

MINUTES
April 20, 2017
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
1:00 P.M.

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Jane S. Darby, Mayor, Jerome Kizer, Crawford Moore, and Patti Smyer, Council Members;
Quorum of Council Present. Susan Hornsby, Mayor Pro Tempore was absent with prior notice.

Old Business

A. Beach Nourishment Outside the Permitted Project Area – Steven Traynum of Coastal Science and Engineering addressed Council. “....The area of interest that we’re discussing is really between groins 30 and 32. It’s a pretty short section of beach. I believe there are seven or eight houses in that section of beach. I’ve provided a photo from this morning at low tide taken from a drone that shows what it looked like this morning. I spoke at the last Council meeting as to why we stopped the project where we did based off the initial planning and the available funding we thought we had, the fact that we did extend further to the west than we did during the 2006 project and we also pumped about 40,000 more yards of sand in that southern end than we did in the last project. So we did already put more of an effort towards the south end, understanding that the beach condition before this nourishment project was a little bit worse in some areas than it was before the last nourishment project. Specifically, the area between groins 30 and 31, houses are still set back a pretty good distance. I measured that off the other day with some imagery and it’s at least about 80 feet between the houses and the high tide line. That’s comparable to several other portions of the beach even after nourishment, especially after the nourishment fill adjusts. For Edisto standards, especially comparing it to the north end before the nourishment, it’s a very healthy section of the beach. The area just south of groin 31, there’s two houses, one of them is kind of behind groin 31, the other one’s a little to the south of it, both of those are behind the seawall. They’re about 50 feet behind the seawall. The state definition for emergency conditions is 20 feet, so they’re well beyond that but there is no dry sand beach there presently. Something to consider around inlets, especially around corners near inlets, is those beaches are a lot less likely to have kind of a dry sand berm like you would see a typical beach would have. A dune and then you would have this berm that varies between spring tide and neap tide. On spring tide, the water line would be right up to the edge of the dune, if you go to a lot of the other beach communities that’s kind of what you find. Under spring tide, there’s not a dry sand recreational area, water’s up to the dune almost. At neap tide, the tide doesn’t come up as high, so you do have a wider dry sand area. Around inlets and around corners and inlet shorelines, that area even gets further compacted, so there’s really not....if given enough time for the dune grasses to grow and things like that, there’s really not usually a lot of dry sand area. That’s what you see as you go further around the shoreline, along the inlet, is you see the dune going all the way up to the high tide line. There’s less wave energy hitting that beach and that wave energy is what kind of creates that unvegetative buffer that comes and goes. Around the inlets you’re not going to have that recreational beach that’s kind of nice for everybody to put their umbrellas on. It’s also that area that people like to walk during high tide when the water’s up. There’s going to be less of that area, regardless of whether we put more sand out there or not. If we put more sand out there, vegetation will eventually grow over it and it’ll come right back to the water’s edge at normal high tides. That’s what keeps vegetation from growing further seaward is the water inundation outside the effects of people walking on it....If anybody’s looking to try and get a

similar beach configuration as what front beach might have, it's not likely to develop in that area regardless of what amount of sand we put in the long term...I've had a little more time to think about that specific situation in the past couple days, as we're progressing with this discussion...I spoke with Tim (Kana) about this a little bit more. We are extremely confident that that area is going to gain a substantial amount of sand. We went back and looked at some of the specific data for the first year and that downcoast area gained 100,000 yards of sand in the first year after the last project. It gained another close to 60,000 yards the next year. The fact that we put more sand on Reach 4 between groins 24 and 29 on this one and the additional quantity on the whole beach, we're 100% confident it's going to gain a substantial amount of sand very quickly. So we don't really have any question on whether or not it's going to keep eroding, we know it's going to accrete. That kind of brings us to what our options are now. We already discussed what the potential options are as far as dredging or hauling sand. Thinking about submitting a permit application, or modification request to put sand in that area, from the front beach that we just pumped up, there's a couple things we need to consider with that, and that's 1) is the time it's going to take to get a permit modification is at a bare minimum, 3 weeks. You have to have at least a 15-day public notice period, we'll have to put out the letter and the drawings both. If we submit that tomorrow which we can, there is that 15-day period, which is the bare minimum. It'll take OCRM a couple days to get it out so realistically speaking, I think that the fastest we can get any type of permit, whether it's a modification or a general permit, it's likely about 30 days, if not more than that. As fast as they're moving along with the sand fencing permit, I would imagine it would be even more time than the 30 days. It may be up to 60 days. So that puts us into the peak of the beginning of turtle nesting season. I feel like the agencies are going to have a little bit of heartburn about...trucking sand down the beach from one area to another over extended distances during turtle season, which wasn't part of our original plan for the nourishment part of the project...we're going to try to limit the impact area as much as possible. I'm not saying it can't be done or that they wouldn't give us the permit, but they're likely to be a little less receptive to the idea with that. We discussed how we would stage sand today if we knew we were going to implement the project in the next 30 – 60 days to haul sand, whether we would push some of it now to stockpile it up on the dry sand beach to make it kind of set aside so people realize this sand is going somewhere else. That presents some issues with turtles, potentially, depending on how it was configured...I don't know that's the best strategy to go forward, with these stockpiles, because of the turtle impacts and because of the potential permit issues...The other alternative would be to wait until October, and the agencies may request that anyway, under any kind of modification request, and look at doing a similar project outside of the turtle season, whether it's bringing in sand from upland or using small quantities from the beach. I'm really not sure what they're going to say about that. Typically, they don't like taking sand from the beach and putting it somewhere else, as we've suggested that type of project before, hauling sand from the south end to the north end."

Councilwoman Smyer asked Mr. Traynum if the sand would be trucked from access to access via the beach or via Palmetto Boulevard. Mr. Traynum said that was a possibility. Mayor Darby asked for a motion. Since there was none, Mayor Darby stated, "In the absence of a motion, I am going to make one so we can deal with this. I am going to ask that we keep in reserve any action until October because in looking at it...I'm going to ask that we delay this until October with Steven (Traynum of CSE) monitoring it and if there becomes an emergency issue, then we immediately revisit." Councilman Kizer seconded the motion. Mr. Traynum reiterated, "We're 100% confident it will accrete" in the area in question. Dallas Lovelace, who owns a house in the area in question, asked Mr. Traynum if he thought there would be erosion. Mr. Traynum stated he didn't think it would get any worse in the next few weeks. Dr. Lovelace said, "Every day we lose more because as you point out, at high tide there's no place to walk, so people are up on what is the dune, or what's left of it, it's not really a dune any more, and that just keeps pushing that down so the water keeps coming closer. I guess the next question

is, what constitutes an emergency?" Mayor Darby replied, "When houses are threatened." Mr. Traynum clarified, "When the water line is within twenty feet of the houses." Administrator Hill replied, "I did call DHEC and ask if we can get an emergency order to do this, without having to go through the process, and it did not qualify. We didn't even qualify on our sand fencing...I think that because we lengthened the groins and there are questions about the groin lengthening, especially around this area...I think we should survey more often than less often. If something happens, it's going to happen quick and I don't want to get caught trying to shore up houses because something has happened." Mr. Traynum said he thought the accretion would start within the next several weeks to months. Administrator Hill asked if Mr. Traynum thought once-a-month monitoring would be sufficient. Matthew Kizer addressed Council, asking if the point area could get sand fences. If the sand fences are up on private property, the public would not be able to walk on the dunes, further deteriorating them. Administrator Hill said the sand fencing and planting is out for bid and due on May 4, 2017. By that time the Town should have a DHEC permit to perform the work. Mayor Darby called for the vote. The motion passed 3 – 1 with Councilwoman Smyer opposed. Mayor Darby then moved that Administrator Hill work with Steven Traynum on a temporary barrier to be utilized by the homeowners outside the project area until the sand fencing is put up. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was approved 4- 0.

B. McKenzie, et.al. Lawsuit – Authorization to Make Litigation Decision – Councilwoman Smyer moved to authorize the Mayor to make decisions regarding the litigation by McKenzie et al based on legal advice. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was approved 4 – 0.

C. Tract M – Councilman Kizer moved to pay closing costs of \$10,905.68 from the Sewer R&R fund. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. Mayor Darby noted there is over \$200,000 in the Sewer R&R fund. Mayor Darby called for a vote and the motion was approved 4 – 0.

New Business

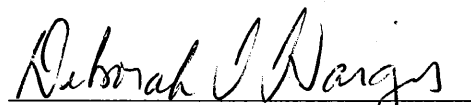
A. Change Order No. 1 Crowder Construction Company - \$32,500 – In the process of repairing the groins, it was necessary to have more grout brought in. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve up to \$32,500 for Change Order No. 1 for Crowder Construction. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved 4 – 0.

Adjournment

Councilman Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was approved 4 – 0.

The media/public was informed of the date, time and location of the meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
May 11, 2017