## Town hosting public session on stormwater ordinance update

By Frank Morris

frank.morris@blufftontoday.com

Bluffton town officials have called a public "stakeholders meeting" on Tuesday about major changes proposed for the stormwater ordinance affecting property owners and developers.

The meeting is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Town Hall, 20 Bridge St.

Officials will present the draft update to the ordinance designed "to limit the post development hydrology to pre-development levels with regard to temperature, rate, volume, and duration of flow. The purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed changes to the stormwater ordinance," a town news release said.

The Town Council unanimously gave the proposed change preliminary approval on first reading on Oct. 20 and is waiting for more input and information before a final vote for adoption.

"Experts in water quality from across South Carolina, including Fred Holland retired director for NOAA's Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, have identified freshwater runoff entering estuarine systems as a contributor to the degradation of the state's coastal water bodies. With this understanding, the proposed update to the town's stormwater ordinance is expected to lead to the further protection of our outstanding natural resources," according to the release.

"Representatives from the development community representatives and local residents are encouraged to attend this important stakeholders meeting."

The draft ordinance update can be found on the town's Web site, www.townofbluffton. com.

For more information, contact Jeff McNesby, environmental projects engineer, at 706-4522 or jmcnesby@townofbluffton. com.