

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
August 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

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

The Regular Town Council Meeting was properly advertised and posted and met all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

Present

Mayor Crawford Moore, and Council Members Jerome Kizer, Robert Renner, Jay Watts, and Joey Bagwell. *Quorum of Council Present.*

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mr. Renner led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kizer moved to approve the Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentations

No Items

Public Comment Period

Public comment was given as follows:

- Sue Keith, Director, Colleton County Legislative Delegation invited residents to the September 29, 2025, meeting of the Colleton County Legislative Delegation. This meeting will be held at Colleton County Memorial Library, 600 Hampton Street. Ms. Keith indicated this will be an opportunity to see the nine-member delegation at work, and there will be a public comment period.
- Rhonda Barrett noted the ongoing noise from the Pompano Street Lift Station. Ms. Barrett, who resides near the lift station, played an audio recording of its noise. She indicated the pump noise can be heard inside her home.

- Jerry Bohannon mentioned that he and his wife have lived at Edisto Beach for three years and are enjoying seeing how democracy works in our lovely town.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-10, Golf Cart Regulations. Council was asked to consider and approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-10, regulating the operation and use of golf carts within the town limits of Edisto Beach. The new South Carolina law requiring each golf cart passenger under the age of 12 to be properly restrained is included in the revised ordinance. Mr. Watts made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-10, regulating the operation and use of golf carts within the town limits of Edisto Beach. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

New Business

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Council was asked to consider and approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Justice's Juvenile Detention Complex for fiscal year 2025-2026. Pursuant to SC Code of Laws, the per diem rate for operation costs is \$50 a day for any youth housed at a SCDJJ detention facility. Also, local governments utilizing a SCDJJ detention facility will pay an additional capital expenditure charge of \$125 per day for the first 25 days a youth is detained. All transportation to and from a SCDJJ detention facility is the responsibility of the detaining law enforcement agency. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (SCDJJ) for fiscal year 2025-2026. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Request to Purchase Two (2) Police Department Vehicles. Council was asked to consider and approve the purchase of two police vehicles from O.C. Welch Ford, Inc., one 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle at a cost of \$46,960 and one 2025 Expedition 4x4 XL at a cost of \$51,240. The vehicles will be paid from the General Fund-Vehicle Replacement Fund, which has a balance of \$1,884,167. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the purchase of the two police department vehicles from O.C. Welch Ford. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Appointments to Water and Sewer Committee. Council was asked to consider four applications received for the three vacancies on the Water and Sewer Committee, with a four-year term appointment to August 1, 2029. Following a ballot vote, these candidates received majority votes:

David Ballard
John Drolet
John David Griffith

Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve the appointments of David Ballard, John Drolet, and John David Griffith to the Water and Sewer Committee for a four-year term. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Advertise Construction Board of Appeals Vacancies (2). Council was asked to consider and approve the advertisement of two vacancies on the Construction Board of Appeals due to terms ending for Edye Graves and John Drolet. The deadline for applications will be September 3, 2025. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the advertisement of two vacancies on the Construction Board of Appeals. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Approval to Advertise Zoning Board of Appeals Vacancies (3). Council was asked to consider and approve the advertisement of three vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to terms ending for Ned Kuntz, Beverly Sandifer, and Heather Johnson. The deadline for applications will be September 3, 2025. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the advertisement of three vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Approval to Re-Advertise ATAX Committee Vacancies (2). Council was asked to consider and approve the re-advertisement of two vacancies on the ATAX Board. These two vacancies must be filled by representatives from the lodging industry, and no eligible applications were received. The deadline for applications will be September 3, 2025. Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve the readvertisement of the vacancies on the ATAX Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Special Event Application. Council was asked to consider and approve the special event application for the Animal Lovers of Edisto's Paddling for Pups event on May 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bay Creek Park. Approximately 200 participants are expected. Mr. Watts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve the Paddling for Pups event. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

<u>Building Dept.</u>	<u>July 2024</u>	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Business/Rental License Fees	\$18,728.52	\$23,908.70	\$23,908.70
Construction Permits	1	3	3
Other Permits	36	46	46
Permit Fees	\$9,614.50	\$18,383.00	\$18,383.00
Inspections	88	89	89

- Mr. Brown noted there are currently 19 new homes under construction in the Town.

<u>Fire Dept.</u>	<u>July 2024</u>	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Calls			
Medical-Related	37	41	41
Fire-Related	3	3	3
EMS/Misc.*	21	45	45
Public Service**	53	50	50

(*includes alarms, hazmat, public assistance, water rescue, etc.)

(**includes fire inspections, beach wheelchair loan, welfare checks)

- Chief Conley noted it was a very busy July. On July 15, EBFD received a call about a capsized vessel with three boaters who had been stranded for over twelve hours. Chief Conley and Captain Kizer responded, deploying Marine 14. With assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, one injured person was airlifted out, and Marine 14 ensured the other rescued boaters were transported safely to Bennetts Point.
- Assistant Chief Sallenger held CPR Training on August 2.
- EBVFD repainted 12 fire hydrants.

<u>Police Dept.</u>	<u>July 2024</u>	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Miles Patrolled	12,723	13,963	13,963
Incidents & Calls for Service	196	332	332
Property Checks	1,280	2,074	2,074
Town Parking Tickets	138	291	291

- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) training is ongoing; department plans to go live with this system at the end of September. The CAD System will manage and streamline the dispatching process.
- Beach Patrol completed 49 shifts, including response to a medical emergency by Beach Patrol Officer Hutto.

<u>Utilities Dept.</u>	<u>July 2024</u>	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pumped MG Water	25.2	26.8	26.8
Treated MG Wastewater	5.9	5.3	5.3
Waterline Repairs	3	11	11
Work Orders	27	31	31

- 18 street signs ordered.
- Lift stations project ongoing.

<u>Fund Information for June 2025</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Spent</u>
General Fund	10%	8%
Water Fund	8%	6%
Wastewater Fund	7%	8%

Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- Project Updates:
 - Wastewater Improvement Project
 - Some equipment has been received for the lift station projects.
 - Bid documents for the Wastewater Treatment Plant portion of the project are due August 20.
 - Army Corps Project
 - Easement documents completed by attorney; appraisal approval still outstanding.

- Town Hall/EOC
 - Construction remains on budget and on time.
 - Crews are working on parking area drainage and finishing installation of steel beams.
- Jungle Shores Bike Path
 - Project began this week.
- Transportation Alternatives Program Bike Path Improvement Project
 - A scoping session with SCDOT was held July 31 for the resurfacing of the existing bike paths along Dock Site Road, Yacht Club Road, Edisto Street, and Lee Street. This project is currently in the preliminary engineering and design phase.
- Financial Updates
 - Regarding local taxes:
 - The Town has received 26% of the projected budgeted revenue from the 2% local accommodations tax.
 - The Town has received 10% of the projected budgeted revenue from the 2% hospitality tax.
- FOIA Updates
 - Administration-related FOIA Requests for the month of July:
 - 1 – Kevin Cook
 - 1 – Amber McEwen

Council Time

Mr. Bagwell noted he is grateful the busy month of July is behind us and is looking forward to August.

Mayor Moore thanked Council and Town Staff for their work this year.

Executive Session

Mr. Kizer made a motion to go into Executive Session for the following item and this item only: Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee(s) related to the Municipal Judge position. S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a) (1). Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:28 p.m.

Open Session

At 6:42 p.m., Mr. Kizer made a motion to exit Executive Session and enter Open Session. Mr. Renner seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

After entering Open Session, Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas H. Hart III, as the Municipal Judge for the Town of Edisto Beach for a two (2) year term subject to contract negotiations, and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute said contract. Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Rizer".

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
September 11, 2025