

MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 26, 2020  
ANNUAL GOAL SETTING RETREAT  
9:00 A.M.

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

Present: Crawford Moore, Mayor Pro Tempore, Susan Hornsby, Jerome Kizer and Patti Smyer, Council Members. Mayor Jane Darby joined the meeting via conference call. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Iris Hill, Town Attorney Bert Duffie, Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Municipal Clerk Deborah Hargis, Fire Chief Denney Conley, Police Chief George Brothers, Building Official Patrick Brown, Utilities Director Patrick Zemp and Special Events Coordinator Kelly Moore.

Departmental Requests/Concerns

- A. Paperless Council Meetings –The Municipal Clerk will start sending those members who own ipads/notebooks electronic copies of Council packets. Administrator Hill told Council that the projected cost maximum would be \$10,000. All agreed to try using personal ipads/notebooks first before committing to a change.
- B. Laroche Street paving – After discussion, the general consensus was to wait until after the engineering firm submitted their report so as not to compound flooding by adding more impervious surface. Patrick Zemp said that the holes could be filled in in the meantime.
- C. Sewer on Jungle Shores – A resident has asked if Jungle Shores can access the sewer system as some of the septic tanks are becoming inundated with water. Council agreed that before anyone could be added to the system it would need to be upgraded.
- D. Event Sponsorship – Council agreed that the three events the Town would like to sponsor are the ShagFest, Cookin’ on the Creek and the Governor’s Cup. The Town has used Alcohol Permitting funds in the past to sponsor events. At this time, those funds are very low. Town Administrator Hill will research further to find out why and report her findings to Council.
- E. Bay Creek Park Rates, Civic Center Rates and Bay Creek Park vendor rates – Council asked Attorney Duffie and Kelly Moore to put together a document with new fees for the Civic Center and Bay Creek Park, with a discount for nonprofit organizations that wish to rent. Council also agreed that charging Bay Creek Park Market vendors all the same fee, instead of charging beach and island vendors less starting in 2021.
- F. Turtle Lighting – Robbie Garvin from Dominion Energy presented several options to Council. Mr. Garvin told Council he could provide a sample of each of the lights Council expressed interest in and have them installed to see what worked best. Some options included Shepherd’s hook lighting, lights with dimmable and shut off options and different types of shields. Mr. Garvin stressed that an expert told him that even if “turtle friendly” lighting was installed, if turtles saw light, they would gravitate towards it.
- G. Administration Approval of Projects \$500 - \$2,000 - As per the Town’s Ordinance, Administrator Hill has the authority to approve up to \$500 without Council approval. No Council members were opposed to increasing the Town Administrator’s approval amount to \$2,000.
- H. Capital Project Sales Tax Projects - Administrator Hill asked for Council input as to what to present on behalf of the Town’s 2022 Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) projects. Beach renourishment and

funding for a new Town Hall were discussed as possibilities. Administrator Hill said that Bill Houston was interested in representing the Town on the Committee again.

- I. Civic Center – Colleton County has expressed interest in giving the Town the lease rights to the Civic Center. Currently, Colleton County provides the Town with \$47,000/year to manage the Civic Center. There are several areas in need of repair, the largest one of those being the roof. The Town of Edisto Beach is not interested in taking over the lease from Colleton County unless substantial improvements and/or monetary support continues.
- J. Turtle Signage – Council discussed the possibility of The Turtle Patrol putting up informational signs about sea turtles at each beach access. Council decided that before anything was decided, they would wait on input from the TIDE Committee.
- K. Long-term Funding for Fire Equipment Replacement – Administrator Hill recommended looking for used equipment in terms of larger items like the pumper truck. The ladder truck refurbishment was more cost effective than buying a new truck. Chief Conley and Council agreed this was something worth pursuing as large vehicles depreciated.
- L. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Storm Reduction Project Timeline – Administrator Hill told Council that the Town has a new Project Manager, Chrissa Waite, who was up-to-date on the project. Ms. Waite told Administrator Hill that the inlet reach could be excluded from the proposed project and Administrator Hill is in the process of preparing a letter to the inlet reach property owners to notify them that they will be excluded as was their request. She will make it clear that once they are removed from the project, the ACOE will not be able to add them back in. Ms. Waite explained the reason the ACOE wanted the Perpetual Easement Line (PEL) where it was originally proposed was that would provide an easement up to the PEL. The plan is to build on the dune already in place, not right at the PEL. Easements would still be needed from every front-beach property owner. A Public Hearing will be held on April 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Darby suggested a short PowerPoint presentation to be developed to cover the more confusing aspects of the project. Mayor Darby also suggested considering the money needed for the Town to match federal funds in the ACOE project be part of the Capital Project Sales Tax proposal. Grant funding from the state can be used for the match as well.
- M. Sea Leve Rise and Flooding Expectations (NOAA Website)-<https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/slr/0/-8939836.879728392/3827968.1592470445/15/satellite/none/0.8/2050/interHigh/midAccretion>  
Administrator Hill showed Council the website from NOAA referenced above. It shows the effect of sea level rise in feet along the coast. The sea level is rising at approximately 1/8” per year. The Town of Edisto Beach is currently working on a validation study with the Sea Grant Consortium, USC and the College of Charleston. The study will examine areas that will be most problematic as the sea level continues to rise.
- N. Water and Sewer Rates – Administrator Hill said another 15% increase in water rates will go into effect for the June billing. This increase is the final 15% increase called for when the Town secured the bond for the water improvement plant. Sewer rates will also need to be increased per the water rate study.
- O. Travel/Workshops – Councilwoman Hornsby stated that the travel/workshop budget had been exhausted and thought it was a good idea for Council to look closely at what is required of Councilmembers. Administrator Hill told Council that they should let her know during the budget cycle if there was something in particular they were interested in going to so it could be included in the budget.

Council Topics

Councilwoman Smyer told Council she considered drainage to be the number one issue now that beach renourishment and the Water Improvement plant is nearing completion. Two of the main areas Councilwoman Smyer would like to see addressed are the Arc and Billow Street area and a regular ditch maintenance schedule. If the Town doesn't have the staff necessary to devote to the maintenance of ditches on Edisto, other funding streams/hiring out to complete the work is needed. Administrator Hill asked Utilities Director Patrick Zemp to see if there was a Vac-truck the Town could borrow from Colleton County or the City of Walterboro that the Town could borrow. Councilwoman Smyer suggested the hydrology study be completed first.

Mayor Darby stated that she would like to see bike paths repaired by new home builders if they are the ones that caused the deterioration.

Council Goals

Drainage:

Clearing ditches/maintenance schedule  
Arc/Billow Street  
Bike Paths

Securing funding for:

Army Corps of Engineers Project  
Capital Project Sales Tax  
Recreation Master Plan findings and results

Turtle Lighting evaluation and implementation

Personnel manual and Standard Operating Procedure update

Implement Paperless Council Meetings

The meeting was adjourned by common consent.

*The media/public was notified of the date, place and time of the meeting on Friday, February 21, 2020.*

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

  
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Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk  
March 12, 2020