

The Edisto Beach Comber

August, 2012

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH NEWSLETTER, EDISTO BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

www.townofedistobeach.com - 843-869-2505

MONTHLY MEETINGS

TIDE Committee	09/05	10:00 am
Council WkSess	09/11	10:00 am
Municipal Court	09/13	2:00 am
Town Council	09/13	6:00 pm
ZBA Meeting	09/17	5:00 pm
PC WkSess	09/19	4:00 pm
Planning Comm	09/25	5:00 pm

FROM THE DESK OF THE POLICE CHIEF

Hurricane Evacuation and Recovery



Evacuation: If a hurricane is approaching, you should make your preparations to secure your property before or during an evacuation. Once a **mandatory** evacuation order goes into effect, a check point will be set up on Hwy SC 174 at the True Value Hardware Store. At that time, no traffic will be allowed to come on the beach. All traffic will be leaving the island. The earlier you leave, the less traffic you will encounter. If anyone needs help in evacuating, call Town Hall at 869-2505. During a mandatory evacuation, you will only be able to drive toward Walterboro. Remember, if you decide not to evacuate, upon the evacuation of the Town Officials, there will be no emergency services. Also, a curfew will be in effect and you will be required to stay at your residence until Town Officials rescind the curfew.

Recovery: Remember to take with you proof of residency such as driver's license or voter's registration card with the Edisto Beach address. Property owners should bring proof such as water bill, electric bill, etc. Everyone should call Town Hall (843 869-2505) or the Colleton County Emergency Operations Center (843 542-2958) prior to returning to the beach to see if access is permitted. Access will be given in the following order: Initial Assessment Safety Team, Assessment Team, Emergency Personnel and Workers as designated by the Town, Permanent Residents, Property Owners and Business Owners, Construction Workers, etc. and then the general public. The decision of who may return and on what basis will be decided by the Town's governing body as a whole. Personnel at the check point will not have the authority to make any special exceptions.

BEACH SWEEP/RIVER SWEEP



Come and enjoy the beach and rivers but take back what you bring! Join us September 15, 2012 for Beach/River Sweep 9:00 AM to 12 NOON. Register at first beach access and bring paperwork back to state park at the first shelter house entrance across from Piggly Wiggly. These events are free and we even supply the bags and gloves. They're an easy way to do something good for our beaches and ocean and to raise public awareness of issues like littering and protection of our marine resources. Students can receive community service hour's credits for this activity. FRESpace will sponsor a luncheon afterward at beautiful Edisto State Park.

For more information please contact Ida Tipton 869-4422.

TOWN HALL CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe and wonderful holiday weekend!

EDISTO RECIPES

Since the next 8 months have the letter "r" in them, it's time to start thinking about oysters. The following recipe sounds like a real winner.



SCALLOPED OYSTERS

3 cups crushed saltine crackers
¾ cup unsalted butter, melted
4 cups shucked small oysters with liquid
1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
Salt & pepper to taste
2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
1 cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 375°. Combine saltine crackers and butter in a bowl; stir until all crumbs are saturated with butter. Spread 1/3 of the saltines mixture in the bottom of a 9X13 inch casserole dish. Pour half of the oysters with their liquid over the saltines mixture. Season with cayenne pepper, salt and pepper. Repeat with next 1/3 of the saltines and remaining oysters. Season with remaining peppers and salt and the parsley. Sprinkle remaining saltines mixture over the oysters and drizzle cream slowly and evenly over the top. Bake in the preheated oven until bubbling and browned, approximately 40 to 45 minutes. Let rest 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

BEACHCOMBER TREASURES



OYSTERS

The word "oyster" is used as a common name for a number of distinct groups of bivalve mollusks which live in marine habitats. The valves are highly calcified. Some kinds of

oyster are commonly consumed, cooked or raw, by humans.

Oysters are filter feeders, drawing water in over their gills through the beating of cilia. Suspended plankton and particles are trapped in the mucus of a gill, and from there are transported to the mouth, where they are eaten, digested and expelled. An oyster can filter up to 1.3 gallons of water per hour. Excess sediment, nutrients, and algae can result in the eutrophication of a body of water. Oyster filtration can mitigate these pollutants.

A group of oysters is commonly called a bed or oyster reef. Oyster beds provide habitat for many marine species. The hard surfaces of oyster shells and the nooks between the shells provide places where a host of small animals can live. Hundreds of animals such as sea anemones, barnacles, and hooked mussels inhabit oyster beds. Many of these animals are prey to larger animals, including fish such as striped bass, black drum and croakers. An oyster bed can increase the surface area of a flat bottom 50 fold.

Middens found worldwide testify to the prehistoric importance of oysters as food. Edisto Beach has its own midden located in the state park. The word midden means "refuse heap", and the earlier settlers here at Edisto evidently ate a lot of oysters in their diet as evidenced from the size of our midden.

Oysters are harvested by simply gathering them from their beds. In very shallow waters they can be gathered by hand or with small rakes. In somewhat deeper water, long-handled rakes or oyster tongs are used to reach the beds. In some areas a scallop dredge is used. The dredge is towed through an oyster bed by a boat, picking up the oysters in its path. Oysters can also be collected by divers.

In any case, when the oysters are collected, they are sorted to eliminate dead animals, unwanted catch and debris. Then they are taken to market where they are either canned or sold live.

It was once assumed that oysters were only safe to eat in months with the letter "r" in their names. This is a myth whose basis in truth is that in the northern hemisphere oysters are much more likely to spoil May – August.

MINUTES
JULY 12, 2012
COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M.

Present: Burley L. Lyons, Mayor, Larry "Babe" Hutto, Mayor Pro Tempore, Pete Anderson, Jane S. Darby and Tommy Mann, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*
 Mayor Lyons welcomed guests and thanked all who served the Town of Edisto Beach.

Council Session opened with a word of prayer by Mayor Lyons, who also led those present in the *Pledge of Allegiance.*

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Mann moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2012. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Hutto moved to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2012. Councilman Mann seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Proclamations and Presentations

Achievement Award Video

Mayor Lyons told the audience about the Town receiving the Municipal Association's Annual Achievement Award, and then the video was played for the audience. Mayor Lyons also thanked Mr. Bob Foster for the construction of the shelf that the award is sitting on.

Mayor Lyons read the letter from FEMA congratulating the Town on the improved CRS rating.

Old Business

Update on Unsafe Surf Conditions

Mayor Lyons and public safety staff met with Phil Cromer from the Municipal Association on July 3 to gather information regarding unsafe surf conditions and potential solutions. Mr. Cromer discussed how the Town is protected under the SC Recreational Use Statute. If the Town executes a program, this statute is no longer valid. He briefly discussed what other coastal communities in South Carolina do such as lifeguard franchises, marine rescue, lifeguard flags, etc. and some advantages and

disadvantages of each. The following matrix provides an outline of each:

Process	Advantages	Disadvantages
Lifeguard flags	Provides information to the public regarding surf conditions.	How to address issue of color blindness? Ability to see from all places on beach? Logistics of changing flags as conditions change which could be at any time? Explanation what flags mean. Would have to post online and on Channel 2 each time conditions change. Cannot use recreational use statute. Flags are not standardized, can be confusing. Would State Park participate?
Lifeguard Franchise	Provides the highest standard of care for swimmer safety. Shifts liability from Town to contractor. Can be funded by Tourist taxes.	Costly. What areas would be covered and how would areas be decided? Cannot use recreational use statute, if implemented.
Marine Response	May be possible to use recreational use statute if limited to response only.	Education to make sure this is perceived as response and not prevention. Training would need to be US Lifeguard rescue certified. Injuries to staff are common. Training needs to be ongoing.

Mr. Cromer recommended, regardless of what type of program is established, the Town install signage about rip tides at beach

accesses to educate the public. He recommended the Town request a review of the program by a risk management attorney so the attorney can outline risks associated with proposal. Any program would require an ordinance for implementation.

Councilman Hutto stated that he thinks the Town should keep things the way they are now, and not try to implement any type of life saving program. Mayor Lyons stated that the beach is different now because there are so many more people who come here, and somewhere down the line, Council may have to make the decision to provide some kind of protection. Councilman Mann stated that he supports Councilman Hutto's position on the issue, but he also wants to state that if the State Park wants to get on board with some kind of protection program, they need to fund their share of the program. It shouldn't all be at the expense of the Town of Edisto Beach taxpayers. Mayor Lyons agreed with Councilman Mann. Mayor Lyons stated that there would be no decision made on this issue at this time.

Update on Reverse Osmosis Study

Staff met with URS on June 4, 2012 about the progress of the reverse osmosis study. At this meeting, URS provided staff with an update on the progress of the study and gave staff the opportunity to provide input prior to finalization of the report. Several questions were raised at this meeting including, but not limited to, placement of ASR wells, additional wells, location of RO unit and discharge. Staff also asked about the potential to phase portions of the project to control costs and asked URS to provide costs for chillers rather than cooling water through transmission lines. In order to meet the deadline to add a referendum to the November 2012 ballot, all information is required and an ordinance must be approved by August 2012. This is not feasible. Administration recommends all questions and avenues be explored regarding Reverse Osmosis prior to final submittal of report for consideration by committees, Council and referendum.

New Business/Appearances

Approved: Emergency Operations Plan

Staff met to review the Town's Emergency Operations plan and made necessary changes. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Emergency Operations Plan. Councilman

Hutto seconded them motion, which carried unanimously.

Approved: Social Media Proposal

Councilman Mann moved to approve the proposal submitted by staff to implement a Facebook page for the Town of Edisto Beach. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approved: Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws

Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department Bylaws. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approved: Special Event Application

Jennie Smith has requested that Council waive the security deposit of \$500.00 for the use of the Bay Creek Park for her son's wedding October 13, 2012. Councilwoman Darby stated that Ms. Smith doesn't wish to waive the fees, but only the security deposit, and she does not have a problem with waiving the security deposit. Councilman Mann asked Patrick Brown, the Town's Building Official, when Ms. Smith would have to give the \$500 security deposit. Mr. Brown told Council that the Building department already has a check from Ms. Smith. Councilman Anderson stated that Ms. Smith said she was going to rent the park either way. Councilman Mann said that in light of the fact that the fees were recently revised and reduced, he was going to move to deny the request to waive the security deposit. Councilman Anderson seconded the motion. Mayor Lyons asked for discussion. Councilman Anderson stated that if the Town waives the security deposit for one person, they should waive it for everyone. Councilwoman Darby said since Ms. Smith is a business owner and a resident, and her tax dollars have contributed to the park, the fee should be waived for her. Councilman Hutto stated that he has no problem with waiving the security deposit, but he wanted to make sure all other fees are paid. Mayor Lyons called for a vote. The vote was 2 to 3 with Mayor Lyons, Councilwoman Darby and Councilman Hutto opposed. Councilman Hutto moved to approve Ms. Smith's request for Council to waive the security deposit of \$500.00 for the use of Bay Creek Park for her son's wedding on October 13, 2012. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, the vote carried 3 to 2 with Councilmen Anderson and Mann opposed.

Denied: Purchase of 4-Wheeler from Vehicle Replacement Fund

The condition of the Town’s beach patrol vehicle is such that it will likely not make it through the summer season and needs to be replaced. Approval was requested from Council to purchase a four wheeler ATV from the Vehicle/Equipment replacement fund to replace this vehicle. Councilwoman Darby moved to delay the purchase of a new ATV, and look at shortening the depreciation schedule for the Beach Patrol vehicle. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion. Mayor Lyons stated that although the season is half over, he is a strong supporter of Beach Patrol because of all the Beach Patrol does to protect the beach. Councilman Mann agreed that the Town should delay the purchase of a new ATV, because currently funds are not available to purchase a new one. He also stated that he wants to review the beach patrol program and see if it can be improved upon. The vote carried 4 to 1, with Mayor Lyons opposed.

Committee Vacancies

Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

There were three vacancies on the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board: 1-hospitality; 1-arts and culture; 1-hospitality/accommodations. The Town received four applications to fill these vacancies. The current terms expire on August 1, 2012. Council selected, by ballot, Charlie Vincent for the hospitality sector, Anne Vaughan for the arts and culture sector and Alex Pournelle for the hospitality/lodging sector.

Water/Wastewater Committee

There is a vacancy on the Water/Wastewater Committee. The Town received two applications to fill this vacancy. Council selected, by ballot, Bill Houston to fill this vacancy.

Approved: Zoning Board of Appeals

Councilman Mann moved to approve the publishing of two upcoming vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. These positions are held by Reddick Bowman and Gerald Jones. Mr. Jones is eligible serve another term. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports and Committee Updates
Administration

The finance report was presented by Iris Hill, Town Administrator for the month ending June 30, 2012.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	97.85 %	90.04 %
Water Fund	95.17 %	84.66 %
Wastewater Fund	77.86 %	78.88 %

Fire Department

The Fire Department report for the month of June 2012 was given by Iris Hill, Town Administrator.

Calls	June-11	June-12	YTD
Medical	37	34	242
Fire-related	9	3	27
Public Assistance	32	42	204
Beach Wheel Chairs	13	16	81

Police Department Report

The Police Department report was presented by Chief Coffey for the month of June 2012.

	June-11	June-12	YTD
Citations	20	17	205
Speeding	15	4	116
Warnings	96	107	1,027
Alarm Calls	18	18	212
Calls for 2 or More Officers	16	11	87
Miles Patrolled	9,327	7,107	94,006
Assaults	2	0	8
Larcenies	6	7	78
Burglaries	0	1	25
Incidents & Calls for Service	166	138	1,182
Golf Cart Violations	1	1	6
Domestic Violence Calls	2	0	1
Property Checks	1,517	1,005	14,432
Open Container		3	5

D.U.I.	0	3
Town Parking Citations	2	2
Disorderly Conduct	1	2
Call	7	1

	June-11	June-12	YTD
Mowed Acres	30	30	360
Cleaned Ditches (miles)	0	4	51
Roll Carts Delivered	12	20	142

Building Department Report

The Building Department report was presented by Patrick Brown, Building Official, for the month of June 2012.

	June-11	June-12	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$1,997	\$9,983	263,014
New Construction Permits	0	0	4
Other Permits	42	28	318
Permit Fees	\$3,081	\$2,411	38,049
Inspections	114	119	1,091

Utilities Department

The Utilities Department report for the month of June 2012 was given by Bob Doub, the Utilities Director.

	June-11	June-12	YTD
Pumped MG Water Treated MG Wastewater	21.75 MG	26.59 MG	209.68 MG
Water Line Repairs	4.84 MG	6.07 MG	56.04 MG
Work Order Repairs	119	2	660
	98	198	1,529

During the month of June, the Utilities department replaced or installed five water meters and repaired two water leaks. They also conducted lift station, well, vehicle, equipment grounds and building maintenance.

Public Works

This report was presented by the Utilities Director, Bob Doub for the month of June 2012.

During the month of June, the Public Works department repaired five potholes, replaced one sign and repaired one beach walk over. They also trimmed limbs along the roadways that were blocking signage, maintained the three parks and 38 beach accesses, filled dog waste boxes and installed a new kiosk on the Vine Street bike path to replace the old one that had deteriorated.

The Edisto Chamber of Commerce report for the Month of June was given by Dan Carter.

Signed in to Speak

There was no one signed in to speak.

Councilman Mann moved to go into executive session. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Mann moved to exit executive session. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilman Mann moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Hutto seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and place of the Council Meeting on Friday, July 6, 2012.