

**TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
ACCOMMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
May 6, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

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

Present: Paul Oakley, Chairperson, Mike Hobson, Leslie Varner Hurley, Judith Blancett, and Matthew Kizer
Absent: Robert Pratt and Tyler VonNeida.

Call to Order: Chairman Oakley called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes: Leslie Varner Hurley moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, ATAX meeting, seconded by Matthew Kizer, and approved unanimously.

New Business

Chairperson Oakley discussed the upcoming expiration of three terms. Judith Blancett and Matthew Kizer agreed they would accept another term if the ATAX Board had no applicants for the positions available. Chairperson Oakley thanked the members for their years of service on the Board.

ATAX Fund Balance - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the ATAX fund balance. Mike Hobson moved to approve the ATAX fund balance, seconded by Leslie Varner Hurley, and approved unanimously.

ATAX Project Balance - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the ATAX project balance. Matthew Kizer moved to approve the ATAX project balance, seconded Judy Blancett, and approved unanimously.

Request from the Town of Edisto Beach, Bell Buoy Bond Debt, \$50,000.00 - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the application for the Bell Buoy Bond Debt with the Board. Matthew Kizer moved to approve the Bell Buoy Bond Debt application, seconded by Leslie Varner Hurley, and approved unanimously.

Request from the Town of Edisto Beach, Beach Renourishment, \$150,000.00 - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the Beach Renourishment application with the Board and asked Administrator Hill to make comments on the topic. Administrator Hill discussed moving ATAX funds and state accommodation funds to a preservation fund dedicated to beach preservation. Judy Blancett moved to approve the application for beach renourishment, seconded by Mike Hobson, and approved unanimously.

Request from the Edisto Beach Police Department, Law Enforcement Officer, \$111,800.00 - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the Police Department, Law Enforcement application with the Board. Administrator Hill introduced Assistant Police Chief, Ken Dasen. Assistant Chief Dasen commented on the dangers and unsafe environment for current Edisto Beach Police Officers. Chief Dasen discussed hiring one full time police officer to support the department during high volume seasons. Administrator Hill mentioned that the initial cost

would not be an annual cost. Mike Hobson stated that he supported the extra security, but he did not support the funds coming from ATAX. Matthew Kizer agreed with Mr. Hobson and suggested getting funds from Colleton County. Chairperson Oakley discussed Edisto becoming more of a tourist attraction. Edisto is experiencing higher vehicle and pedestrian traffic, along with higher crime and stated that keeping Edisto Beach safe was a necessity. Leslie Varner Hurley questioned if there were additional funds elsewhere to cover the cost. Assistant Chief Dasen commented that there were no other options to his knowledge. Town Administrator Hill made the Board aware that this was a critical need. Chairperson Oakley moved to approve the application for the police department to add an additional police officer, seconded by Leslie Varner Hurley, and was approved 3-2. Mike Hobson and Matthew Kizer were opposed.

Request from the Town of Edisto Beach, Additional Garbage Collection, \$45,000.00 - Chairperson Oakley reviewed the additional garbage collection application with the Board and asked Administrator Hill to comment on the garbage collection dates. Administrator Hill voiced concerns about garbage overflow and discussed additional collection dates throughout the year. Leslie Varner Hurley asked about collection price from April through October. Administrator Hill said she would look into the price for longer collection dates and adding additional trash cans. The Board and Administrator Hill had a discussion regarding different expenses for full time homeowners and rental property homeowners. Chairperson Oakley and Administrator Hill discussed garbage dripping on the roads. Mike Hobson moved to defer action and to table for further discussion, seconded by Leslie Varner Hurley, and approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Paul Oakley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matthew Kizer, which was approved unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE ATAX BOARD



Angela K. Davis, Municipal Clerk

August 5, 2021