

MINUTES
MAY 7, 2019
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
11:00 A.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 Darby called the meeting to order.

New Business

A. Perpetual Easement Line Placement – Mayor Darby stated that the perpetual easement line placement will be done by surveying and examining deeds to determine accuracy of each property individually. Councilman Kizer asked, “What we’re talking about here is moving the easement line back to the construction line, is that correct?” Mayor Darby answered in the affirmative. Administrator Hill stated, “The red line, which is the engineered perpetual easement line, can now be moved to the construction line.” Councilman Kizer asked if the Army Corps had agreed to the proposed line placement. Administrator Hill said that the Army Corps is waiting for Council to make a decision as to the placement. When that is done, the ACOE can move forward with a cost analysis on the project cost. Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked, “This line that we’re talking about, the seaward line, is the line that is currently where the berm is now?” Administrator Hill answered, “Correct.” Councilman Kizer made a motion to move the easement line to the construction line. Councilwoman Smyer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

B. Inclusion/Exclusion of Inlet Reach – Administrator Hill stated, “We did approach the Army Corps of Engineers about possibly excluding the inlet reach because of concerns that those had on the inlet portion of the project and the chances that you were going to have storm surge on the inlet as opposed to on the Atlantic-facing side. They said they would consider removing the inlet reach... They have cautioned the Town that if it is excluded, it cannot be added back into the project. It would be permanently excluded and they would base the design costs on whatever the project encompasses.” Councilwoman Smyer moved to include the inlet reach in the project. The motion died from lack of a second. Mayor Pro Tem Moore moved to exclude the southern inlet reach and include the area up to the 3200 block of Palmetto Boulevard. (Mikell Street). Councilwoman Hornsby seconded the motion. Councilwoman Smyer stated, “Once we remove the inlet reach, we can never get it put back in the project. I’ve also just read a geomorphology report from Botany Bay. In the past ten years, their beach has changed to where they are no longer getting sand coming from north to south, the sand is now travelling from south to north because of what’s happening up in the North Edisto River. I know we’re not Botany Bay, but I’m telling you that things can change, and I hate to see us give up this opportunity to have this as part of our project when we cannot get it back again.” Mayor Darby called for the vote and the motion passed 4 – 1 with Councilwoman Smyer opposed.

Administrator Hill explained that the last three items on the agenda, Project Partnership Agreement, Funding and Eminent Domain were placed on the agenda so that Council would be aware of the next steps in the process. She stated, “Now that Council has decided on the perpetual easement line placement, and

the inclusion or exclusion of the reach portion, we can provide that information to the Army Corps of Engineers. They will complete the preliminary engineering design that we've already committed to and come up with a cost and then at that point Council will need to decide, based on that cost, how they want to move forward. You can actually include that cost in your Project Partnership Agreement, where they will fund our portion, which would be a 35% match, and it would be at the interest rate established by the government, or Council could pay for it outright, which would be the funding portion. Then we would move forward once that has taken place. Once you've executed the Project Partnership Agreement, then that allows the Town to move forward with surveying and acquiring the easements. All of those costs would be considered in-kind costs. That means that would be considered as our 35% match in the project. Then Council would need to make decisions on how to fund that." Mayor Darby stated, "So the last three are essentially for public information at this point and do not require a vote."

No one signed in to speak, however Mayor Darby opened the floor for brief comments from the audience.

David Cannon – Mr. Cannon asked about lines that were omitted from the Army Corps website. Administrator Hill told Mr. Cannon she had paper copies of the maps he could look at.

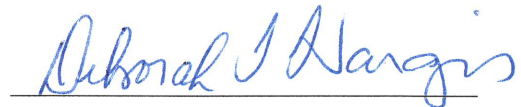
Tom Hart – Mr. Hart thanked Council for excluding the inlet reach from the project. He asked Council, "What are your plans if the Corp rejects that proposal? Will you come back to us and allow us to make comments then? Or are you going to go forward with the project, including the inlet?" Mayor Darby stated, "Our complete assumption is that they will agree to that. If not, it would certainly open it back up to the public because that would not be government transparency." Mr. Hart also commented, "Including the inlet reach would increase your cost by roughly 1/3 compared to what they are without the reach and it would be a fiscal concern I have, I would have a personal concern as many of my neighbors would about how this project would affect our personal lives on the beach. I won't go through all those today, but if it does change, I'd like to have an opportunity to discuss that with Council and I'm sure many of my neighbors would too." Mayor Darby agreed, "That would certainly be your due and your right, sir."

Adjournment

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

The public/media were notified of the day, time and place of the meeting on Friday, May 3, 2019.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



June 13, 2019