

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
October 9, 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. Bagwell led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kizer moved to approve the Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025, and the Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting of September 11, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentations

Starfish Awards

- Leslie Varner Hurley was recognized for her many years of service to the ATAX Board from August 2016 through August 2025, including serving as chair. Her contributions were invaluable, ensuring ATAX revenue was utilized effectively to enhance our community.
- Tyler Von Neida was also recognized for his years of service to the ATAX Board from August 2016 through August 2025. Tyler's knowledge of the tourism sector was invaluable when recommending expenditure of ATAX funds.

Public Comment Period

Public comment was given as follows:

- Resident Kim Moredock presented comments regarding press releases posted by the Town of Edisto Beach. Topics included the wastewater system improvements and grant

funding, the partnership with the Summerville YMCA, and the drainage feasibility studies (*Mrs. Moredock's statement is attached to these minutes*).

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Recreational Fires. Council was asked to consider and approve the second reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5, Fire Prevention and Protection, Recreational Fires. This ordinance specifically addresses recreational fires and the conditions under which fires may be permitted in the Town limits. Mr. Kizer made a motion to clarify the definition of recreational fire by adding the words "outdoor yard" to the definition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagwell and approved unanimously.

Mr. Kizer then made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-11, Amendment to Section 42-5 with the noted revision. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

New Business

First Reading of Ordinance 2025-13, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Council was asked to consider and approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-13, 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. Renner made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-13, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Agreement with Colleton County Sheriff's Office: Victim Advocate. Council was asked to consider and approve the agreement with Colleton County Sheriff's Office to provide the Town of Edisto Beach with the services of a Victim Advocate for all Town cases with a victim, whether the case is brought in General Sessions or the Town of Edisto Beach Municipal Court, as mandated by South Carolina law. The Victim Advocate will be an employee of the Colleton County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the agreement with Colleton County Sheriff's Office to provide the services of a Victim Advocate for all Town cases with a victim. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Extension of Cleaning Contract for DM Cleaning Services. Council was asked to consider and approve the extension of the cleaning contract for DM Cleaning Services for Town Hall and adjoining buildings. This is the fourth and final extension permitted under the current contract, and the period of this extension will be October 20, 2025, through October 20, 2026. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the extension of the cleaning contract for DM Cleaning Services for Town Hall and adjoining buildings. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Approval to Advertise TIDE Committee Vacancies (3). Council was asked to consider and approve the advertisement for three (3) vacancies on the TIDE Committee due to current terms ending in November 2025 for Betsy Daise, Edye Graves, and Lisa White. The deadline for

applications will be November 5, 2025. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the advertisement for three vacancies on the TIDE Committee. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Construction Board of Appeals (one vacancy). Council was asked to consider and approve one appointment to the Construction Board of Appeals, with a three-year term appointment ending September 1, 2028. Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the appointment of Mr. Byron Briesse to the Construction Board of Appeals. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals (one vacancy). Council was asked to consider and approve the reappointment of Mr. Ned Kuntz to the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This reappointment will be a four-year term ending September 1, 2029. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the reappointment of Ned Kuntz to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

<u>Building Dept.</u>	<u>September 2024</u>	<u>September 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Business/Rental License Fees	\$17,277.71	\$4,229.83	\$42,079.09
Construction Permits	0	0	6
Other Permits	44	22	121
Permit Fees	\$6,906.50	\$46,075.50	\$84,790.50
Inspections	61	100	277

- Morgan Viars, Code Enforcement Officer, presented the Building Department Report to Council.
- Ms. Viars noted there are 20 new homes under construction, and one (1) Certificate of Occupancy was issued in September.

Fire Dept.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>September 2024</u>	<u>September 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Medical-Related	37	29	94
Fire-Related	3	3	9
EMS/Misc.*	21	47	115
Public Service**	53	51	133

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

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

- Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection is scheduled for October 29, 2025. Chief Conley is continuing preparations for the inspection.
- Firefighters completed 237 hours of training.
- The fire sprinkler project is nearing completion at the Fire/Police stations.
- Mayor Moore thanked EBFD for their efforts on the structure fire at Jeremy Cay October 4, 2025. EBFD was first on scene and worked together with St. Paul's Fire District and Colleton County Fire-Rescue to secure the scene and extinguish the fire.

<u>Police Dept.</u>	<u>September 2024</u>	<u>September 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Miles Patrolled	11,533	13,591	40,279
Incidents & Calls for Service	125	275	795
Property Checks	1,331	1,908	6,053
Town Parking Tickets	22	38	410

- The Police Department's new integrated Record Management System (RMS) is now live and operating smoothly.
- Planning is underway for the 2026 Beach Patrol season.

<u>Utilities Dept.</u>	<u>September 2024</u>	<u>September 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pumped MG Water	16.4	13.1	58.5
Treated MG Wastewater	3.8	3.7	16.0
Waterline Repairs	1	7	24
Work Orders	24	38	105

- Ditch maintenance was performed on Cheehaw Street and Osceola Street to clear debris and maintain water flow.
- Parking areas at Bay Creek Park and Jungle Road Park were graded.

<u>Financial Information for September 2025</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Spent</u>
General Fund	21%	22%
Water Fund	22%	14%
Wastewater Fund	21%	19%

- The Town has received 62% of the projected budgeted revenue from the local accommodations tax.
- The Town has received 35% of the projected budgeted revenue from the hospitality tax.

Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- Project Updates:
 - Wastewater Improvement Project
 - The contractor has commenced work at the Pompano Street Lift Station.
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant portion of the project is expected to be mobilized soon.
 - Advanced Metering Infrastructure System (AMI)
 - The initial project meeting was held, and equipment has been mobilized onto Tract M.
 - The Town is working with Verizon regarding antenna space on the water tower.
 - Army Corps Project
 - The Town expects a formal response from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the appraisals within the next two weeks.
 - Town Hall/EOC
 - Project remains on schedule and on time, with only three (3) reported weather days.

- Construction at Town Hall/EOC will be shut down on Election Day, November 4, 2025, to ensure access to the polling site.
 - Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE) will visit Edisto Beach next week to analyze areas of the beach that would be eligible for sand scraping. The CSE shoreline erosion assessment would then be reviewed by South Carolina Department of Environmental Services' Bureau of Coastal Management (SCDES/BCM).
- FOIA Updates
 - No Administration-related FOIA Requests for the month of September.

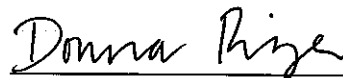
Council Time

- Mr. Bagwell noted two events that took place last weekend:
 - The Who You Whit Benefit was held October 4, 2025, to raise awareness and funds for mental health awareness. It is named for Edisto resident and former Pressley's employee Whit Nelson. Mr. Bagwell spoke about the importance of this cause.
 - The memorial service for John Singleton was held on October 4, 2025. Mr. Singleton was an Edisto Island resident and the first hire Mr. Bagwell made at Pressley's. Mr. Bagwell noted that Mr. Singleton had been a truly wonderful person.
- Mr. Renner gave an update on the Town drainage project. The lagoon study is complete; feasibility studies and funding sources are being explored. Davis & Floyd Engineering recently provided a drainage study for the outfall near Yacht Club Road and a Town-wide planning strategy to improve the Town's flood resiliency.
- Mr. Watts noted his enthusiasm about the Town's partnership with the Summerville Family YMCA to bring health, wellness, and recreation opportunities to Edisto Beach. Mr. Watts announced that a community health event, sponsored by the Summerville YMCA, will be held on October 14, 2025, at the Edisto Beach Civic Center. The event will offer free A1C and blood pressure screenings. Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Watts for being the point of contact on this partnership.

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 6:26 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
November 13, 2025

It's election time and the Town is sending press releases out to share their successes. Nothing wrong with this unless they are misleading.

Our first press release was:

The Town of EB has secured an amendment to its existing SC infrastructure grant, providing an additional \$693, 270 to fully fund ongoing waste water system improvements. Actually in 2023 the town received nearly 9 million dollars as part of a grant. Nearly every town and or county in the state received large amount of dollars. I was at a town meeting where they were contemplating how to spend it all. Of course they grabbed the rest of the dollars. Why announce now? The big news was two years ago.

In another press release: "The Town of Edisto Beach is excited to announce new partnership with the Summerville YMCA.... This partnership grew put of a Town Council effort, guided by the leadership of Jay Watts to expand health and wellness opportunities for the community." Wow, right? We later learn that the Y initiated the effort with a call to us. I have learned that many of the items listed in the press release will be 9 months away if ever. Is the press release an accurate description? Many will turnout for the freebies...A free A1C and blood pressure check. There will likely be another press release then...Oct. 14 Does that win your vote?

And then there's drainage. It just so happens that we will have our consultants at our next work session to share a feasibility study.

The Town has a large megaphone and casts a big net. It should not be taken lightly or to mislead us.

I have a press release to share tonight. A cell tower will be erected at a prominent location near strip mall on Jungle Rd. Nothing says Edisto like a cell tower at one of our entrances. How did this happen? Who knew?