

Monthly Highlights

Elections Results February 2022

Meet the latest Council member of the Town of Edisto Beach. Congratulations to Joey Bagwell. Mr. Joey Bagwell was sworn in as the newest Councilmember on February 8, 2022 by Judge Elbert O. Duffie, III at a Special Council meeting. He will be completing the council term vacated by Crawford Moore when he was elected Mayor. This term will end November 2023. All five council positions are filled.



Councilman Joey Bagwell

Never Miss News from Town Hall

SIGNUP/MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS

As pledged by Town Council, folks now have a better

option to receive the latest Town news. Anyone can subscribe to receive emails by category to obtain the latest news from town hall from our website.

Sewer Moratorium Update

The permit process for installing two new pumps which will increase the Town’s sewer collection capacity is complete. According to the SC Rural Water Infrastructure Grant requirements, the bid documents were submitted for review on January 18, 2022. Bids were issued and are due March 2, 2022. The Ocean Ridge Architectural Review Board has approved the colors for the pump houses and plats were completed for transfer of ownership of property.

Inside this issue

- Council Goals.....2
- Council Goals (cont.)3
- Deer4
- Diamondback Terrapin.....5
- ClearGov Budgeting5

Special points of interest

Transparency Improvements

- Email notifications
- ClearGov

The Town now prohibits the feeding of deer-read more on page 4



Town Council

TOWN COUNCIL GOALS FOR 2022-2023

“Must Do”

1. Beach renourishment planning
 - A. Include next steps for the US Army Corps of Engineers storm reduction project
 - ⇒ Develop a Plan B if town loses funding from the USACE plan.
 - ⇒ Expand role of Town lobbyist. May need funding other than for corps plan.
 - ⇒ Meet with USACE General Jason Kelly at the South Carolina Beach Advocates 2022 Annual Meeting January 31 – February 2, 2022.
 - ⇒ Meet with Director Duane Parrish SCPRT at the SC Beach Advocates meeting about nourishment grant funding.
 - B. Coastal Science and Engineering has indicated that a major renourishment is needed within the next five years.
 - ⇒ How does the Town fund this nourishment? Paid parking?
 - ⇒ To what extent does the Town renourish?
 - ⇒ Is it limited by funding?
 - ⇒ Can the Town afford to include groin adjustments and/or improvements?
 - ⇒ Schedule to meet with Colleton County leadership and County Legislative Delegation to ensure they are aware of plan (s).
2. Manage future wastewater tap approval conditions once the moratorium is lifted
 - ⇒ How does the Town prevent over tapping the collection system requiring additional upgrades?
 - ⇒ As sea levels rise, septic systems are expected to fail. Does the Town need to develop a plan for the future?
 - ⇒ Work with the Water and Sewer Committee and American Engineering to consider written policy regarding tap approval
3. Pursue funding to install automated read meters (ARM):
 - ⇒ Seek software that has some form of “push” notification technology so that leaks do not go undetected.
 - ⇒ Obtain pricing.
 - ⇒ Seek ARPA funding through SCRIA.
3. Prioritize master recreation plan recommendations
 - ⇒ Council review and prioritize top five recommendation and provide to administration
 - ⇒ Develop costs associated with top three recommendations
 - ⇒ Consider budgeting funds in 2022-2023 (possibly last year’s surplus)

“Should Do”

1. Interior Lagoon study
 - ⇒ Town has applied for a South Carolina Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant and a Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) Grant.
 - ⇒ If awarded, develop a schedule working with Davis and Floyd.
 - ⇒ Present possible recommendation to Council for future projects.
2. Garbage collection
 - ⇒ Due to Town’s isolated location, this will likely be an on-going focus area.
 - ⇒ How to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.
 - ⇒ Consider adding additional service weeks (possibly considering additional weeks during spring and Christmas season). Look at 8, 12, 16 additional weeks and costs.
 - ⇒ Improve public education regarding yard trash service.
 - ⇒ Look at partnerships
 - ⇒ Look at possibility of performing in-house rather than outsourcing.
3. Stabilization of unpaved roads-Sand/Rock/Paving
 - ⇒ On-going focus area.
 - ⇒ How best to stabilize certain focus areas such as Jungle Shores at Whaley, 700-800 block, Pompano 500-600 block, Dolphin 600 block and Dawhoo.
 - ⇒ Town’s portion of Jenkins Street needs to be resurfaced.



“Could Do”

1. Town Administrator’s Retirement:
 - ⇒ Time frame of 1/30/23.
 - ⇒ Council should make decision to provide some overlap with the next administrator possibly 4 months unless the decision is made to promote from within.
 - ⇒ Council needs to review job description and determine what they are seeking in an administrator.
 - ⇒ The Municipal Association of SC can assist in application and interview process.
2. Assess use of Town owned beach accesses:
 - ⇒ Open accesses 11 and 15 to golf carts.
 - ⇒ Assess other under-utilized access areas for golf carts.
 - ⇒ Can beach access walkover at 37 be salvaged? Cost vs benefit.
3. Public safety needs for unincorporated Colleton County (Edisto State Park, Jeremy Cay, Edisto Oaks, Neck, Hammocks, Cowpens):
 - ⇒ As of 2022, the State Park no longer provides Class 3 officer certification for rangers; Town police will likely be requested for more routine matters.
 - ⇒ Areas outside of incorporated Edisto Beach are continuing to grow and are requiring more mutual aid from the town’s public safety departments.
 - ⇒ Gather data and track fiscal impacts to prepare for future communication with Colleton County. How much growth? When is buildout of unincorporated Colleton County areas on the Island? How many calls for service are required?





Edisto Deer (photo by Ron Scroggy)

Edisto Beach Bans Feeding of Deer

At the Regular Town Council meeting on February 10, Council banned the feeding of deer. This is in response to a growing population of deer on Edisto Beach that are causing auto accident and deer becoming aggressive towards people and pets. Violations will result in a civil penalty and a fine of \$50.00.

What's Wrong with Feeding Deer?

Feeding deer can have negative impacts on deer populations. Deer are browsers. They browse on leaves, stems and buds of woody plants. Acorns are seasonably important. Studies show that when deer transition from browsing to feed, they receive little nutritional value from the new food source since stomach microorganism must adjust to the diet. When deer are fed, they congregate and can spread disease. Feeding can cause aggression as larger, dominant deer will keep subordinate deer away and overbrowsing by larger deer removes food available to fawns. Feeding can reduce fat reserves as deer use energy traveling to and from feeding areas. Deer may lose their fear of humans and become dependent on humans for food and less on their natural environment. When overabundant, they can negatively impact native plant communities. Deer threaten human health and safety by involvement in deer-vehicle collisions and the transmission of diseases, such as Lyme disease. According to statistics, about 65% of the deer vehicle collisions occur during breeding season (October-December) (<http://wildlifecontroltraining.com>).

Edisto is known for having Piebald deer. Piebaldism is a recessive trait and it is believed both parents must carry the recessive gene. Piebaldism is a rare genetic anomaly in whitetail deer that can include a range of potential deformities from coat coloration to skeletal alignment. Shortened or crooked legs, hooves and spine are sometimes part of the visible problems of piebaldism. Deer with milder symptoms, can live a normal life. (<https://deerassociation.com/look-inside-piebald-deer>).

Diamondback Terrapin (In Our Backyard)



Diamondback Terrapin

The diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) is a small turtle native to coastal marshes, rivers and bays. Terrapins can live their entire life in coastal estuarine marshes. The terrapin has a complex salt gland near their eyes that gives them the ability to distinguish rainwater from saltwater for drinking. They also possess the ability to secrete excess salt from their blood. They live in salt or brackish water. Their favorite food source are periwinkle snails and fiddler crabs. Terrapins vary in color and can be

blond to brown and very dark. Their skin also varies in color and is often covered in black leopard like spots or streaks. Terrapins can live 25 to 40 years. South Carolina is home to a subspecies *Malaclemys terrapin centrata*. They are the smallest in size of all subspecies of which there are 7 recognized subspecies. Populations of this turtle are in decline from habitat loss, sea level rise, road mortality and recreational crab pots. They are listed as a “high-priority” species for conservation efforts within coastal habitats.

Council approved interior painting of the Civic Center

Public Safety

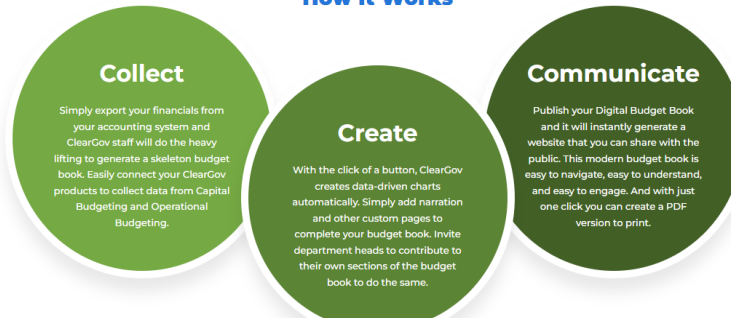
Ever wonder what the Police Department does- besides write tickets? Staff have been training in speed measurement device use, taser use, victim advocacy, CPR, grant development, and human trafficking. They are also working on a fitness and health program.

The Fire Department submitted an AFG Grant and is working on the marine program policy with the Police Department.

Improving Transparency

The Town of Edisto Beach will be working with ClearGov and their online platform to publish a website-based budget book for the fiscal year 2022-2023 budget.

How It Works



As we modernize the budget process and strive for greater transparency with residents and stakeholders, website based budget books are becoming more prevalent.

The largest advantage is the residents and stakeholders can manipulate graphics choosing the best way to display data that makes sense to them. Residents can also drill down to obtain greater detail.