

MINUTES
November 12, 2015
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M.

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

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

Mayor Darby called the meeting to order, then gave the prayer and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes of October 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by Councilman Anderson and unanimously approved.

Proclamations and Presentations

Mayor Darby recognized Jimmy Mellersten with a ten-year service award with thanks and congratulations from Council.

Mayor Darby presented Billy Callahan with a Starfish Award for rescuing a port-a-let during the storms of October 3 – 5. What could have been an environmental disaster was averted by Captain Callahan's quick action. Pat Powell and Linda Hoff were each recognized with a Starfish Award for their willingness to work additional shifts for firefighters who were unable to get to Edisto due to the flooding.

Old Business

A. Second Reading of Ordinance 2015-25 Providing for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Fairness in Lodging Act – Councilman Pete Anderson moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2015-25 Providing for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Fairness in Lodging Act. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Swearing in of New Councilmembers – Municipal Judge Tom Weeks swore in Mayor Darby and new Council Members, Crawford Moore and Jerome Kizer.

B. Safety Policy Resolution 2015-R27 – The Town of Edisto Beach receives a credit by approving a resolution annually regarding safety. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the Safety Policy Resolution 2015-R27. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Goal Setting Retreat – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the Edisto Beach Town Council Goal Setting Retreat be held on February 16, 2016. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Dedicate Private Road to Public – Marsh Side Property Owner’s Association – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the dedication of a one-block area private road to the Town. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

E. Jungle Shores Water Line Extension Project Change Order No. 1 – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve change order No. 1 up to \$30,000 for the Department of Transportation request that the overlay on the road cuts in the project be extended from one foot to five feet, and approve the revised Capital Improvement Plan to reflect this change and the American Engineering work authorization approved in October for \$17,600. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

F. Post Storm Survey Emergency Purchase – Due to the 1,000-year flood event in October, the Town needed to perform a post storm survey to calculate how much sand was lost. Councilman Kizer moved to approve the emergency purchase and funding of the work (\$10,000) from Hospitality funds. Currently, there is more than \$140,000 in the Hospitality fund. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

G. Beach Nourishment Project – The Beachfront Management Committee met on October 29, 2015 to discuss potential alternatives as provided by Coastal Science and Engineering for the upcoming beach nourishment project. The committee recommends the Town proceed with permitting and funding the entire project with an anticipated cost of \$12,000,000. The Town has \$7,000,000 for this project. Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the Mayor and Town Administrator seek additional funding for beach nourishment. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

H. Business License Standardization – Councilman Moore moved to approve the transfer of \$2,500 from General Fund Contingency to Administration Legal Fees for legal advice from Mr. Danny Crowe regarding recommendations in the business license standardization process. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

I. Special Event Application – Chamber Christmas Parade – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the application submitted by the Edisto Chamber of Commerce to hold the Christmas parade on December 12, 2015 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

J. First Reading of Ordinance 2015-26 to Amend Section 18-53(m) to Extend the Expiration Date for the Regulations Governing Mobile Vending – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to extend the expiration date for the regulations governing mobile vending to sunset December 31, 2016. Councilman Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

K. FY 2015-16 Strategic Plans – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the 2015-2016 Strategic plans of the Administration Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Utilities Department, the Public Works Department and the Building Department. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. Councilwoman Smyer commended the department heads on their hard work.

L. Service Appreciation – Mayor Darby recognized out-going Councilman Pete Anderson and presented him with a token of the Town's appreciation. Mayor Darby expressed her thanks on behalf of the Town, and advised Mr. Anderson to stay available for volunteer work. Mr. Anderson thanked those who have supported him over the years. Those in attendance gave Mr. Anderson a standing ovation.

M. Resolution 2015-R28 Requesting Assistance with Amenities to Serve Increased Day Visitors from Spring Grove Development – Councilwoman Smyer read the Resolution, which states, in part "...the Town of Edisto Beach projects that our day population could double or possibly triple upon completion of the Spring Grove Development; and...the Town...does hereby request consideration from Charleston County of the negative financial impact on our Town in the final plan and consequent change of the Spring Grove Development Plan. Additionally, the Town of Edisto Beach is requesting that the developer and/or Charleston County government assume an obligation to pay for any future negative impact on the surrounding areas." Councilman Moore moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Smyer. Mayor Darby announced that Councilwoman Smyer would continue to work with and keep Council updated on Spring Grove. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Transfer of funds to pay for upgrades to town-owned apartment – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the transfer of funds not to exceed \$10,000 from contingency to general building maintenance, to pay for cleaning, upgrading and replacing out dated items in the town apartment. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Committee Vacancies

A. TIDE Committee – Cameron Andrews and Archie Livingston have applied for the two vacancies on The Image and Design of Edisto Committee. Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the two applications, seconded by Councilwoman Hornsby. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Beachfront Management Committee – An application has been received from Matthew Kizer for the vacancy on the Beachfront Management Committee. Councilman Kizer recused himself due to conflict of interest. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was approved 4 - 0.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Board

A. Edisto United, 6th Annual Edisto Eats Festival and Ultimate Chef Competition – Edisto United has requested \$6,200 for this event to be held March 19, 2016 in the McConkey's Parking lot. Last year they requested \$5,460. Of the \$6,200 requested this year, \$3,410 is for advertising. The Town has \$3,250 left in the sponsorship funding. The ATAX Board unanimously recommends funding the full amount of the application request using \$3,100 from the sponsorship fund and \$3,100 from ATAX funds. Councilwoman Smyer recused herself from the vote due to conflict of interest. Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the request using \$3,250 from sponsorship and \$2,950 from the ATAX funds. Councilman Moore seconded the motion. Councilwoman Hornsby reminded those in attendance that "ATAX funding is for the encouragement and enhancement of the tourist experience. It's not to cover the expenses of an organization so that they can raise money and then spend it any way they want to. Other organizations have tightened their belts and made do with the sponsorship funds. I don't understand why Edisto United should be different. There's escalating costs and decreasing participation. The Town would like to see complete financial expenses, including donations and contributions by the organization. On the plus side, Edisto Eats has begun making improvements, using local venues, changing their menu and choosing non-competitive slots. Since not all this money is governed by ATAX funds, the Town would like to see more local advertising than handouts at the Bi-Lo.... I believe in this and have supported this in the past, but I do have some serious concern about their financial future." The motion passed 4 - 0.

Departmental Reports and Committee Updates

Mayor Darby has asked Councilman Kizer to serve as liaison to the Edisto Chamber of Commerce. She has asked Councilman Moore to be the Town's representative to the Lowcountry Council of Governments. Mayor Darby recognized Edisto Pride, Lowes and Town staff for the Causeway Beautification work.

Town Administrator Iris Hill acknowledged Mr. Pete Anderson and thanked him for his years of service, and welcomed the new Council members.

A. Update on Federal Emergency Management Recovery Efforts – The Kickoff Meeting was held November 9, 2015. That was the first step in the submittal process. Preliminary figures indicate the Town suffered around \$250,000 in damage, and includes beach nourishment. The deadline to report individual home damage to FEMA is December 4, 2015. All information is on the Town website.

B. Update on Water System Improvement Project – Staff met with Wharton Smith, Thomas and Hutton and the Town’s engineering consultant, Arnold Ellison, on October 15, 2015. After review of the preliminary engineering reports and input from the consultants, the Town is ready to seek input from the Water and Sewer Committee on how to proceed with the water supply and quality improvements. That meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2015 at 1:30. The committee will also be reviewing proposals from consultants to provide ongoing water and sewer projects.

C. Update on the Annual Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2015 – According to our auditor, Eve McCoy, the conclusion of the audit draft is taking longer than normal. Several sections have been added dealing with new GASB regulations. The draft will be sent in the next week so the Town Administrator can prepare the budget analysis.

Administrator Hill said that it was a pleasure working with Ida Tipton on the Lowes grant.

Administration

Iris Hill gave the financial and FOIA reports for the month ending October 31, 2015.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	27.80%	32.72%
Water Fund	21.59%	20.20%
Wastewater Fund	24.10%	26.66%

There were 11 Freedom of Information Act requests submitted by 5 individuals.

Building

Patrick Brown, Building Code Official, gave the report for October 2015.

	October-14	October-15	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$1,464.00	\$2,262.00	\$12,414.70
New Construction Permits	0		7
Other Permits	26	28	89
Permit Fees	\$3,159.00	\$4,731.50	\$26,758.50
Inspections	21	78	135
Bay Creek Park	\$2,640.00	\$990.00	\$10,499.00

As part of the Keep America Beautiful grant, pavers are being installed at Bay Creek Park and should be completed in the next week.

Fire

Fire Chief Denney Conley gave the report for the month ending October 31, 2015.

Calls	October-14	October -15	YTD
Medical	13	7	90

Fire-related	5	17	49
Public Assistance	19	52	199
Beach Wheel Chairs	5	1	38
Water Rescue	0	0	11
Welfare Checks		33	156

Chief Conley complimented his staff and all departments of Edisto Beach for outstanding work during the flooding in October. Trick or Treat at the Creek was a big success, as was the first public safety event on November 7, 2015.

Police

George Brothers, Chief of Police, gave the report for October 2015.

	October-14	October-15	YTD
Citations	19	19	187
Speeding	12	13	98
Warnings	57	49	492
Alarm Calls	11	5	49
Calls for 2 or More Officers	7	6	40
Miles Patrolled	6,834	7,376	31,518
Assaults	2	0	2
Larcenies	3	1	7
Burglaries	0	0	0
Incidents & Calls for Service	119	69	490
Golf Cart Violations	2	0	48
Animal Control	0	0	5
Property Checks	1,483	1,048	3,243
Open Container	0	0	6
D.U.I.	0	0	2
CDV Arrest	0	0	1
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	2

Three officers were awarded the Police Shield Award for successful investigation and arrest for two major cases from the South Carolina Police Chief's Association Awards Program. Those officers were Assistant Chief Ken Dasen, Sargent Lee Hanley and Officer Daniel Seyle.

Public Works

Bob Doub, Public Works director, gave the report for the month ending October 31, 2015.

	October-14	October -15	YTD
Mowed Acres	28	29	267.30
Cleaned Ditches	0ft	5,556ft	26,339ft
Roll Carts Delivered	9	25	91

The Public Works Department has installed 38 new street signs on Myrtle Street.

Utilities

Utilities Director Bob Doub gave the report for October 2015.

	October-14	October-15	YTD
Pumped MG Water	12.10	9.94	64.34
Treated MG Wastewater	3.77	4.74	19.01
Water Line Repairs	5	2	15
Work Orders	81	71	302

The Utilities Department has been busy maintaining lift stations and wells during the flooding and assisting the Fire and Police Departments. Semi-annual meter reading has begun. Southern Fiber Construction has begun staging materials in anticipation of the Jungle Shores waterline project. One of our Utility Operators, Quinn McCollum, is recovering well after an accident that caused him to be burned.

Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director Dan Carter gave the report for the month ending October 31, 2015.

- On Saturday, November 14, the Edisto Island Preservation Alliance will hold their annual meeting at Sunnyside Plantation from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- On Sunday, November 15, the Edisto Island Open Land Trust will hold their annual oyster roast at Sand Creek Farm at 2:00 p.m.
- On November 24, 2015 a blood drive will be held at the Edisto Beach Baptist Church.
- The Edisto Museum will hold their annual open house and sale on November 27, 2015.
- With These Hands Gallery will hold an open house weekend from November 27 – 29.
- Flowers' Seafood will hold an oyster roast on November 28, 2015.
- Edisto United will hold their annual fundraiser and cocktail party at Bay Creek Park on December 5.
- The Community Chorus will be on December 6, 2015 at the Edisto Beach Baptist Church.
- The Christmas Parade will be held December 12, 2015. Applications have been sent out.

Town Administrator Iris Hill told those in attendance that the Town is in the process of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan, along with several other counties. If there is anything you would like to have included in the plan, please get in touch with Administrator Hill.

Mayor Darby told those in attendance that the Edisto Lions Club has adopted a section of Highway 174 and will be having a cleanup on Saturday, November 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment Period

Jimmy King addressed Council, congratulating the two new members of Council and thanked all who ran for office. He mentioned the fact that the Edisto News advertises for the Town at no charge and is distributed from Point South to West Ashley. Mr. King asked to be notified by the Town of policy changes, events, etc. so that his readers can be notified. Municipal Clerk Deborah Hargis said she would include Mr. King in meeting email notifications. Mr. King asked if the town newsletter still went out. Administrator Hill informed him that it was put on the Town website. Mr. King requested the Town complaint policy be changed. He also suggested that all Town meetings be recorded. Mr. King told those in attendance that he was charged \$40 an hour for transcripts and \$60 an hour for research, and suggested the Town increase its fees.

Adjournment

Councilman Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and location of the meeting on Friday, November 6, 2015.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
December 10, 2015