

MINUTES  
October 24, 2016  
RESCHEDULED REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
10:00 A.M.

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

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

Mayor Darby called the meeting to order and led those in attendance in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Hornsby moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held September 8, 2016 seconded by Councilwoman Smyer. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Proclamations and Presentations**

**A. Starfish Awards**

1. Heidi Coleman and David McWatters were awarded Starfish Awards for their quick action in reporting an electrical issue found during their routine inspections that prevented a larger issue.
2. Mr. John McAlhany was recognized for his years of service on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. For helping handle yard debris from Hermine and Julia, the following Town Hall employees were recognized: Patrick Zemp, Pete Lala, Jimmy Mellersten, Alfred Meggett, Julian Meggett, Walter Hutchinson, Jud Davis, Bob Doub, Margaret Green, Natalie Kantz, Sara Simpson, Betty Heaton and Deborah Hargis.
4. Slade Evans was awarded a Starfish Award for sanding and repainting the police department speed trailer.

**B. Safety Policy Resolution 2016-R21** – Councilman Moore moved to approve the Safety Policy Resolution, which states the Town support compliance with all Federal and State safety regulations; provide and require the use of personal protective equipment by all employees and insure that all employees are advised of and understand their loss control responsibilities in the performance of their work.

**C. Earthquake Awareness Week Proclamation 2016-P22** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the Proclamation to name October 16 – 21 2016 as Earthquake Awareness Week. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

**A. Water Improvement Project** – Council had previously approved the funding of the water improvement project for a 20-year term, however the rates posted were based on a 30-year term. Councilwoman Smyer moved to modify the term from 20-year to 30-year, seconded by Councilman Moore and unanimously approved.

**New Business/Apearances**

**A. Special Event Application – Trick or Treat at the Creek-** Councilman Moore moved to approve the Town’s application for Trick-or-Treat at the Creek to be held on Monday, October 31, 2016 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**B. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2016-20 To Amend Section 86-3 of the Town’s Code** – Mayor Pro Tem Hornsby moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-20 which adds the definition of “yard sale”, meaning a sale of used household belongings at the home of the seller typically held outdoors which was inadvertently left out during the zoning rewrite. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**C. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2016-23 to Amend Section 86-191 of the Town’s Code To Be Entitled “Side-By-Side Two Family Dwellings; Division; Requirements; Non-Conformity” So As To Amend Subsection (a)(5) To Require Review and Approval By the Planning Commission** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2016-23 which changes the review and approval authority by including the side by side dwelling approval procedure with the subdivision plat approval procedure set forth in Chapter 71 changing a two-step process into a one-step process. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**D. Traffic Light at Highway 174 and Highway 17** – Councilman Kizer moved to defer action on the request for a traffic light to be put at Highway 174 and Highway 17. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**E. Police Department Body Cameras** – Councilman Moore moved to approve the Police Department’s request to purchase body cameras utilizing \$18,088 in grant funds. The total cost is \$18,398.81 with the deficit paid from 4200.3600-Equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and approved unanimously.

**F. Memorandum of Agreement Between the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Town of Edisto Beach** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between SCPRT and the Town of Edisto Beach to “mutually agree to partner and work jointly on the permitted beach restoration planned for Fall/Winter 2016/2017” and authorize the Mayor to execute said agreement. This agreement provides funding directly to the Town of Edisto Beach to administer the project. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**G. Victim Assistance Agreement Between the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office and the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department** – Mayor Pro Tem Hornsby moved to approve the agreement which provides that the Colleton County Sheriff’s Office will provide the Town of Edisto Beach with Victim Assistance as mandated by South Carolina law. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion,

which authorizes the Police Chief and Town Administrator to execute said agreement. Mayor Darby called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

**H. Civic Center for Edisto Community Blood Drive** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the request from Jeanine Rhodes to use the Civic Center with fees waived for the Edisto Community Blood Drives on the following dates: November 29, 2016, January 24, 2017, March 21, 2017, July 25, 2017, September 26, 2017 and November 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**I. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2016-24, A Second Supplemental Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale By the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina of Combined Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds; and Other Matters Relating Thereto** – Councilman Moore moved to approve the first reading by title only, seconded by Councilman Kizer and approved unanimously.

**J. Town Hall Operation on November 4 and 7, 2016** – Mayor Jane Darby moved to approve operating Town Hall on a “skeleton staff” on Friday, November 4, 2016 and Monday, November 7, 2016 to reward staff for the hard work done during Hurricane Matthew. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which provides that those employees who work on Nov. 4 and Nov. 7 will be allowed two days off later in the year. The motion was unanimously approved.

**K. November Worksession Date Change** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the change of the November worksession from November 7 to November 9, 2016. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### **Committee Vacancies**

**A. Zoning Board of Appeals** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the application of Marci Cook for the vacancy created when John McAlhany’s term expired on September 1, 2016. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### **Planning Commission**

**A. 134 Jungle Road – Change in Use Permit** – Mayor Pro Tem Hornsby moved to approve the application from Mad Mermaids, LLC to utilize the property at 134 Jungle as a restaurant – Mad Mermaids Mexi-Grill, which was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**B. Tract X – Side-By-Side Lot Line Establishment** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to refer the item back to the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Moore and approved unanimously.

#### **Departmental Reports**

Mayor Darby reminded Council that all the work that is being done in Edisto Beach will require payment and funds from prior years will be needed for hurricane recovery, 75% of which will be reimbursed by FEMA upon approval. The Town share will be 25%. The Mayor stated that Town staff had been excused from the meeting, but if a department head wished to give a report, they were welcome to.

Administration

Iris Hill, Town Administrator, gave the report for September 2016.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	21.03%	27.54%
Water Fund	12.99%	18.67%
Wastewater Fund	21.35%	23.06%

Administrator Hill stated that the Town had 2 FOIA requests from 2 individuals in September and the Facebook page has 5,615 likes, including 2,393 the week of Hurricane Matthew. The video that was posted on October 7 reached 293,000 people and the Facebook page has been an invaluable resource during the hurricane keeping everyone updated. Administrator Hill stated, "As the Incident Commander of this event, Hurricane Matthew, if it wasn't for the department heads and the staff that we have, it would have been horrible. Every department head had an emergency management plan. We took that emergency management plan and followed it pre-storm, and started on October 4 and got everything prepared. When we came back, on our seven hour journey from Walterboro to Edisto Beach, we were met by staff on heavy equipment at the McKinley Washington Bridge. They have done a phenomenal job and should be praised for the work they did because they each took their separate departments....and did what they needed to do with the staff that they have. We have a staff of 35, and with 35 people we have residents coming back on the beach in three days and nobody else can acclaim that. I think the staff have done a phenomenal job and I can't say anything more....and I thank Town Council for coming in here and answering the phones, because we worked long hours. And everybody was working on a short fuse and it was nice to have the break we had."

Building

Building Codes Official Patrick Brown gave the report for the month ending September 30, 2016.

	Sept-15	Sept-16	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$5,252.20	3,5023.00	\$11,452.00
New Construction Permits	1	2	3
Other Permits	26	25	69
Permit Fees	\$4,155.00	\$7,871.50	\$15,562.50
Inspections	1	25	79
Bay Creek Park	\$6,304.00	\$1,180.00	\$5,670.00

Candy donations for Trick or Treat at the Creek can be made at Town Hall. Baked goods are also needed for the cake walk.

Fire

Billy Callahan, Assistant Fire Chief, gave the September 2016 report.

Calls	Sept-15	Sept-16	YTD
Medical	14	20	94
Fire-related	11	17	25
EMS/Misc		79	288
Beach Wheel Chairs	4	28	65
Water Rescue	5	2	12
Welfare Checks	55	10	73

Two volunteers are attending firefighting classes at this time. Councilwoman Smyer commended the fire department on their response to a structure fire.

Police

Police Chief George Brothers gave the report for the month ending September 30, 2016.

	Sept-15	Sept -16	YTD
Warnings	42	60	256
Town Parking Tickets	28	43	242
Alarm Calls	100	14	42
Calls for 2 or More Officers	6	17	65
Miles Patrolled	9	8,709	25,063
Assaults	7,792	1	3
Larcenies	0	1	5
Burglaries	4	0	4
Incidents & Calls for Service	0	215	662
Animal Control	95	2	5
Property Checks	6	1,221	3,099
CDV Arrest	0	0	0

The Police Department Facebook page had approximately 1,900 “likes” before Hurricane Matthew. It has over 10,000 now. During the 10 day period of the storm, the PD Facebook page engaged more than 10 million people. Chief Brothers warned those in attendance that visitors are coming in to “help” with cleanup and may not be legitimate contractors. He asked that property owners make sure contractors are licensed.

Utilities and Public Works

There was no report from the Utilities and Public Works Departments.

Chamber of Commerce

Lisa Harrell, Chamber Director, gave the report for September 2016.

- The Shrimp Fest was a big success.
- On October 27, 2016 there will be a “Mozart to Bernstein” performance at the Trinity Church at 7:00 p.m.

- On October 30, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust is having their annual Oyster Roast and Costume Contest at Sand Creek Farm with live music from Edisto Gumbo. Proceeds will be donated to Hurricane relief.
- On October 31, Trick-or-Treat at the Creek will be held at Bay Creek Park from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- On November 6, 2016, the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance will hold their annual meeting at 2:30 p.m.
- The Edisto Chamber will hold Business After Hours at Pressley's at the Marina on Election Day.

### **Public Comment**

**Bob Sandifer** – Mr. Sandifer thanked Council for providing for the safety of residents and the protection of property during Hurricane Matthew. The Town Police and Fire Departments are to be commended for the excellent work. “We owe Town Council and their employees a debt of gratitude for an exceptional job.”

**Tommy Mann** – Mr. Mann thanked all whose hard work contributed to getting Edisto back where it is, “specifically the National Guard. Those people were amazing. South Carolina Electric and Gas was unbelievable.” Mr. Mann also thanked Utilities Director Bob Doub and his staff. “I challenge Council to look at our re-admission policy. I know it's difficult, there are other places that have specific identification cards that allow residents back in. I have had a number of calls from people that said, ‘I can't make arrangements, I own a business, to be back the next day from 8:00 – 3:00, I have a 6 ½ - 7 hour drive to get there and I don't think that worked too well, but again, it was under difficult circumstances. People could've reduced their losses. ...I would like to ask Council to consider looking at the admissions cards or some other way to get people back in.”

**Bruce Shaw** – Mr. Shaw thanked the Town for its efforts. “I do have questions about the admissions policy. I have a dispute with the State Highway Department over the admissions policy. There seemed to be confusion in addition, as to who could come on and who could not come on. I know from personal view that there were people allowed on the beach when other people were not allowed on the beach, who were not contractors and not doing anything. And I think that we need to study better communications and a better policy established to allow ingress and egress to the beach, because there has been some confusion, including some traffic tickets that were written, that I feel were unjust, and I have a vested interest in that, I wasn't one of them, but I represent one, and so I think there needs to be a better policy established.”

**Jeanine Rhodes** – Ms. Rhodes thanked Council for letting the blood drive be held at the Civic Center and waiving the fees for the Civic Center. She also thanked all that had helped during the hurricane. “I have lived here on the beach since 1999. I do work down here, Del Dennis and I offered to help in any way after the storm with our landscaping equipment and tractor. We were allowed by Patrick Brown to come over on Sunday and clean up the side streets from debris, the day after the storm. We saw then that my home was in great shape, no water under it, just a few minor repairs. We didn't have power here, but we didn't have power where we were staying, so, to me, not having power you don't have power. We left with plans to return and help Edisto the next day. (unintelligible). We kept calling and texting and asking, we were not allowed on the beach that next day. I was a Volunteer Fireman for 7 years or so, I resigned in April due to some controversy about not getting us some classes. But anyhow, when I was, we were always told that the first essential people back to Edisto would be the Town people, the Fire Department, the Police Department, Council, but after that, and then the Volunteers of course, and then after that the permanent residents. And for that reason they did give us this card, and I would be glad to help ya'll chair a committee to see if we can't get something for permanent residents. I've had several permanent residents say they just needed some medication for their husband and they had to go to Georgia to get it. I

mean, my phone has rang too because I do work down here, and I do have a lot of clients that was concerned about their homes and wanted the story..." Mayor Darby thanked Ms. Rhodes and notified her that her two minutes were up.

**Stephanie Renner** – Ms. Renner stated that she wanted it on public record that she wanted to thank everyone for the phenomenal job done during Hurricane Matthew. "In a thirty-something year past career, I have probably seen more storms, worked more storms and been involved in more storms than any person in this room. And the job that ya'll did, just blew our minds.... When my husband came to check our house on Tuesday, he came back and said, 'It'll be at least two weeks before we can get back there.' And we were there on Friday. So, I just have to say, thank you, thank you, thank you."

**Mike Atchley** – Mr. Atchley stated that Matthew was the first hurricane he had experienced while living at the beach. "I really have an appreciation for the leaders on the Council, the Police Department and Fire Department, Water and Utilities, the job you did was amazing. George Brothers meets us within thirty minutes of us being in the house just saying 'Welcome back.' He didn't seek us out personally, he was just driving."

**Lynne Grout** – Ms. Grout stated that she has a chronic illness and on September 8, 2016 she had an episode that required friends that were with her to call 911. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital. "I am indebted to them (the first responders) and I think they're like my family. So I just wanted to thank you guys."

**Lou Rasmussen** – Mr. Rasmussen thanked Council for the work they did. He especially singled out the blue tent at the Edistonian, which was, "very, very helpful. I could go there, and put out a request, I got very good communication from Margaret, from the Police staff and the Sheriff, all were able to help me on very specific things where I was escorted back and forth from my home to the store and keep me safe. The only injury I had was to myself on Saturday, after everything was done. But I really appreciate that, and I think it was a great idea to have that blue tent, because those specific things were really addressed there. And my business partner, whose son was on the verge of a wedding, he was able to be escorted all the way into Wyndham, get a suit and get back for the wedding. Those are the little things, not frozen pizzas or anything like that, but that was really an indication of the cooperation and the attention that Council gave. And I really appreciate it, thank you."

### Executive Session

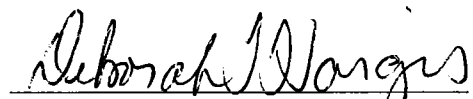
Councilwoman Smyer moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Moore and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Smyer moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Moore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Councilman Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Kizer. The motion was approved unanimously.

*The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and location of the Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.*

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk  
November 10, 2016