **Parks.** Wide Awake Park needs the completion of the 8-year planned County Transportation Committee (CTC) funded Trexler Avenue improvements. The Manor Park needs improvements and repairs. The Pineland Park needs new equipment. All improvements will allow extra outdoor space for healthy recreation.

Additionally, the Sap Park plans have changed and I am working with Charleston County Parks to design a plan for the usage of the 200 acres. We are hopeful for an update on this plan by Town Council, early Spring 2021.

Education

Changes continue as the Charleston County School District shifts staff in an attempt to improve the poor test scores for our children. As a retired educator I know the difficulty in elevating some students to their learning potential. This year, the Town Council and I plan to host a job fair that will advance opportunities for high school students from our St. Paul's area.

- We are extremely proud of our graduating high school seniors and their achievement is worth celebrating. Our graduating Bobcats have persevered in the midst of these times with great steadfastness towards receiving their diplomas. We know they all have a great opportunity for a bright future and we are beyond ecstatic about the positive impacts they will make in society.

Sewage System

Through excellent advice, the Council and I met with our engineer, Mr. Mickey Seabrook, and determined the system could be fixed, but had to be maintained. Mr. Dean Porter, the town attorney with Town Council's approval went out to find additional capital. Bond financing was the best recourse. To fund the Bond and the many infrastructure projects we proposed a 4-mill property tax that was capped and could not be automatically increased. Mayor Pro Tem Townsend, the staff, and I spent the necessary time meeting with You, to hear about your concerns and in the end adding to the list of projects. As your Mayor, we will seek to reconcile previous issues in order to reduce any potential burden on residents. The future of the town seeks to meet resident needs. Nevertheless, we will need a property tax as indicated in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

Economic Sustainability

- **Finances.** The town will need to generate additional revenue to do more for the residents. The Town Hall expenses, Sewer compliance & maintenance expenses require long term funds. A property tax would provide the much-needed capital for infrastructure to repair the dangerous intersections, extend water lines, match grants, improve the parks, and move the Town forward.
- **Grants.** The town has contracted with a grant writer who has a 30-year track record of grant writing and administration. Due to COVID-19, our grant prioritizing sewage was not chosen as the State moved most of its surplus to COVID-19 related programs. We hope to be successful next year of obtaining grants to improve the quality of life for the Town of Hollywood residents.

Safety and Provision

The Town Council and I strive to keep Hollywood a safe place for all residents and visitors. We have noticed that the racing on Storage Road continues, we will continue to advocate to the Sheriff's Office in regards to any gambling, drug engagement, and late-night noise. In addition, we hope to elevate additional patrol and community action in Poplar Grove, Stono Ferry, and the Manor. We will look to you, our residents and community, to support the advocacy of safe neighborhoods.

COVID-19

All Americans have hoped for better news about COVID-19 and the cure. Today, the Town of Hollywood, SC joins with many other municipalities and counties in the fight to limit the spread of the virus. I have placed a Third Declaration of a State of Emergency to extend throughout July 21st, 2020.

- The Town of Hollywood leadership is monitoring Federal, State and County official updates. We are engaging with other local leaders to share this information and have increased the amount of information shared with residents on our town website. Our recent engagement has extended towards our community clergy and local Mayors in Ravenel, Megget, and Edisto to garner strategies to work together against the virus.
- The town has placed signs throughout our community, **WEAR YOUR MASK.**
- To deepen our strategies for the town and the COVID-19 spread, we have continued to conduct virtual Town Council meetings on the 4th Monday of each month and the Planning Commission on the 2nd Thursday of each month.