

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
September 11, 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

Mayor Moore 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 August 14, 2025, and the Special Town Council Meeting of August 27, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentations

Ceremonial Oath of Office – Thomas H. Hart III, Municipal Judge

Mayor Moore administered the ceremonial oath of office to Municipal Judge Thomas H. Hart III. Mayor Moore welcomed Judge Hart to the position.

Five-Year Service Pin

Mayor Moore and Mr. Aakhus presented Amy Johnson, Clerk of Court, with a Five-Year Service pin. Each thanked Mrs. Johnson for her five years of loyal service and dedication to the Town of Edisto Beach.

Starfish Awards

- Sergeant Greg Poole was recommended for a Starfish Award by Town resident Cheryl Moran for his care, comfort, and support toward her aunt as she dealt with health issues

over the past few months. Ms. Moran and her uncle appreciate Sgt. Poole going above and beyond as he responded to their calls. Sgt. Poole's dedication to his work was praised.

- Beach Patrol Officer Dan Hutto is commended for helping a person experiencing a heart attack. Mr. Hutto's swift actions secured the necessary help for the individual, who is now said to be recovering well.
- Members of the Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department are being recognized with Starfish Awards for their efforts in rehabilitating 53 fire hydrants over past few months. Town Council thanked crew supervisor Jeff Sira and his team: Allen Bridwell, Gary Cantrell, Mike Casey, Vito Cubelo, Bill Cumming, Lisa Cumming, David Ebert, Jim Glennon, Kate Hall, Mike Higgins, Vicki Holland, Tom Johnson, Dennis Knoll, Dru Nix, Jim Olson, and Noni Sallenger.

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 noted there is an opening on the Colleton County Board of Voter Registration and Elections. Applications are due Monday, September 15, 2025.

New Business

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Recreational Fires. Council was asked to consider and approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Recreational Fires. This revised ordinance specifically addresses recreational fires and the conditions under which fires may be permitted in the Town limits. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-12, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Council was asked to consider and approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-12, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. The Standardization Act requires that by December 31 of every odd year, each municipality levying a business license tax must adopt, by ordinance, the latest Standardized Business License Class Schedule as recommended by the Municipal Association of South Carolina and adopted by the Director of the Revenue and Physical Affairs Office for South Carolina. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-12, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Recommendation from TIDE Committee: Butterfly Garden and Osprey Nest Platform. Council was asked to consider and approve the recommendation from the TIDE Committee to create a butterfly garden at Jungle Road Park and build an osprey nest platform at Burley L. Lyons Park. This motion was approved at the TIDE Committee's monthly meeting on August 6, 2025. Mayor Moore recused himself due to the fact he owns a property near Burley L. Lyons Park. Thus, Mr. Kizer presented the recommendation from the TIDE Committee to Council. After discussion, Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the TIDE Committee's recommendation to create a

butterfly garden at Jungle Road Park and build an osprey nest platform at Burley L. Lyons Park. Mr. Watts seconded the motion. The motion passed with four votes in favor, one recusal. Mr. Kizer noted this vote will initiate progress on the projects; at this time, we do not know the funding for the butterfly garden or the exact location of the osprey platform.

Approval to Advertise Planning Commission Vacancy. Council was asked to consider and approve the advertisement for one (1) vacancy on the Planning Commission due to the resignation of Thomas H. Hart III, who was appointed Municipal Judge. This unexpired term appointment will end on May 31, 2027. The deadline for applications will be October 1, 2025. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the advertisement for one vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Appointments to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board. Council was asked to consider and approve two appointments (lodging sector) to the ATAX Board, with a three-year term appointment to August 28, 2028. The Town received five (5) eligible applications, and Council voted by paper ballot for two (2) individuals. Mr. Kizer recused himself due to having a family member on the ballot. The two individuals receiving majority votes were:

Emma Hart
Richard Howse

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the appointments of Emma Hart and Richard Howse to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board for a three-year term. The motion passed with four votes in favor, one recusal.

Appointments and Approval to Readvertise Construction Board of Appeals Vacancy (1). Council was asked to consider and approve the reappointment of Mr. John Drolet to one of the two vacancies on the Construction Board of Appeals. This reappointment will be a three-year term ending November 1, 2028. Council was also asked to consider and readvertise the remaining vacancy on the CBA, with an application deadline of October 1, 2025. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the reappointment of John Drolet to the Construction Board of Appeals and the readvertisement of one vacancy on the Construction Board of Appeals. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Approval to Readvertise Zoning Board of Appeals Vacancy (1). Council was asked to consider and approve the appointment of Gary Cantrell and the reappointment of Beverly Sandifer to two of the three vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals. These appointments will be for a four-year term ending November 1, 2029. Council was also asked to consider and readvertise the remaining vacancy on the ZBA, with an application deadline of October 1, 2025. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the appointment of Gary Cantrell and the reappointment of Beverly Sandifer to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the readvertisement of one vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Special Event Applications

Council was asked to consider and approve the following special event applications for the Town of Edisto Beach to be held at Bay Creek Park:

- Trick or Treat at the Creek event to be held October 28, 2025, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Approximately 300 participants are expected.
- Pre-Thanksgiving Wednesday Market to be held November 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Approximately 250 participants are expected.
- Christmas Tree Lighting to be held November 30, 2025, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Approximately 150 participants are expected.
- Holiday Mix and Mingle Market to be held December 12, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Approximately 150 participants are expected.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve the four special event applications as noted. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

<u>Building Dept.</u>	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>August 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Business/Rental License Fees	\$20,585.37	\$13,940.56	\$37,849.26
Construction Permits	2	3	6
Other Permits	42	53	99
Permit Fees	\$11,742.50	\$20,332.00	\$38,715.00
Inspections	131	88	177

- Morgan Viars, Code Enforcement Officer, presented the Building Department Report to Council as Mr. Brown attends the International Code Council (ICC) Conference and Board of Directors meeting in Greenville.
- Ms. Viars noted there are 21 new homes under construction.

Fire Dept.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>August 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Medical-Related	37	24	65
Fire-Related	3	3	6
EMS/Misc.*	21	23	68
Public Service**	53	32	82

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

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

- Chief Conley is preparing for upcoming Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection.
- Firefighters completed 156 hours of training.
- 100 Fire Prevention bags were distributed to children.
- EBFD welcomed Firefighter Asher Dickerson.

<u>Police Dept.</u>	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>August 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Miles Patrolled	9,223	12,725	26,688
Incidents & Calls for Service	224	188	520
Property Checks	1,418	2,071	4,145
Town Parking Tickets	99	81	372

- EBPD will implement a new integrated Record Management System (RMS) and Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD) which will allow officers to access and share critical information quickly and accurately. Training will be completed mid-September. The system is scheduled to go live in October.
- EBPD invites everyone to join its newly launched Facebook page.
- Beach Patrol has ended for the season. Life rings and hooks have been removed, and Patrol is preparing for 2026.

<u>Utilities Dept.</u>	<u>August 2024</u>	<u>August 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pumped MG Water	17.5	18.6	45.4
Treated MG Wastewater	4.9	7.0	12.3
Waterline Repairs	3	6	17
Work Orders	30	36	67

- Ropes were installed at seven (7) beach accesses this month.
- Three (3) rounds of mosquito spraying have been completed.
- Barricades and signs were placed during the recent heavy rains. Mayor Moore expressed thanks to Mr. Zemp and his department for their efforts during the recent 24 inches of rainfall.

<u>Financial Information for August 2025</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Spent</u>
General Fund	16%	15%
Water Fund	15%	14%
Wastewater Fund	14%	14%

- The Digital Budget Book is complete. This interactive tool has been uploaded to the Town website under the Administration tab.
- The Town has received 49% of the projected budgeted revenue from the local accommodations tax.
- The Town has received 27% of the projected budgeted revenue from the hospitality tax.

Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- Project Updates:
 - Wastewater Improvement Project
 - Lift Station Project is expected to be mobilized September 22, 2025, beginning with the Pompano Lift Station.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant portion of the project is expected to mobilize equipment to Tract M in October.
 - Army Corps Project
 - Easement documents are being completed by attorney, appraisal approval still outstanding.

- Town Hall/EOC
 - Project remains on schedule and on time.
 - Drainage chamber is nearing completion.
 - Current work includes completing roof trusses, installing steel roof decking, beginning sheathing, and interior wall framing.
- Jungle Shores Bike Path Project
 - Elevations and paving complete. Quotes are being sought for installing aggregate to help with flooding and overall conditions of the path.
- FOIA Updates
 - Administration-related FOIA Requests for the month of August:
 - 1 – Kim Moredock

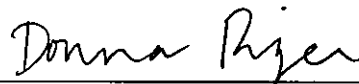
Council Time

- Mayor Moore thanked Council for their work this year.
 - Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Bagwell for his work on developing the riptide signs.
 - Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Kizer for his work on the new beach access signs and other beautification projects.
 - Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Renner for his work on flood mitigation efforts and planning strategies.
 - Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Watts for his focus on community health.
- Mr. Watts noted that an Immunization Clinic will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Civic Center on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, and Thursday, October 9, 2025.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
October 9, 2025