

MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2021
ANNUAL GOAL SETTING RETREAT
10:00 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, Jerome Kizer and Robert Renner Council Members. Present via conference call, Council Member Patti Smyer. *Quorum of Council Present.* Also in attendance were Town Administrator Iris Hill, Town Attorney Bert Duffie, Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Municipal Clerk Deborah Hargis, Fire Chief Denney Conley, Police Chief George Brothers, Building Official Patrick Brown, Utilities Director Patrick Zemp and Special Events Coordinator Kelly Moore.

Departmental Requests/Concerns

- A. Commercial traffic on Jungle Road/Palmetto Boulevard (Resident Request) – After discussing the feasibility of granting the request from a resident, it was decided that the Police Department would be more vigilant in ticketing speeders on Jungle.
- B. Town Apartments 2021 – Building Code Official Patrick Brown addressed concerns about the Town-owned apartments. There are currently issues with the roof and the stairs. To have the roof replaced and the stairs replaced would cost approximately \$15,000. It was suggested that repairs be addressed in the February budget adjustments and funds be transferred from contingency to pay for the repairs.
- C. Town Hall Complex update – Mayor Darby suggested that two members of the committee be members of the community. Mayor Darby asked when the work would have to be submitted to be funded by the Capital Project Sales Tax. Administrator Hill stated that information has not been made available to date.
- D. Master Recreation Plan Update – Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus reported that meetings with Council and Toole Design would be set up in late February or early March for Toole to present a draft design to Council. Revisions would be made based on Council input. Mr. Aakhus suggested the Town apply for three grants to aid in covering costs associated with the Recreation Plan. Councilwoman Smyer suggested including a dog park on Tract M similar to the one at Isle of Palms. Utilities Director Patrick Zemp voiced concerns of leakage with a dog park so close to well sites. Mayor Pro Tem Moore asked if the Recreation Plan would be eligible for the Capital Project Sales Tax. Administrator Hill stated the Town could submit any project that Council wanted. Administrator Hill suggested that Council members talk to Walterboro Council members and Colleton County Council members to see if they would be willing to give Edisto Beach one seat on the Capital Project Sales Tax Committee as our population does not rank high enough to get a seat on the Committee.
- E. Beach Access 13 – The issue of parking at Ocean Villa/Beach Access 13 (Thistle Street) was the next topic for consideration. Administrator Hill said that this has been an ongoing issue. Guest of the Ocean Villa have been parking illegally and on the Town's property (the beach access). Councilman Kizer suggested working with the owner so that a solution beneficial to all involved can be implemented. Mayor Darby asked Police Chief Brothers to make sure there were "pictures and documentation" of the ongoing issues at Beach Access 13.

- F. Census Count Resolution – Preliminary results from the census show the Town’s population declining. The Colleton County voter registration list shows an increase. Administrator Hill suggested the Town hire someone to write an appeal for the Town. The Town successfully appealed a previous Census Count, but the numbers were not changed. It was suggested the Town hire an attorney versed in Census Count Resolutions. Town Attorney Bert Duffie will supply the names of those he can find with such experience.
- G. Christmas Decorations 2021 – Council considered several options for additional banners to be interspersed with existing banners. Councilman Kizer and Councilwoman Smyer volunteered to assist Administrator Hill and/or Town staff in selecting and coming up with a map of how the banners and lights should be arranged.
- H. Sewer System – Utilities Director Patrick Zemp told Council that American Engineering would be finished with the sewer study soon. They have been attempting to locate the problems in the wastewater collection system. The capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is not the issue, the collection system is where the problem is. Administrator Hill told Council said that COVID-19 had impacted the collection of data due to rentals being down. American Engineering is estimating the cost of the solution to be between \$750,000 and 1 million dollars. Mayor Darby asked to have costs supplied to Council of repairs of the system over the last few years.
- I. Utility Rates – Administrator Hill reminded Council of the study done by American Engineering that recommended the Town increase its sewer rates at a consistent rate over time to pay for capital expenses. Over the past couple of years, Council decided that increasing the water and sewer rates at the same time would be an unnecessary burden to some property owners.

Mayor Darby Requests/Concerns

- A. Recreation Vehicles and boat trailers parked on streets and in front of houses - Mayor Darby voiced concern over trailers and other things being parked on the side of Palmetto Boulevard with no reflective decals or similar warning lights. Mayor Darby asked Patrick Brown and Chief Brothers to investigate what was required/suggestions for preventing accidents with parked vehicles that have no reflective discs or lights.
- B. Damage to bike paths (Building, yard infiltration and etc.) – Mayor Darby stated her concern over bike paths that are being damaged by homeowners and yards that are causing sand to be washed onto the bike paths. A suggestion was made to have an inspection of property done when a building permit is issued so the condition of bike paths, sidewalks and other Town-maintained areas can be verified. Mayor Darby asked Council to consider possible solutions and the issue would be discussed later.
- C. Special Event Sponsorships – Council decided to keep sponsoring the same events it had at the 2020 Retreat: Cookin’ on the Creek, The Shagfest and The Governor’s Cup. Administrator Hill suggested Council look at tourism-generated accounts at the end of each fiscal year and consider rolling extra funds into a dedicated beach nourishment account.
- D. Army Corps of Engineers Storm Reduction Project – The Town has asked for an extension on the project and is waiting to hear from the Army Corps of Engineers on whether it has been granted. Mayor Darby suggested getting in touch with Senator Graham’s office to make sure he is aware that the Town would like the project included in the Water Resources Conservation Act (WRCA) funding in the coming year.

- E. Holiday schedule – Mayor Darby is concerned that services are not being fully provided to residents and visitors during the week of Christmas and would like to have the holidays split so that Town Hall is able to provide adequate service. Mayor Darby asked that the holiday schedule be addressed again in the future.

The Image and Design of Edisto (TIDE) Requests

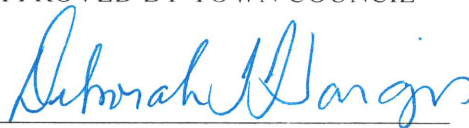
- A. Bike path improvements and continual maintenance according to the Public Works Department schedule regarding sidewalks and bike paths established by Town Administrator Iris Hill – Administrator Hill told Council that there is an established schedule for maintenance of bike paths and sidewalks. Due to the number of staff employed by the Town, the Public Works Department is sometimes redirected to more pressing projects.
- B. Causeway/natural plantings and maintenance – The South Carolina Department of Transportation trimmed the causeway and will continue to do so at the Town’s request. DOT also volunteered to maintain the sidewalks on Palmetto Boulevard. The TIDE Committee has discussed having Muhly grass planted at the head of the causeway/the beach end of the causeway.
- C. Control of litter on beach and roadways – Kelly Moore, Executive Director of Keep Edisto Beautiful, told Council she had contacted several members of the TIDE Committee and was attending the February TIDE Committee meeting to get more information on where Committee members were seeing the litter issues. Mrs. Moore will share ideas for alleviating litter issues with the TIDE Committee at that time.

Council Goals

- **Beach Nourishment**
- **Infrastructure**
 - Water/Sewer Rates
 - Street/Roads/Bike Paths
 - Ongoing Drainage Projects
- **Ditch Maintenance**
 - DOT Schedule
 - Town Staff Schedule
- **Public Works Personnel**
- **Census Tracking**

The media/public was notified of the location, date and time of the meeting on Friday, January 29, 2021.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk
February 11, 2021