

**MINUTES
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
SEPTEMBER 27, 2011
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
3:00 P.M.**

Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Burley L. Lyons, Mayor, Susan Hornsby, Mayor Pro Tempore, Pete Anderson and Tommy Mann, Council Members; *Quorum of Council Present.*

Absent: Larry "Babe" Hutto, Council Member.

Mayor Lyons welcomed guests and thanked all who served the Town of Edisto Beach.

Mayor Lyons opened with a word of prayer.

New Business

Approved: *First Reading of Ordinance #2011-34 to adjust Rollback Millage for Fiscal Years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 and Provide for a Credit/Refund of Ad valorem Taxes for 2010 to Town Citizens due to Rollback.*

Administrator Iris Hill presented the budget adjustment as follows:

The Town's budget preparation began in early March with Department Heads reviewing historical expenses with the Finance Department and determining needs for the future taking into account Council goals and objectives.

In May 2010, the Town was provided with an estimated reassessment value with various conditions from the Tax Assessment office. In June, the Town received the personal property and vehicle assessments from the Auditor.

When the Town was preparing the FY 2010-11 budget and setting the millage rate (property tax rate), two major changes were taking place in Colleton County:

1. The County was converting to using Manatron software for property taxes which had widespread technical problems that led to delays and errors; and
2. The County performed a reassessment using 2006 property values when property values were at a peak. As a result, there were numerous appeals filed from the Town of Edisto Beach, of which over 400 have yet to be resolved.

During a reassessment year, the Town is required to rollback taxes based on a calculation using prior year tax divided by the estimated reassessment value. Using the best information available, the established rollback millage was 18.81.

Now that the Town has actual numbers, it has been determined that the millage rate was not rolled back sufficiently and the Town collected too much tax over the previous year (TY2010).

Administration and the finance department propose to adjust the TY2011 millage from 18.81 to 17.89 (.01789) for the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget. In addition, credit each taxpayer the overage of .00121 charged in TY2010 based on the difference of the 18.81 (.01881) millage as assessed and a millage of 17.60 (.01760 mils) for Fiscal Year 2010-11. The average credit to each taxpayer is \$26.24. Some will receive more or less depending on taxable value of the property in question.

Administration has spoken with Colleton County and there is sufficient time to adjust the millage rate before the TY2011 tax notices are mailed. This ordinance will require two readings and a public hearing since the budget is being changed. The following proposed reductions to include (\$96,891) contingency in the approved budget are being recommended to offset the reduction of anticipated revenues based on the new millage rate:

- Postpone Town Hall building maintenance with the exception of the gutter on the south side of the building. \$15,000.
- Postpone scan and publish all permanent documents. \$5,000
- Reduce professional fees for zoning ordinance revision. \$5,000
- Delay purchase of plotter and handheld GPS. \$24,000
- Delay construction of dock at Burley L. Lyons Park and Myrtle Street stormwater project. \$30,000

Total potential savings \$175,891.

Councilwoman Hornsby asked what the Town is doing with the \$96,891 that is in contingency. Administrator Hill said that it will remain in contingency; however, this funding is not going to be spent.

Councilman Mann stated that people need to go ahead and appeal their Tax Year 2011 tax bills.

Councilman Mann moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance #2011-34 to adjust rollback millage for fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 and provide for a credit of ad valorem taxes for 2010 to Town citizens due to the adjustment. Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period


There was no one signed in to speak.

Councilman Mann moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Lyons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

The media/public was duly notified of the date, time and place of the Council Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2011.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL


Meagan Chaplin, Municipal Clerk
October 13, 2011