

MINUTES  
April 12, 2018  
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, Crawford Moore, Mayor Pro Tempore, Susan Hornsby, Jerome Kizer, and Patti Smyer, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Mayor Pro Tem Moore led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation.

**Approval of Minutes**

**A. Annual Goal Setting Retreat Minutes, March 7, 2018** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the minutes from the Annual Goal Setting Retreat of March 7, 2018 seconded by Councilwoman Smyer and approved unanimously.

**B. Regular Council Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2018** – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting on March 8, 2018 seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and unanimously approved.

**Proclamations and Presentations**

**A. Five Year Service Awards** – At the Council Worksession on Tuesday, Police Chief George Brothers and Sargent Daniel Seyle were awarded with five-year service commendations and thanks for their continued hard work.

**B. Starfish Award** – Fire Fighter Pam Berry was awarded a Starfish Award for going above and beyond the call of duty in setting up the yearly physicals for Town Hall employees and Volunteer Firefighters.

**C. 2018 Municipal Achievement Award for 1 – 1,000 population category** – Mayor Darby announced the Town of Edisto Beach has been selected by the Municipal Association of South Carolina in the 1 – 1,000 population category for an achievement award based on the beach nourishment and groin lengthening project. She congratulated Town Administrator Iris Hill and Municipal Clerk Deborah Hargis for their hard work on the project. The award will be presented at the MASC annual meeting in July.

**Old Business**

**A. Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-07 to Amend Article III of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach, entitled “Golf Carts”** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2018-07 to Amend Article III of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Edisto Beach entitled “Golf Carts”. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore and unanimously approved.

**B. Water System Update** – Town Administrator Iris Hill updated Council and those in attendance on the water system improvement project. The update is attached to these minutes.

**New Business**

**A. FY 2018-2019 Budget (Worksession only)** – Town Administrator gave a brief overview of the FY 2018- 2019 budget, which is attached to these minutes.

**B. Proclamation No. 2018-P08 Building Safety Month** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve Proclamation 2018-P08 declaring May 2018 as Building Safety Month, which reads in part: “Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities’ largely unknown guardians of public safety – our local code officials – who assure us of safe, efficient and new technologies in the construction industry. Building Safety Month 2018 encourages appropriate steps everyone can take to ensure that places where we live, learn, work, worship and play are safe and sustainable.” Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**C. Art Guild Request to Use Civic Center** – Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve the Art Guild’s request to use the Civic Center for rain dates for the Arts in the Park performances on June 10, July 8, and August 12, 2018. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**D. Bay Creek Park Rental Rates** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the adjustment in the Bay Creek Park rental rates, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Moore. Councilwoman Smyer requested that Council consider reserving four dates for use by non-profit organizations at no charge. She suggested funding these four dates by giving less sponsorship money to other events at Bay Creek Park. Mayor Darby called for the vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

**E. Civic Center Alarm Company Quotes** – Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve the award of the Civic Center alarm monitoring to Pye Barker Fire Safety, Inc. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**F. Edisto Beach Civic Center Fee Schedule** – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the addition of linen rental and optional cleaning fees to the Civic Center fee schedule. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**G. Janitorial Services Contract, Bay Creek Park and Civic Center** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the Janitorial Services Contract for Bay Creek Park and the Civic Center. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**H. Recess of the Beachfront Management Committee, Scott Creek Committee, TIDE Committee and Water and Sewer Committee** – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to approve the temporary recess of the Beachfront Management Committee, the Scott Creek Committee, the TIDE Committee and the Water and Sewer Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kizer. Council will revisit this decision at the September 2018 Council meeting. Council reserves the right to recall any of the committees on an as needed basis. Mayor Darby called for the vote and the motion was unanimously approved. Councilman Kizer expressed appreciation on the behalf of Council and recognized the importance of the Committees and members who serve.

**I. Resolution No. 2018-R09, Freedom of Information Act Policy and Request Form** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve Resolution No. 2018-R09 to approve changes to the Freedom of Information Act policy and request form. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**J. Special Event Application, Mitch Cherry, Edisto Island Classic – Kayak and Stand UP Paddle Board Race** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the special event application submitted by Mitch Cherry to hold the Edisto Island Classic – Kayak and Stand Up Paddle Board Race on May 12, 2018 from 9:00 – 1:00 p.m. at Edisto Watersports and Tackle. Registration for the event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at

Edisto Watersports and Tackle. The event will be a fundraiser for Animal Lovers of Edisto. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**K. Work Authorization No. 9 American Engineering** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve Work Authorization No. 9 from American Engineering in the amount of \$2,000 to be paid from Water R & R. This authorization is necessary to have a third-party inspection on the work on the water tower, performed by Utility Services. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**L. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-10 to Amend Section 82-33 of the Town's Code to Adjust the Rates for Water Service** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-10 to amend section 82-33 of the Town's code to adjust water rates. This is the second pre-approved increase to fund the water system improvement project. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**M. Award of Bid No. 2018-02, Edisto Beach Sand Fence and Dune Planting** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve the award of bid number 2018-02, Edisto Beach Sand Fence and Dune Planting to Henley Construction and authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate and execute the contract. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### Planning Commission

**A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2018-02 An Ordinance to Enact Article IX of the Town's Zoning Ordinance Related to Fences on Private Lots** – Councilwoman Hornsby moved to defer the first reading of Ordinance number 2018-02 until after members of Council can meet with the Planning Commission at the end of April to discuss the Ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### Committee Vacancies

**A. Planning Commission – two vacancies** – Councilman Kizer moved to approve advertising two vacancies on the Planning Commission created by the expirations of the terms of Barbara Habegger and William Hackett. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

**B. ATAX Board – one vacancy** – Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to approve advertising the vacancy on the ATAX Board in the Hospitality/Lodging sector created by the resignation of Peiter Knot. Councilman Kizer seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**C. Municipal Elections Commission – one vacancy** – Councilwoman Smyer moved to approve the advertising of the Municipal Elections Commission created by the expiration of Gloria Zeller's term on May 31, 2018. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

#### Departmental Reports and Committee Updates

Mayor Darby read a letter from Brian Domeck of Palmetto Boulevard thanking Chief Conley for his assistance with an elevator that was not working correctly at his home.

#### Administration

Town Administrator Iris Hill gave the financial, FOIA and Facebook reports for the month ending March 31, 2018.

	Received	Spent
General Fund	76.06%	65.72%
Water Fund	71.04%	110.89%
Wastewater Fund	79.22%	55.41%

Administrator Hill explained that the large percentage of expenditures in the water fund were due to transfers that have not been done for the bond payment as of yet.

	February 2018	March 2018
Facebook likes/followers	10,118	10,250
FOIA requests	5	11

Freedom of Information Act Requests were received from each of the following: William Hackett, Sarah Todd, Hollace Savage, Glenn Oliver, Roxanne Hulbert and Andrew Savage. Two FOIA requests were received from Reggie Watts and three from Kevin Cook, one with one subpart, one with two subparts and one with seven subparts.

Building

Building Code Administrator Patrick Brown gave the report for the month ending March 31, 2018.

	March -17	March - 18	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$137,240.59	\$90,739.92	\$271,952.27
New Construction Permits	2	2	7
Other Permits	101	43	202
Permit Fees	\$11,855.00	\$13,551.00	\$46,324.00
Inspections	138	63	
Bay Creek Park	\$1,780.00	\$0	\$7,552.78

Mr. Brown told those in attendance that due to the generous help of volunteers, 1,288 linear feet of sand fencing has been put up. At the South Carolina Flood Plain Manager's Conference, Mr. Brown was reelected Vice President and the Board of Directors chose to fund sending Mr. Brown to the National Conference to represent the state of South Carolina. The National Flood Plain Manager's Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona. Council congratulated Mr. Brown for his continued accomplishments.

Fire

Fire Chief Denney Conley gave the Fire Department report for March 2018.

Calls	March - 17	March - 18	YTD
Medical	8	19	154
Fire-related	22	12	85
EMS/Misc	77		484
Beach Wheel Chairs	2	3	61
Water Rescue	0	0	3

Welfare Checks

30

30

275

Councilwoman Smyer told those in attendance that there would be a volunteer lagoon clean up on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with everyone meeting at Burley L. Lyons Park on Portia street. The cleanup is scheduled to last until 4:00 p.m. and an additional all-day cleanup will be held two weeks later. Councilwoman Smyer asked if the culverts could be cleaned out prior to the May 2<sup>nd</sup> effort and Administrator Hill said that she would check to see what DOTs schedule was like and try to get it taken care of. Mayor Darby asked Chief Conley to get permission from the owner in writing prior to the lagoon cleanup.

Police

Edisto Beach Chief of Police, George Brothers, gave the Police Department report for the month ending March 31, 2018.

	March -17	March - 2018	YTD
Miles Patrolled	7,466	9,919	78,985
Incidents & Calls for Service	128	116	1,059
Calls for 2 or More Officers	16	23	2085
Property Checks	880	576	6,443
Alarm Calls	9		112
Town Parking Tickets	11	3	159
Animal Control	1	0	24
Assaults	1	0	7
Larcenies	0	0	7
Burglaries	0	0	0
CDV Arrest	0	0	0

Utilities

Utilities Director Bob Doub gave the Utilities Department report for the month of March 2018.

	March - 17	March -18	YTD
Pumped MG Water	8.70	7.88	98.82
Treated MG Wastewater	3.49	3.54	43.4
Water Line Repairs	1	2	39
Work Order Repairs	20	30	288

The elevated water tower was taken off line on March 19, 2018 and Utility Services sandblasted and performed maintenance on the interior of the tank. The tank is scheduled to be refilled beginning on Friday, April 13,2018.

Public Works

Public Works Director Bob Doub gave the report for the Public Works Department. Employees delivered 28 roll carts, checked and cleaned beach accesses, Jungle Road Park and Burley L. Lyons Park.

### Edisto Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Director Lisa Harrell gave the report for March 2018.

- Business After Hours at the Marina had 82 attendees.
- The Edisto Road Race had 137 registered runners.
- The fundraiser that was held at Bay Creek Park after the road race netted approximately \$3,000 for Edisto United. The Chamber donated \$5.00 per runner, vendor fees and donations at the door were all contributed to Edisto United.
- The Edisto Chamber Facebook page has 3,126 “likes”
- The Dawhoo boat landing cleanup will be held on April 14, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- The Ducks Unlimited banquet and auction at Bay Creek Park will be held at 6:00 p.m.
- The “Roxbury Park Romp” will be held on April 21, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. It is sponsored by the Edisto Open Land Trust.
- The Chickenman Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at the Plantation Course on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The tournament is a fundraiser for the Leland Vaughan baseball scholarship at Presbyterian College.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Fourth Annual Edisto Beach Dolphin Slam will be held at the Marina.
- The Arts and Crafts Market is held every Wednesday at Bay Creek Park.
- The King’s Daughter’s Edisto Day Bazaar will be held on May 5, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Lions Club on Myrtle Street.

### Public Comment Period

Mr. Charles Stewart of 1702 Myrtle Street signed in to speak concerning the Myrtle Street drainage project. Mayor Darby suggested Mr. Stewart speak to Town Administrator Iris Hill since the entirety of his comments were not allowed due to time constraints. The letter Mr. Stewart presented to Council is attached to these minutes.

### Executive Session

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the items listed below, seconded by Councilman Kizer and unanimously approved.

- A. Legal Advice Regarding Per Diem Expense Reimbursement Matter [SC Code 30-4-70(a)]**
- B. Legal Advice Regarding Petition Related to FOIA Requests [SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2)]**
- C. Legal Advice Regarding Southeastern Grocers, LLC Bankruptcy [SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2)]**
- D. Legal Advice Regarding Property Donation from Mark Steedley [SC Code 30-4-70(a)(2)]**
- E. Personnel – Beach Patrol [SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1)]**
- F. Personnel – Administration [SC Code 30-4-70(a)(1)]**

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to exit Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Kizer and approved unanimously.

Mayor Darby moved that the Town retain Campbell Law Firm in Mt. Pleasant, SC to represent the Town's interest concerning Southeastern Grocers, LLC Chapter 11 filing. Mayor Pro Tem Moore seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Kizer and unanimously approved.

*The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and location of the Council meeting on Friday, April 6, 2018.*

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk

May 10, 2018

## **Water Improvement Project Update**

Staff met with the design team on April 5, 2018 to discuss the progress on the Water Improvement Project. The project update schedule is attached as well as other documentation provided by the design team.

Subsequent to that meeting, the Water and Sewer Committee met and was also brought up to speed on the project progress. At this meeting, a recurring question was brought forth and merits a response.

The question is in regards to the project team obtaining open book costing for the Reverse Osmosis portion of the water improvement project as it is a substantial amount of the project cost.

Proponents of Progressive Design Build (PDB) say that this method allows better collaboration between the owner and the design-build team, because a single team works closely with the owner during phase one to develop a design together, rather than in a separate silo (as in a best value competition). Even though the chosen design-build team in a best value selection can work with the owner post-selection to refine the design, many of the crucial design decisions have already been made and are "baked in" by the time the owner awards the contract. With a PDB selection, the design-build team is hired on qualifications before the design has been developed at all. Cost and schedule commitments are not part of the selection process until phase two, where the owner can opt out or opt to play. The owner can also participate in the selection of subcontractors and suppliers in PDB, before the teams are finally established.

RFQ 2015-02 was issued and the Town received four proposals and the selection team heard proposals from all four design teams. The RFQ required the team complete two distinct phases.

Phase one basically culminated in a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of \$7,200,000.

Phase two consists of permitting, final design, procurement, construction, startup, training and warranty.

The selection committee recommended and Town Council approved award of this work to the team of Wharton Smith/Thomas and Hutton/Harn RO. According to Section 7.6 of the RFQ, the team had an obligation to the Town to keep the project team intact throughout the selection process. During the selection process discussion regarding capital costs vs operations and management was lengthy and although Harn RO may have a slightly higher upfront cost, the long-term savings for O&M is 20% over other companies. That being said, Harn RO was approved as part of the design team and their input was included in the GMP used to acquire the bond to pay for the project. Harn RO was considered to have the best value for the money due to their superior support and product.

This again was ratified by selection of the team for Phase 2. According to the summary of costs, the RO portion is \$1,440,000. This is 1/5 of the total cost. Much discussion took place between our third-party engineer who was hired as our technical expert and to look out for the Town's best interest about the RO component and the best value for the money before this decision was reached.

Unless Harn RO costs exceed what was submitted to Wharton Smith to generate the GMP, the RO portion will not be bid.



**Edisto Beach - Cost Break Down  
Summary**

DESCRIPTION		QTY	UNIT	TOTALS
<b>Santee Wells Upgrade Well 6 and 2 new wells</b>				
	RTU - controls	2	EA	\$4,000
	Electrical	2	EA	\$10,000
	Generator - ATS	2	EA	\$17,000
	Pipe and Valves	2	EA	\$30,000
	Drill and test well	2	EA	\$800,000
	Well pump	2	EA	\$70,000
	Concrete pump base	2	EA	\$4,000
	Upgrade well 6	1	LS	\$25,000
				<b>\$960,000</b>
<b>RO Equipment</b>				
	RO Equipment	1	LS	\$1,440,000
				<b>\$1,440,000</b>
<b>Building With Clearwell</b>				
	Excavation - backfill	450	CY	\$38,250
	Dewatering	1	LS	\$25,000
	Piling	1	LS	\$141,750
	Concrete	530	CY	\$477,000
	Building - Masonry - Doors - Roofing	1	LS	\$450,000
	Metal stairs - landings - handrail	2	EA	\$50,000
	Painting - Coatings - Finishes	1	LS	\$90,000
	High Service Pumps	3	EA	\$150,000
	Pipe and Valves	1	LS	\$30,000
	Clear well structural- slab, walls, foundation excavation	350	CY	\$210,000
				<b>\$1,662,000</b>
<b>Infrastructure Piping Changes</b>				
	4" pipe	1700	LF	\$59,500
	6" pipe	1000	LF	\$34,000
	10" pipe	5800	LF	\$261,000
	12" pipe	1500	LF	\$78,000
	connect at existing wells 1, 2, 3, 6	4	EA	\$12,200
	6" pipe	9500	LF	\$332,500
	Directional drill into river	600	LF	\$430,800
	Asphalt demo	2500	SY	\$20,000
	Asphalt re - paving	2800	SY	\$182,000
				<b>\$1,410,000</b>
<b>GTS Upgrades</b>				
	State Park Well Field -mechanical modifications	1	LS	\$48,000
				<b>\$48,000</b>
<b>Electrical and SCADA</b>				
	Electrical and SCADA	1	LS	\$600,000
				<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>Sitework</b>				
	Sitework	1	LS	\$60,000
				<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Contingencies</b>				
	For unforeseen items within this scope	1	LS	\$300,000
				<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Design</b>				
	Engineering fees for Phase 2 60%-100% for Construction	1	LS	\$370,000
	Phase 2 60% design fees	1	LS	\$297,000
	Phase 2 Surveying and property coordination	1	LS	\$53,000
				<b>\$720,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL COST</b>			<b>\$7,200,000</b>

**2018-19 BUDGET WORK SHOP**

**GENERAL FUND (REVENUES)**

10-3222.1	FEMA- 4346-REVENUES	\$487,000 ANTICIPATED FROM FEMA(IRMA)
10-3330	APPROPRIATED PY	\$0.00 FROM \$561,500
10-3442	LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS	\$450,000 FROM \$400,000
10-3443	LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS (GF)	\$100,000 FROM \$50,000
10-3444	HOSPITALITY TAX 2%	\$200,000 FROM \$180,000
10-3445	HOSPITALITY RESTRICT. GF	\$100,000 FROM \$90,000
10-3510	PROPERTY TAXES	\$1,126,000 FROM \$988,402
<b>DRAFT TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>\$5,123,452 DOWN FROM CURRENT \$5,389,780</b>

**IN GENERAL, ALL RETIREMENT WAS ADJUSTED BY 2% AND HEALTH INSURANCE BY 8.1%. AN INSURANCE APPRAISOR WILL BE HERE TOMORROW TO LOOK AT PROPERTY INSURANCE AFTER WE DISCOVERED ISSUES FROM THE HURRICANES.**

**EXPENDITURES (ADM)**

PLAN TO REORGANIZE AND MOVE PT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK POSITION AND HIRE A FT ASSISTANT.

10-4100-9235 EMERGENCY FUNDS \$70,500 FROM \$250,000 NEEDED TO FINISH

**EXPENDITURES (OTHER GOVT OTHER)**

10-4110-6310 COMPUTER HARDWARE \$9,000 WE WILL NEED TO ADJUST. WE MET WITH VC3 ON 4/9/2018 AND SEVERAL COMPUTERS WERE MISSING. REPLACE PW COMPUTER, BUY NEW COMPUTER SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR, REPLACE FD DAY ROOM COMPUTER (MOVE THEIRS TO MAYOR), REPLACE FD CHIEF COMPUTER, REPLACE 2 PD LAPTOPS

10-4110-6500 CIP MISC \$19,500 (ITEMIZED BELOW)  
\$2,000 BCP LANDSCAPING & PARKING LOT  
\$10,000 SIDING HERITAGE BUILDING  
\$3,000 NEW FENCE PARKING AREA  
\$6,500 TURTLE FRIENDLY LIGHTING INITIATIVE (COUNCIL RETREAT GOAL)

**COUNCIL INPUT REQUESTED FOR ADDITIONS**

WE HAVE A QUOTE FOR \$60,000 TO PERFORM A HYDROLOGICAL STUDY (RECOMMEND USING LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS, IF LEGISLATION CHANGES)  
ACTIVE SHOOTER (IMPROVEMENTS-PAYMENT WINDOWS, ETC)

**EXPENDITURES (POLICE DEPARTMENT)**

INCREASED OVERTIME BY \$5,000  
ADJUSTED OCEAN RIDGE ½ TO

**EXPENDITURES (MUNICIPAL COURT)**

PLAN TO MOVE PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THIS POSITION.

**EXPENDITURES (FIRE DEPARTMENT)**

ADDED BACK FIRE ENGINE MAINTENANCE WHICH HAD BEEN PAID FROM VEHICLE EQUIPMENT FUND  
USING FUNDS FROM A POLARIS THAT WAS NOT BEING REPLACED.

**EXPENDITURES (PUBLIC WORKS)**

SEPARATED OUT BAY CREEK PARK FROM PARKS AND RECREATION SO WE CAN BETTER ASSESS HOW  
MUCH WE SPEND OPERATING THE PARK.  
MOSQUITO CONTROL WILL BE AN ISSUE AS OUR PREVIOUS CONTRACTOR HAS INFORMED US THEY ARE  
NO LONGER GOING TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE

**EXPENDITURES (BUILDING)**

DEPRECIATION INCREASED SLIGHTLY WITH REPLACEMENT OF HHR

**REVENUES WATER**

15% INCREASE  
REDUCED PRIOR YEAR FUNDS (WILL NEED TO PAY LAST YEAR AND NEXT YEAR BACK ONCE FULLY  
FUNDED)

**EXPENDITURES**

STATUS QUO

**REVENUES SEWER**

STATUS QUO

**EXPENDITURES**

STATUS QUO

**CIVIC CENTER REVENUES**

STATUS QUO

**EXPENDITURES**

AWNING OVER SIDE DOOR TO AUDITORIUM  
REFINISH FLOOR

April 12, 2018

From: Charles L. Stewart  
Executor – Ross Trust  
1702 Myrtle Street  
Edisto Island, SC 29438

To: Town of Edisto Beach  
2414 Murray Street  
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Subject: Myrtle Street Drainage Project

Mayor Jane S. Darby, Mayor, Town Administration and Town Council Members

I am here tonight for this Town Council Meeting to voice my opinions on the status of the “Drainage project on Myrtle Street”. I know this project has been an arduous ongoing effort by the Town of Edisto Beach, Colleton Transportation Committee and the SCDOT, to get the necessary funding to complete this project. I congratulate everyone involved who helped secure the needed funds for this project to move forward.

It's the proposed timing going forward with the project is where I am at a difference with the Town of Edisto Beach. My observations are based on the overall time line that has transpired since this project was introduced, and a letter dated March 16, 2018 from the Town Administrator (a copy is attached). I would like to suggest that the Town of Edisto Beach, Colleton County and the SCDOT look at any proposed timing to start this project (see *Yellow Highlighted* section) and how that decision may impact the guests (*tourist*) that visit Edisto Island during this critical time of the year. I personally think the timing of this project needs to be thought through very carefully, on many different levels, before a definitive start date is announced.

I have six key concerns that I would like the Town Council Members to “ponder” and discuss, possibly in an open forum, before the first shovel of dirt is turned. I feel these points of concern, based on the proposed construction timing, could have a negative impact on our island for several years. I think we need to address these issues head on and be able to provide answers to both the full time residents of Edisto Island and our guests:

1. The letter states, the bid will be let around May 8, 2018 and “We asked SCDOT to begin construction as soon as possible”. As you are very well aware of, this is the beginning of Edisto's Tourist season! This is when every business on the island and rental properties is at the peak of demand. A typical tourist works all year to enjoy a well earned vacation. They come to Edisto for the beach, and our somewhat peace and quiet, to be able to sleep in, or just sit on a porch during their hard earned vacation time. They certainly do not want to hear dump trucks, trenchers and front end loaders starting work at 8 in the morning and going till dark. Why during this summer time frame? Wait until the “winter season”, then the impact of this construction will be less, due to the fewer guests that are here.

2. The letter also states "There will be some detours during the construction process which may be during tourist season (see *Blue Highlighted Section*)." As we all know every road on Edisto Island is busy during the tourist season, but by far, the busiest "side roads" on Edisto Island is Myrtle Street and Lybrand Street! It seems the tourists use these two roads to access just about everything on the Island. If one looks at the project plans, you will notice approximately four blocks of Myrtle Street will have to be closed off or severely curtailed from traffic for the length of the construction process. Additionally, Lybrand Street will have to be completely closed for the period of time it takes to install the drainage pipe under the road. How long will this task alone take? While I have no data to confirm my speculation, I feel a majority of our guests live in areas that they have to endure some type of road construction during the year, and now they will have to live with it during their vacation. The drainage construction itself, the noise, any detours and just the general inconvenience, during our highest volume of road traffic, will not set well with our guests! Not a very good impression that we are placing in our guest's memory.
3. The one most critical concern, that I believe hasn't been given any thought, is the Safety of Our Guests. Usually guests *do* have to bring their children along on vacation, and for the houses in the general construction area affected by this project, are you asking our guests to not allow their children to go outside and play, or ride on the bike trail, walk to the beach? Particularly when the trenchers and loaders are working within a very close proximity of a home? Does this construction area limit the ability of an owner to rent that home? What parameters have been discussed to ensure that children cannot get close to the operating machinery? Do these parameters limit the use of individual yards or streets that the children will be playing in? You are only asking for trouble, both on a liability stand point and the wrath of a *MOTHER* when she can't get a little rest from the children on her vacation also!!
4. Based on the project drawings several water meters and in some cases, the entire water line, will have to be moved to allow for trenching to be completed. Now, are you asking the home owners to cancel reservations on a short notice to our guest, to complete this task? Keep in mind, that in some cases reservations have been made a year in advance, and we (*the Owner*) might to cancel a reservation because our guest may/will not have water service to the house for an hour, a day, two days, or a broken water main due to digging during a reservation date. Who knows exactly when the contractor is going to move a water meter or water line? Will I need to cancel a reservation as a precautionary action? These are some of the questions that as a property owner I/we are entitled to know, in well in advance of any construction project start date. And as with all construction projects, there will be delays, how will we, as property owners be kept in the construction information loop? We need to know the when and what if's, in order that we can react to these uncertain problem(s) concerning our guests.
5. My "Drive way" is only accessed from Myrtle Street! Based on the project drawings, and with the amount of work that has to be done in my yard, 1702 Myrtle will be completely blocked from access and my guests will have no where to park their vehicle(s). I estimate the work in my yard alone to be several weeks at a minimum. There are other key access issues, based on the SCDOT drawings and right-of-way questions that I am addressing to the SCDOT directly, via another letter.
6. The financial burden of any potential revenue loss to some home owners can be extreme. My house is not one of the mega mansions now located on Edisto Island. These homes command \$3,000.00 to \$6,000 per week in rental rates, where one week loss of revenue is no big deal. I depend on a much smaller weekly rental income to pay for town and county taxes, water, and power, maintain the house and property, and attempt to modernize/upgrade amenities for my guests. I need to know WHO is

going to be responsible for any loss of revenue to the Ross Trust due to this construction. Will it be the Town of Edisto, Colleton County, or the State of SC? But, I can assure this council that it will not be the Ross Trust absorbing any financial loss, due to this project.

I implore the Town Council, Colleton County and the SCDOT to rethink the timing and postpone this construction project till the "winter season". Any inconvenience to vacation guests usually has a twofold affect that should be taken into consideration. First, the short term effect, is a very upset renter having to put up with construction, the noise, limited access and other associated problems with construction, including the possibility of short notice reservation cancelation, just before their vacation time. The Second effect is the guest could choose to explore other vacation locations the following year, as they lament "Remember Last Year?" This alone could cause a potential loss of revenue to everyone involved, the home owners, the local business's, and the Town, if guests do return for a year, or for that matter several years, because of the construction problems they encountered during their 2018 vacation.

As a home owner of one the most affected proprieties associated with this project, it is nice to see some action being taken to help with the storm drainage issue, but as was stated at the last Council Meeting I attended and spoke at, this is "only a band aid to the real water problem" we need to explore other options for a permanent, if possible, fix. I assure you that the storms will come again, and bring water to our island, and the affected areas that this project is supposed to help, will again be under water!

Respectively,

*Charles L. Stewart*

Charles L. Stewart  
Executor – Ross Trust

Attachment: Letter from Town of Edisto Beach – March 16, 2018

Cc: William Runyon - Esq.  
Carla Harvey – Colleton County Engineer  
Archie Johnston – Member, Colleton County Transportation Committee  
Craig Winn - SCDOT Project Manager  
Christy Hall - Secretary, South Carolina Department of Transportation

# Town of Edisto Beach

Jane S. Darby, Mayor

**Administration**  
Iris Hill, Town Administrator  
Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk



**Council Members**  
Susan I Hornsby  
Jerome W. Kizer  
W. Crawford Moore, Jr.  
Patti R. Smyer

March 16, 2018

Dear Residents of Myrtle Street:

It is with great pleasure that I deliver this news. Mayor Darby, Carla Harvey (Colleton County Engineer) and I met with the Secretary of the South Carolina Department of Transportation on February 9, 2018 to discuss the forward progress of the drainage project on Myrtle Street. At this meeting, Secretary Hall committed to completing the full scope of the drainage project regardless of whether we succeed in obtaining mitigation grant funds. According to SCDOT, this project is scheduled to be bid and let around May 8, 2018. We asked SCDOT to begin construction as soon as possible. ~~There will be some detours during the construction process which may be during the tourist season.~~

Please thank Mr. Archie Johnston for his efforts in maintaining Colleton Transportation Committee funding and Mr. Tommy Mann and Senator Ronnie Cromer for also meeting with Secretary Hall to plead our case.

This was such fantastic news, I wanted to make sure you were made aware of this development. If you would like to review the plans for the project, we have a set of plans at Town Hall that can be reviewed between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Iris Hill  
Town Administrator