

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
November 13, 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. Watts led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

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

Presentations *(no items)*

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Town Council Members

The Honorable Thomas H. Hart III, Municipal Judge, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Robert R. Renner and Mr. James R. Watts II individually. Each affirmed the oath before beginning his new term.

Election of Mayor Pro Tempore

In accordance with town ordinance, following a general election for Town Council, a Mayor Pro Tempore shall be elected by ballot from among the council members. The Mayor Pro Tempore shall serve a two-year term, or until a successor is elected. Council voted by ballot, and Mr. Jerome Kizer received the majority of the votes. Mr. Watts made a motion to approve Mr. Kizer as Mayor Pro Tempore. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Resident Marie Bost thanked all candidates who ran for Town Council and all the voters who participated in the election. She also expressed appreciation to Town Council and staff for their work in 2025.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-13, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Council was asked to consider and approve the second 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 Second Reading of Ordinance 2025-13, Amendment to Standardize Business License Class Schedule. Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

New Business

Accommodations Tax Advisory Board Recommendation: Town of Edisto Beach, Beach Renourishment Project. Council was asked to consider and approve the recommendation from the Accommodations Tax Advisory (ATAX) Board to fund the beach renourishment project request from the Town of Edisto Beach in the amount of \$250,000. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the ATAX recommendation to fund the renourishment project in the amount of \$250,000. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Appointments to the TIDE Committee. Council was asked to consider and approve three appointments to The Image and Design of Edisto (TIDE) Committee, with three-year terms ending November 1, 2028. The Town received four (4) eligible applications, and Council voted by paper ballot for three (3) individuals. The three individuals receiving majority votes were: Allen Bridwell, Edye Graves, and Lisa White.

Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to approve the appointment of Allen Bridwell and the reappointments of Edye Graves and Lisa White to the TIDE Committee for three-year terms. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Readvertise Planning Commission Vacancy. Council was asked to consider and approve the readvertisement for one (1) vacancy on the Planning Commission for an unexpired term to end on May 31, 2027. The deadline for applications will be December 3, 2025. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the readvertisement for one vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Recommendation from the TIDE Committee: Speed Limits. Council was asked to consider and approve the recommendation from the TIDE Committee to reduce the speed limit to 20 miles per hour on Jungle Shores Drive, on all other unpaved roads, and all side streets in the Town. This recommendation excluded more primary streets such as Dock Site Road, Jungle Road, Lybrand Street, Myrtle Street, Palmetto Boulevard, and Yacht Club Road. After discussion, including the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (SCDOT) required traffic studies, SCDOT's

willingness to only reduce the speed limit to 25 mph, and the inconsistency in speed limits throughout the town this would create, Mr. Kizer made a motion that no action be taken on the recommendation, and Mr. Renner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the current speed limits will remain in effect.

Special Event Application. Council was asked to consider and approve the special event application from Pressley's at the Marina for a fundraiser for the John Singleton family on November 15, 2025. The event will be from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Approximately 90 participants are expected, and outdoor music will be featured. Mr. Bagwell recused himself from voting and discussion due to the event being held at his business. Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the fundraiser for the Singleton family. The motion passed with four votes in favor, one recusal.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

<u>Building Dept.</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Business/Rental License Fees	\$11,396.85	\$23,042.53	\$65,121.62
Construction Permits	4	2	8
Other Permits	65	58	179
Permit Fees	\$28,706.00	\$15,248.00	\$100,038.50
Inspections	143	108	385

- Mr. Brown, Building Code Administrator, noted there are 21 new homes under construction, and one (1) Certificate of Occupancy was issued in October.

Fire Dept.

<u>Calls</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Medical-Related	16	24	118
Fire-Related	1	7	16
EMS/Misc.*	10	17	100
Public Service**	15	23	156

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

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

- Insurance Services Office (ISO) inspection is complete. Chief Conley indicated the inspection went well, and the official results will be forthcoming.
- Firefighters completed 125 hours of training.
- The fire sprinkler installation has been completed at the Fire/Police stations.
- Assistant Chief Sallenger conducted a Community Risk Reduction (CRR) information awareness session. CRR is a prevention-first approach to enhance public safety in our community.

<u>Police Dept.</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Miles Patrolled	11,323	13,132	53,411
Incidents & Calls for Service	159	192	987
Property Checks	1,242	1,999	8,052

Town Parking Tickets	20	20	430
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- The Police Department's radar devices were calibrated.
- Sergeant Poole and Officer Golden participated in specialized investigation training in Beaufort, SC.

<u>Utilities Dept.</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>October 2025</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Pumped MG Water	16.8	15.3	78.3
Treated MG Wastewater	3.5	3.9	19.9
Waterline Repairs	5	4	28
Work Orders	21	38	143

- Mr. Zemp noted there are three contractors working on utilities projects currently.
- Mayor Moore and Mr. Kizer thanked Mr. Zemp and his department for their hard work and for their assistance with yard debris pickup on Tuesdays.

Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- Project Updates:
 - Wastewater Improvement Projects
 - Lift Stations: Pompano Street Lift Station is complete and awaiting startup. The Waterfront Lift Station is in progress.
 - Wastewater Treatment Project: Temporary ponds have been installed; awaiting arrival of provisional plant.
 - Advanced Metering Infrastructure System (AMI)
 - The antenna collector is installed on the water tower.
 - Contractor is currently installing the meters, and work on software integration is being completed.
 - Army Corps Project
 - A formal response has been received from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the appraisal methodology. A meeting will be arranged with the Corps and appraisers to discuss.
 - Town Hall/EOC
 - Project remains on schedule.
 - Construction was suspended for Election Day.
 - Current work includes sheetrock, window and door casings, roofing, and stair construction.
 - Jungle Road and Dock Site Road Repaving Schedule
 - South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has tentatively scheduled the repaving for February-March 2026.

Mr. Aakhus noted the Town of Edisto Beach again received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, recognizing the highest standards in budgeting and financial transparency. Mayor Moore complimented Mr. Aakhus and staff for their work and encouraged everyone to visit the Town website to view the Digital Budget Book.

<u>Financial Information for September 2025, (YTD)</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Spent</u>
General Fund	26%	39%
Water Fund	22%	37%
Wastewater Fund	21%	41%

- The Town has received 70% of the projected budgeted revenue from the local accommodations tax.
- The Town has received 43% of the projected budgeted revenue from the hospitality tax.

FOIA Update

- Administration-related FOIA Requests for the month of September:
 - 1 – Krista Birchmore

Council Time

- Mr. Bagwell noted the fundraiser will be held for the family of John Singleton on November 15, 2025. Mr. Singleton was a beloved resident of Edisto Island and a long-time employee of Pressley's at the Marina. The event will feature nine (9) different musical groups, raffle items, and great food. Mr. Bagwell encouraged all to attend.
- Mr. Renner thanked everyone for participating in the election and noted the large voter turnout.
- Mr. Watts thanked everyone for their support and indicated he looks forward to four more years serving the community.
- Mayor Moore addressed Chelsea Harrison, Director of the Edisto Chamber of Commerce, and noted the Pre-Thanksgiving Market to be held November 26, 2025, and the Holiday Mix and Mingle Market and Edisto Turtle Tide Art Auction to be held December 12, 2025.

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 Town Attorney, S.C. Code §30-4-70 (a) (1)

Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Council entered Executive Session at 6:36 p.m.

Open Session


At 6:47 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. Kizer made a motion to extend the contract for Maryann Blake as the town attorney for the Town of Edisto Beach for a three (3) year term subject to contract negotiations, and to authorize Mayor Moore to execute said contract. Mr. Renner seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
December 11, 2025