

# The Edisto Beach Comber

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH NEWSLETTER, EDISTO BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

(843) 869-2505 January 2015 – website: [www.townofedistobeach.com](http://www.townofedistobeach.com)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

TIDE Committee	02/04	10:00 am
ATAX Meeting	02/05	4:00 pm
ZBA Meeting	02/09	5:00 pm
Council WkSess	02/10	10:00 am
Municipal Court	02/12	2:00 pm
Town Council	02/12	6:00 pm
Planning WkSess	02/18	4:00 pm
Planning Comm	02/24	5:00 pm

## TOWN HALL 2015 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

New Year's Day	Jan 01
Martin Luther King Day	Jan 19
President's Day	Feb 16
Good Friday	Apr 03
Confederate Memorial Day	May 11
National Memorial Day	May 25
Independence Day	July 03
Labor Day	Sept 07
Columbus Day	Oct 12
Election Day	Nov 03
Veteran's Day	Nov 11
Thanksgiving	Nov 26 & 27
Christmas	Dec 24 & 25

## FAIRNESS IN LODGING ACT

Last year the South Carolina General Assembly enacted the Fairness in Lodging Act, providing municipalities and counties additional enforcement authority to ensure the payment of the Local Accommodations Tax. Property owners who provide lodging accommodations for tourists, and fail to remit the Local Accommodations Tax, could be subject to a one-time civil penalty of not less than five hundred, or more than two thousand dollars for each seven days a single property was rented. If your property is rented, please call Maxine Burton, at 843-869-2505 x 214 to receive additional information regarding this tax and business license requirements. If you rent both through a rental company, and also on a direct basis, you are responsible for collecting and remitting the sales and accommodation taxes on the rents not collected by the rental company. Property owners who are providing accommodations to transients directly, or through the internet, and failing to collect and remit local and state taxes, are competing unfairly against those who meet their legal obligations.

Town Hall will be closed in observance of holiday



PRESIDENT'S DAY, Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

## EDISTO RECIPES

### Valentine's Pie



- 1 (8 oz) cream cheese
- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (9 in) graham cracker crust
- 1 (16 oz) can cherry pie filling

Beat cream cheese and powdered sugar with electric mixer until combined. Add vanilla and beat 2 minutes. Gently fold in whipped topping. Put mixture into pie crust and top with the cherry pie filling. Refrigerate for at least one hour before serving. Enjoy!

**Remember your sweetheart on Valentine's Day,  
February 14<sup>th</sup>**



**MINUTES**  
**December 11, 2014**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Burley L. Lyons, Mayor, Jane S. Darby, Mayor Pro Tempore, Pete Anderson, Susan Hornsby and Patti Smyer, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Mayor Lyons welcomed guests and thanked all who served the Town of Edisto Beach. He wished those in attendance a Merry Christmas.

Council Session opened with the *Pledge of Allegiance* and a word of prayer by Councilwoman Hornsby.

**Approval of Minutes**

Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the Special Council Meeting minutes of November 12, 2014. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of November 13, 2014. Councilwoman Darby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Proclamations and Presentations**

A Starfish Award was presented to Nancy Fitzgerald at the Council Worksession on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 for exemplary service. Mrs. Fitzgerald prepared hotdogs for the vendors at Bay Creek Park at an end of the season celebration.

Mayor Lyons recognized the Edisto Beach Police Department for being named a 2014 South Carolina Outstanding Traffic Safe Community by the AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety. Sargent Lee Hanley accepted the award in a ceremony on November 12, 2014 in Columbia. A plaque was presented, and will be hung in council chambers.

Mayor Lyons thanked Matthew Kizer and Edisto Realty for the generous donation of a live Christmas tree, displayed at Bay Creek Park and to be officially lighted following the Edisto Beach Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

Mayor Pro Tem Jane Darby recognized the Mayor's upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday and those in attendance stood and sang Happy Birthday.

**Old Business**

**A. Water Quality and Capacity** – The Water and Sewer Committee met on November 18, 2014 and has incorporated the Council's four concerns into the RFQ. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the following: 1) issuing the RFQ January 19, 2015, 2) approving up to \$100,000 from the water R & R for Phase I of the RFQ, 3) appointing a selection committee and 4) engaging an independent technical consultant. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion. Mayor Lyons has appointed Councilwoman Smyer to the selection committee. Councilwoman Smyer expressed several concerns, including the consideration of infrastructure needs of the Town; specifically the 2008 EarthTech master plan that identified three problems: the Point Street waterline (completed), the Jungle Shores project (in permitting process) and the section between Cheehaw and Dorothy Streets. Councilwoman Smyer would like to see the Town have plans in the RFQ to take care of all those things going forward with water quality. She also mentioned the problem with the Scott Creek/Docksite sewer system. There is a study currently underway to determine what needs to be done there. Councilwoman Smyer told those in attendance that Council should keep the concerns of homeowners in mind throughout the process and pledged to do that first and foremost while considering the plan and urged citizens to contact her with thoughts and concerns. Councilwoman Darby stated that the only way to move forward is to have a plan in place with firm prices and facts. By issuing the RFQ, Council does not necessarily obligate the Town to go beyond the planning stage. Councilman Anderson added that Council needed to realize they were voting on the water quality and capacity. He expressed his continued concern over the water quality and stressed the need for addressing it. Mayor Lyons called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**B. First Reading of Ordinance 2014-24 to Amend Section 10-37 of the Town's Code to Adopt Subsection (j) regarding shovels on the beach** – Council deferred this item in October and directed the Beachfront Management Committee to provide their input. Subsequently, the recommendation of the Beachfront Management Committee was to enforce section 10-37(f) regarding hole depth (12 inches) and to not regulate shovels on the beach. Councilman Anderson moved to approve the recommendation of the Beachfront Management Committee to enforce the current ordinance and not place any further regulations on shovels on the beach. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion. Mayor Lyons stated that he thought the problem

could be solved by the Beach Patrol and overseen, if necessary, by the Town's Police Department. Councilwoman Smyer stated she feels that there should be restrictions on type and size of shovels allowed on the beach, however, she would be satisfied if the Police Department and the Beach Patrol are able to monitor and enforce the current ordinance. Councilwoman Smyer expressed concern that this may not be feasible during the tourist season and the issue may need to be revisited. Mayor Lyons called for the vote and the motion was passed 4 - 1 with Councilwoman Smyer opposed.

**C. Civic Center** – Mayor Pro Tem Jane Darby and Town Administrator Iris Hill met with the Colleton County Administrator on December 3, 2014 to discuss an agreement to accept management of the facility beginning January 1, 2015. Direct assistance to Edisto Beach would begin on July 1, 2015 and would be on a one-year renewable basis. Councilwoman Darby stated that new information had been recently received from the Town Attorney which Council had not had time to review. Councilwoman Darby moved to defer action until the January Council meeting so that Council can review all information. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion. Councilwoman Smyer asked if it was possible to get some exact figures from Colleton County on the cost to the Town. Administrator Hill stated that Councilwoman Hornsby had requested records from the previous two years. The Mayor called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyons took this opportunity to relay his recent conversation with U.S. Senator Mark Sanford to those in attendance. Senator Sanford is "most willing" to come to Edisto Beach to speak with Council to formulate a plan together to secure funding for beach renourishment. Mayor Lyons briefed the Senator on Senator Campsen's suggestion that area beaches band together to lower the cost of transporting equipment. The Mayor read excerpts from a letter received from Lindsey Graham offering his help in any way.

### **New Business/Apearances**

**A. Resolution 2014-R28 "Drive-on" Dock** – The Fire Department has requested consideration of a "drive-on" dock for the rescue boat at Bay Creek Park. This type of dock would reduce maintenance costs and improve response time. A "drive-on" dock allows the boat to be docked at Bay Creek Park out of the water so barnacles do not damage the hull. Because it is drive on and

off, it takes less time than conventional docking. Administration asked Senator Campsen for funding suggestions and he recommended the Water Recreation Fund for purchase of this asset. The Delegation will be meeting on December 15, 2014 to vote on this funding request. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve Resolution 2014-R28, seconded by Councilman Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Justice Assistance Grant** – The Police Department applied for and was awarded a Department of Public Safety, Justice Assistance Grant Program grant for a fixed mount Digital Vehicular Repeater System (DVRS) mounted on the Edisto Beach Water Tower to provide additional portable radio communication coverage in the Town. The grant was modified to purchase one portable antenna. In the event of a power outage due to a large scale incident, the Town could quickly erect the antenna and provide coverage. The grant amount is \$25,189 and the Town's match is \$2,519, which is available in the current FY2014-15 budget. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Police Department's acceptance of the Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,189 with the Town's match of \$2,519. The motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson and approved unanimously.

**C. Strategic Business Plans** – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the strategic business plans of the Administration, Building, Fire, Police, Public Works and Utilities Departments. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion and thanked the department heads for their hard work. Mayor Lyons called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Vacancies**

**A. Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals** – There are currently four vacancies on the Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals. David Salter has applied for one of the vacancies. Councilwoman Darby moved to appoint Mr. Salter to the board. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**B. Water and Sewer Committee** – There is one vacancy on the Water and Sewer Committee. Jody Kleckley has submitted an application. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve Mr. Kleckley's application, seconded by Councilwoman Darby. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TIDE Committee** – Mary Edna Keller’s term on The Image and Design of Edisto Committee expires in February 2015. Mrs. Keller is eligible to serve another term.

**Planning Commission**

**A. Zoning Ordinance Rewrite** – Council is being provided with the Planning Commission recommendations regarding Chapters 62, 71 and 86. These revisions were unanimously approved for Council consideration. Per Council instructions, this will be on the agenda in February 2015, for your consideration. This allows Council two months for review. Councilman Anderson moved to have the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite put on the January 2015 agenda. The motion died from lack of a second.

**B. Comprehensive Plan 5 Year Review** – Since there are no substantive changes, the Planning Commission is not recommending any changes at this time. The vote was 4 – 1 with Mr. Cannon dissenting. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hornsby and passed unanimously.

**Accommodations Tax Advisory Board**

**A. Edisto United – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Edisto Eats and Ultimate Chef Competition, \$5,460** – The ATAX Board unanimously recommended approval of \$5,460 for this event scheduled for March 28, 2015 in the parking lot by McConkey’s Jungle Shack. Councilwoman Darby moved to approve no more than \$5,460 for Edisto United from ATAX funds provided and specifically conditioned on Edisto United signing an agreement to remit to the Town any funds received by Edisto United from sponsorships obtained by or on behalf of the Town, if any, to reimburse the ATAX expenditure. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and was approved unanimously.

**B. Lowcountry & Resort Tourism Commission – Promotion of Edisto Beach and the Lowcountry, \$17,500** – The ATAX Board recommends \$6,000 for this application with a 4 to 3 vote. Councilwoman Hornsby moved to not approve the ATAX Board’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Darby with the desire to convey to the Commission that because we have a goal of renourishing the beach, it just isn’t possible this year. Councilwoman Darby urged the Commission to apply again in the future. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Departmental Reports and Committee Updates**

**Water and Sewer Committee Update**

Chairman Ray Johnson updated Council on the Committee. Mr. Johnson thanked Council for the earlier approval of the request to move forward with the RFP. The Committee met on November 18, 2014 and agreed on the RFQ document. Mr. Johnson explained that infrastructure aspects are not addressed in the RFQ, but that those aspects are a parallel issue that is not within the scope of the RFQ. Administrator Hill and Utilities Director Doub currently have a list from earlier studies, part of which has already been budgeted. Other items are planned for later years. Mr. Johnson told Council that Mr. Doub had updated the Committee on the Scott Creek/Docksite issue. The information has been given to the consultants and the Committee is waiting on a proposal to come back from the consultants. The valve replacement is in process. The SCADA system is being considered for re-bidding. The grit chamber is on order. Jungle Shores has had permits signed and sent to the consultant.

**Beachfront Management Committee**

Chairman David Cannon updated Council on the Committee. The Committee met on November 21, 2014. They discussed the issue of holes on the beach and the motion was made and approved that the current ordinance be enforced and no further changes be made. The Committee also discussed the status of the renourishment permit application. The report was submitted on schedule by Coastal Science Engineering. The Committee has requested to preview the application, and Administrator Hill has asked CSE’s Steven Traynum to comply with that request.

**Administration**

Town Administrator Iris Hill gave the financial report for November 2014.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	35.82%	47.26%
Water Fund	26.76%	32.73%
Wastewater Fund	29.32%	38.27%

Building

Patrick Brown, Building Codes Official, gave the report for November 2014 and wished Council Merry Christmas.

	Nov-13	Nov-14	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$1,355	\$1,022	\$8,920
New Construction Permits	1	0	3
Other Permits	26	17	79
Permit Fees	\$4,564	\$1,145	\$14,692
Inspections	41	37	231
Bay Creek Park	\$160	\$150	\$9,285

Fire

Fire Chief Denney Conley wished Council a Merry Christmas and gave the report for the month ending November 30, 2014. Councilwoman Hornsby thanked Chief Conley for the department's welfare check program.

Calls	Nov-13	Nov-14	YTD
Medical	20	11	131
Fire-related	4	5	25
Public Assistance	19	2	234
Beach Wheel Chairs	3	0	60
Water Rescue	-	0	8

Public Works

Bob Doub, Public Works Director, gave the report for the month of November, 2014. One of the public works department members, Walter Hutchinson, has been absent because of surgery. Other employees restocked dog boxes and cleaned beach accesses and readied Christmas decorations for Palmetto Boulevard.

	Nov-13	Nov-14	YTD
Mowed Acres	0	0	274
Cleaned Ditches	11,411ft	0ft	15,043ft
Roll Carts Delivered	5	8	51

Police

Chief of Police Bill Coffey gave the November 2014 report.

	Nov-13	Nov-14	YTD
Citations	65	32	135
Speeding	62	23	75
Warnings	97	73	494
Alarm Calls	27	26	75
Calls for 2 or More Officers	16	10	54
Miles Patrolled	8,331	8,375	41,091
Assaults	0	0	6
Larcenies	5	0	30
Burglaries	1	0	2
Incidents & Calls for Service	174	183	701
Golf Cart Violations	0	0	11
Domestic Violence Calls	0	0	0
Property Checks	2,859	2,007	7,772
Open Container	1	0	7
D.U.I.	-	0	2
CDV Arrest	-	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	6

Utilities

Utilities Director Bob Doub gave the report for the month ending November 30, 2014 and wished Council Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Jason Hannon has been hired as a new Operator Trainee. The Utilities Department and the Fire Department had the annual flow testing done on all hydrants, which is required annually for the fire department and every three years for the water department. All Utilities operators attended a six hour asbestos refresher course. The department also read meters in preparation of the December billing.

	Nov-13	Nov-14	YTD
Pumped MG Water Treated	12.79	8.93	86.40
Wastewater	4.56	2.96	24.67
Water Line Repairs	4	4	20
Work Order Repairs	108	50	495

## Chamber of Commerce

Dan Carter, Executive Director of the Edisto Chamber, gave the report for the month of November 2014.

- The Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 13, 2014 starting at 2:00 p.m. There are currently 28 entries.
- The Christmas tree lighting will take place at Bay Creek Park immediately following the parade.
- The Boat Parade will take place after the tree lighting.
- Whaley's and Finns will have a fundraiser for Officer Robert Blajszczak at Finns after the parade and the auction will take place after 6:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, December 14, 2014 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. there will be a beach home tour with proceeds benefiting the Beach Renourishment Fund.

## **Public Comment Period**

No one was signed in to speak.

## **Adjournment**

Mayor Lyons told those in attendance he would not be at the January 2015 Council meeting due to upcoming surgery. Councilman Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

*The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and location of the meeting on Friday, December 5, 2014.*