

MINUTES  
February 16, 2016  
Annual Goal Setting Retreat  
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 Jane Darby called the meeting to order.

**Departmental Requests/Concerns**

**Administration**

Town Administrator addressed the first item on the agenda dealing with the problem of stray dogs and lost pets. Mayor Darby and Council expressed concern over liability issues. Chief Conley reported there were six lost dogs that had been turned in to the Fire Department. While the solution to the problem was not readily apparent, Councilwoman Smyer and Councilman Moore will explore the issue, address the problem with Animal Lovers of Edisto (ALOE) and report back to Council. It was noted that there is a new Animal Control officer in Colleton County.

**Building**

Building Code Official Patrick Brown spoke about the fence at Bay Creek Park between the Edisto Marina. Mr. Brown suggested the fence between the park and the marina be taken down and the dumpsters moved to provide an inviting waterfront experience. One drawback may be those using the boat ramp may drive through the park to access the boat ramp. An audience member suggested that the architect who designed the park may have drawn it without the fence. Administration will research and supply the drawing to Council. The construction of the stage will be done after the borings are done. Mr. Brown said that the stage should take approximately three months to complete, weather permitting.

**Fire**

Policy is in place to pay the volunteer firefighters on a per call basis. Council discussed putting a limit on the amount a volunteer can be paid, but decided against it to not dissuade volunteers from going to calls. Volunteer President Cameron Andrews said that the average number of calls/volunteer ranged from twelve and twenty-four. Council decided to continue to commit

the same amount to the budget. If the volunteers went over that amount, then the extra money could come from the volunteer budget.

### Police

Police Chief George Brothers addressed the golf cart problem and provided information to Council including sample Ordinances used by other coastal towns. Chief Brothers suggested golf cart owners read the ordinance when they register their cart. Chief Brothers also suggested a minimal fee for the decal to cover the cost of printing the decal. Mayor Darby said that since there was always someone at the Police and Fire Departments, either one could handle the registration of the golf carts. Council asked that the golf cart ordinance be put on the March agenda. Town Attorney Duffie told Council he had already researched the topic for the Town and has the information at his office. A suggestion was made about placing informational signs on the stop signs at Palmetto Boulevard advising against golf carts driving on the boulevard, but the Department of Transportation will probably not allow it.

### Public Works

Jimmy King provided a handout and information to Council on ideas that he and some local businesses had developed concerning the Christmas parade. They would like to make it a two-day event. They requested a Christmas tree be placed at the Horizon and at Bay Creek Park. Mayor Darby suggested Mr. King work with the Chamber. Mr. King said that he had already met with the Chamber Board and they would like to participate. Chief Conley said he would help with the co-ordination of the "Polar Plunge" event. Two high school bands have already been contacted for the parade. It was suggested that Mr. King talk to the TIDE Committee. A tour of homes/decoration contest was mentioned, as was Christmas caroling. After a five minute break, Council discussed the Christmas tree issue. If the Town plans to purchase a live, large tree, planning needs to start early. It was suggested that local businesses that were interested, obtain a tree for the Horizon. Municipal Clerk Deborah Hargis suggested having the parade end with the tree lighting at Bay Creek Park and have vendors set up at the park, along with food and drink. Councilman Kizer, since he is the Chamber liaison, will gather information on this topic, and Deborah offered to assist him.

### Utilities

The Wastewater Treatment Pond issues were addressed at the February Council meeting. Mr. Doub was asked when the last samples were taken. He replied that the sampling on February 2, 2016, had already come back and results from February 10, 2016, should be back soon.

### Council Topics

#### Beach Nourishment 2016

Mayor Darby expressed her optimism in securing the necessary funding. If the entire amount is not provided (\$12 million), the scope of the project will be reduced. The Town has hired a

lobbyist that will be beneficial in the funding procurement. A discussion followed concerning the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee and ATAX funds.

#### Water Quality

Council discussed exploring financing options available for the water quality improvements. The question of the Fluoride ceiling being lowered was addressed.

#### Flood Insurance

The Biggert Waters-Act is once again coming to the forefront. There is a flood insurance conference call on February 23, 2016. There is a public meeting on March 29, 2016, from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center to receive public comment on the revised Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

#### Staff Priorities

Salary adjustments will be addressed in the budget process.

The following policy adjustment was discussed. In the event of a State of Emergency declared by the Mayor or Governor, exempt employees of the Town may be paid actual hours worked in lieu of accruing compensatory time, at the discretion of the Town Administrator and providing funds are available.

Chief Brothers told Council there were no citations written by the beach patrol last year and the six-hour work day seemed to work well. A new vehicle will be used this year. The beach patrol will continue to use caution when driving the vehicle on the beach.

#### Environmental/Beautification

Administration continues to work with Keep America Beautiful, and will try to partner with Lowes to expand the beautification efforts on the causeway. The TIDE Committee continues to be kept up-to-date on the project. Administrator Hill is looking into grants that will help the Town.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has given the Town feedback on the grant application the Town submitted for Scott Creek area. Administration continues to explore grant funding for this project as well, but the grant application needs to be updated.

Council discussed the Convenience Station traffic flow. Administrator Hill stated that with a Keep America Beautiful grant of \$4,000 the Town would be able to put in an additional gate to help with the traffic flow.

Council addressed the parking issue of Beach Access 13 at Ocean Villa. Administrator Hill will confer with Town Attorney Duffie and report back to Council.

### Legislative

Mayor Darby told Council that the Town may need to explore hiring a federal lobbyist to assist with the Army Corps of Engineers nourishment project, especially when it comes to funding. That lobbyist may also be useful in monitoring flood insurance, federal beach nourishment issues and the Biggert-Waters Act. Mayor Darby suggested addressing that issue during the budget process.

### Special Events

Councilwoman Smyer suggested that the Town continue to support the traditional events. The sponsorship fund did well, but Administrator Hill was not sure the companies that had donated funds would be willing to do so again this year. Mayor Darby suggested making long-range plans and deciding how much the Town will allow for each event. Special event sponsorship will be addressed again at the first budget meeting.

### Community Visioning

A suggestion was made to combine community visioning with the re-write of the Comprehensive Plan.

### Town of Edisto Beach Council Goals for 2016-2017

1. Water Quality/Quantity (Smyer, Moore)
2. Beach Management and Preservation (Darby)
3. Sewer (Hornsby, Moore)
4. Legislative Involvement (Hornsby)
5. Personnel (Darby)
6. Public Areas (Kizer)
7. Future Impacts (Smyer)

*The public/media was notified of the date, place and time of the meeting on Friday, February 12, 2016.*

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

  
Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk  
March 10, 2016