

MINUTES
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
OCTOBER 13, 2022
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 p.m.

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present: Mayor Crawford Moore, Mayor Pro Tempore Jerome Kizer, Robert Renner, Jay Watts, Joey Bagwell. *Quorum of Council Present.*

Call to Order

Mayor Crawford Moore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mayor Moore led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2022: Mr. Kizer moved to approve the Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and unanimously approved.

Proclamations and Presentations

Keep Edisto Beautiful Director, Kristi Outland

Kristi Outland, Director of Keep Edisto Beautiful, introduced herself to Council and to the public at the meeting. She detailed upcoming events such as Adopt a Beach Access and the Great American Cleanup. Ms. Outland has been working with the TIDE Committee on beach access clean-up and ideas. She is excited to work with the Town and the residents as part of her Keep Edisto Beautiful duties.

Kenny Bingham Lobbyist/Council Discussion (at Work Session)

Mr. Kenny Bingham of Adams and Reese LLP was present at the October 11th Work Session of the Town Council. Mr. Bingham was hired by the Town in 2022 to serve as a licensed lobbyist representing various Town interests. He updated Council on the Town's \$10 million grant application for sewer upgrades. He also discussed with Council the Census count correction which affects our American Rescue Funds allotment. Mr. Bingham also noted they will provide updates to Council on Senate Bill 106, Beach Nourishment, and other legislative bills important to Council.

Public Comment Period

Ms. Ida Tipton noted to Council her concerns regarding debris on Cheehaw Street.

Old Business

Ordinance No. 2021-13 Temporary Moratorium to be reviewed every 30 days until resolved: Construction of Pump Station B has been awarded to AAA Utility and Construction LLC. Construction is scheduled to begin after tourist, hurricane, and king tides season this December/January with completion scheduled for April. American Engineering President Mr. Bill Bingham met with the Water and Sewer Committee at their regular meeting September 20 to provide the committee an educational session on traditional and engineered septic systems. The SCIIP grant application was submitted prior to the deadline of September 12, 2022, and award timeframe is the first quarter of 2023. The maximum grant amount under this issuance is \$10,000,000 with a 15% local match. The Town is also applying for an additional Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be applied towards the Town's match of the SCIIP grant.

New Business

Annual Deer Management Study. Council was asked to consider for its approval the annual deer management study with Lowcountry Wildlife Specialists, LLC, in the amount of \$1,500. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the annual deer management study with Lowcountry Wildlife Specialists, LLC, in the amount of \$1,500. Mr. Kizer seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Telecommuting Policy. Council was asked to consider for its approval the Telecommuting Policy, which establishes policy and guidelines for staff who, under certain circumstances, request to work from home. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the Telecommuting Policy. Mr. Watts seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Water Connection Request. Council was asked to consider a request from John Hamilton to connect the commercial property located outside of the Town limits at 495 Highway 174 to the Town of Edisto Beach water service. All connection costs will be paid by the requestor. Mr. Kizer made a motion to defer this item to the November Council meeting so questions brought forth by Council can be researched and answered. Mr. Renner seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Tyler Hosted Solution Agreement. Council was asked to consider for its approval the software as a Service Agreement, including all exhibits, with Tyler Technologies at a recurring cost of \$39,086. This moves the Incode software platform to the cloud. This conversion to cloud hosted services provides accessibility to the program when working remotely and eliminates the need for server space. Although this is \$18,066 more than our current annual cost, the Town will not need to replace or upgrade servers this year, which offsets this cost. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the software as a Service Agreement with Tyler Technologies at a recurring cost of \$39,086. Mr. Renner seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Committee Vacancies – Appointments

Construction Board of Appeals—One Vacancy. Council was asked to consider for its approval the following appointment: Edye Graves for reappointment to the Construction Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the reappointment of Edye Graves to the Construction Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

TIDE Committee – Three Vacancies. Council was asked to consider for its approval the following appointments: (1) Betsy Daise for reappointment to the TIDE Committee for a three-year term; (2) Lisa White for appointment to the TIDE Committee for a three-year-term beginning November 1, 2022; (3) Edye Graves for appointment to the TIDE Committee for a three-year term beginning November 1, 2022. Mr. Watts made a motion to approve the reappointment of Ms. Daise, and the appointments of Ms. White and Ms. Graves, as noted. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Council Time

No reports from Council members.

Department Reports

Administration

Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus noted the following:

- We received official notification the LWCF Grant for the Bike Path project was awarded to the Town. We will have a fiscal briefing later in October.
- We had 10,000 unique visitors to the website this month with 31,000 pages viewed. The previous month had 8,000 unique visitors with 21,000 pages viewed. The additional traffic was due to individuals accessing Hurricane Ian updates.
- The installation of new flooring in Town Hall has begun. It will take a couple weekends for the company to complete the work.
- The Town purchased six new beach mats.
- With Mr. Kizer’s help, we have designs for new signage for our parks, and we are ready to order.

Fund Information

Fund	Received	Spent
General Fund	18.76%	21.03%
Water Fund	18.51%	22.17%
Wastewater Fund	19.75%	21.24%

Freedom of Information Act Requests (FOIA)

	September 2021	September 2022	YTD
Number of Requests	11	8*	42

*7 Building Requests; 1 Police Request

Building

	September 2021	September 2022	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$12,484.49	\$10,930.42	\$43,149.62
New Construction Permits	2	3	4
Other Permits	45	33	100
Permit Fees	\$9,809.00	\$15,173.50	\$27,728.00
Inspections	77	102	166

Mr. Brown also noted the new doctor’s office should be ready in the next three weeks if all goes well with the construction work.

Fire

Calls	September 2021	September 2022	YTD
Medical	25	14	78
Fire-Related	5	4	13
EMS/Misc. (includes alarms, hazmat, public assist, water rescue, etc.)	23	30	133
Public Service (includes fire inspections, beach wheelchair loan, welfare checks)	23	20	96

Chief Conley also reported the following:

- Chainsaw training was held this month.
- 150 hours of stand-by time for Hurricane Ian.
- The rehab trailer was readied and staged at the Edistonian for Hurricane Ian use as needed.
- 1500 sandbags were distributed.
- Following Ian, the Fire Department cleaned up any debris at the Town Hall complex.
- Annual physicals for fire department and volunteers were held this month.
- Hydrants were mapped into the FLO electronic system.
- Pre-planning was held for houses at Wyndham that are more difficult to get to.

Police

	September 2021	September 2022	YTD
Miles Patrolled	8,013	9,687	27,238
Incidents & Calls for Service	138	160	641
Property Checks	713	944	2,792
Town Parking Tickets	70	67	509

Chief Seyle also reported the following:

- Chief Seyle and the former police chief worked on the department turnover plan.
- Meetings were held with Chris Ratcliffe with MASC, Eric Skidmore with the SC Law Enforcement Assistance Program, Director Spooner with the Police Academy.
- Meeting held with Beach Patrol for after-action review and begin planning for next year.
- Security detail was provided for the BBQ Festival.
- Meeting held with VC3 to get the in-car camera wireless upload resolved.
- Completed the 1033 Program, which is the federal government program for certain police procurement items.
- Meeting held with the Charleston County Sheriff regarding an updated MOU.
- Grant with the Department of Justice’s Bullet-Proof Vest program was approved.
- A taser grant in the amount of \$2,500 was received through SMIRF.

- Completed all required planning for Hurricane Ian.
- The deer study will take place October 21-23 from 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Utilities

MG (Million gallons)	September 2021	September 2022	YTD
Pumped MG Water	18.4	16.8	63.9
Treated MG Wastewater	3.3	3.7	12.2
Water Line Repairs	3	7	14
Work Order Repairs	32	37	101

Special Events

Phyllis McElveen, Special Projects Coordinator, noted plans are underway for the October 31st Trick or Treat at the Creek from 5:30-7:00 p.m. She encourages all to volunteer and participate. Candy donations are being collected at Town Hall.

Ms. McElveen also reported the Bay Creek Market will be extended one additional Wednesday to October 26, per the wishes of the vendors.

Ms. McElveen is awaiting final numbers for the BBQ Festival held in September, and she will share with Council once she has received this information.

Executive Session

Mr. Kizer moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the following items and only the following items: **(1)** discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee(s) related to the Town Administrator, S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a) (1); and **(2)** discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee(s) related to the Fire Department S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a) (1)

Council entered Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Open Session

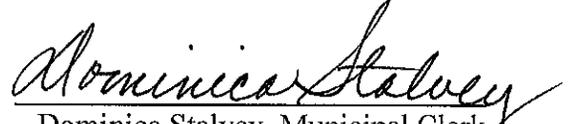
At 7:53 p.m., Mr. Kizer made a motion to exit Executive Session and enter Open Session. Mr. Renner seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Upon entering back into Open Session, Mr. Kizer made a motion to employ Mark D. Aakhus as Town Administrator to succeed Iris Hill after her retirement with a start date of February 1, 2023, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Town Administrator Employment Agreement dated October 14, 2022, on behalf of the Town. Mr. Renner seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL


Dominica Stalvey, Municipal Clerk
November 10, 2022