

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
December 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.

Mayor Moore welcomed Sue Keith, Director, Colleton County Legislative Delegation, and expressed appreciation for her support.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Mr. Kizer 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 November 13, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentations

Starfish Award

Phyllis McElveen was nominated for the Starfish Award by Debbie Bridwell, Edisto Beach resident, for going above and beyond successfully executing the Cookin' on the Creek event despite adverse weather conditions. Town Council expressed appreciation for her leadership.

Paul Otte was also nominated for the Starfish Award by Debbie Bridwell. Paul assisted with the Cookin' on the Creek event by troubleshooting issues, assisting volunteers, and being a positive influence overall. Town Council expressed appreciation for his efforts.

Ten-Year Service Pin

Sergeant David McWatters was presented with a ten-year service pin by Mayor Moore and Police Chief Daniel Seyle. Mayor Moore congratulated Sgt. McWatters and thanked him for his service to the Town of Edisto Beach, noting Sgt. McWatters has spearheaded several successful police department initiatives. Chief Seyle praised Sgt. McWatters as an asset to the Town. He noted Sgt. McWatters is the first to volunteer for assignments and demonstrates exceptional generosity, commitment, and dedication. Several members of the Police Department were in attendance to show support for Sgt. McWatters.

2024-2025 Audited Financial Statements: The Brittingham Group, LLP

Mr. Bill Hancock, CPA, representing The Brittingham Group, presented the audit report for the Town of Edisto Beach for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Auditors found the Town to be in a strong financial position entering the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Hancock stated the Town's records and financial statements are reliable and accurate.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to accept the 2024-2025 audited financial statements as presented. Mr. Bagwell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were received.

New Business

Discussion of Potential Sand Scraping

- Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE) assessed the beach in September and October 2025.
- CSE indicated a large-scale sand scraping is not warranted at this time, though it was noted there are 22 homes located within 20 feet or less of the high-water line.
- Small-scale sand scraping could be performed in these areas; however, the effects would be temporary.

After discussion, Town Council recommended monitoring conditions and deferring action unless needed, with any necessary action to be completed before turtle nesting season. This recommendation mirrors that of the Beachfront Management Committee.

ClearGov Subscription Service Fee

Council was asked to consider and approve the ClearGov Subscription Service Fee for a three-year period beginning February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2029. ClearGov provides the base platform and the digital budget book service on our Town Website

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve the ClearGov subscription service fee for a three-year period. The motion passed unanimously.

2026 Town Council, Town Committees, and Municipal Court Meeting Schedules

Council was asked to consider and approve the proposed 2026 Town Council Meeting Schedule, which includes Town Council Meetings, Town Committee Meetings, and Municipal Court dates. Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 calendars and Mr. Watts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The 2026 Town Council meeting dates will be published as required, and all schedules will be posted on the Town's website.

2026 Town Holiday Schedule

Council was asked to consider and approve the proposed 2026 Town Holiday Schedule. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 Town Holiday Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kizer and approved unanimously. The 2026 Town Holiday Schedule will be published on the Town's website.

2026 Additional Twice-Weekly Trash Collection Schedule

Council was asked to consider and approve the 2026 Additional Twice-Weekly Trash Collection Schedule. It was noted this is not for an additional service; the Town must identify annually these twelve additional weeks for twice-weekly pickup. The suggested weeks are March 29 through May 23, 2026, September 13 through October 3, 2026, and December 28 through January 2, 2027. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the 2026 Additional Twice-Weekly Trash Collection Schedule. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagwell and approved unanimously.

Reappointment of Keep Edisto Beautiful (KEB) Board Members

Council was asked to consider and approve the following reappointments to the Keep Edisto Beautiful Board: Lisa Cumming, Caroline Eynon, Mindy Friddle, Bess Kellett, and Krystal Parsons. Their terms will be effective for one year beginning December 2025. Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the reappointments. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Planning Commission

Council was asked to consider and approve one appointment to the Planning Commission; for an unexpired term ending May 31, 2027. The town received one application for this vacancy from Marie Bost. Mr. Kizer recused himself due to having a family member on the ballot.

Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the appointment of Marie Bost to the Planning Commission for a term ending May 31, 2027. The motion passed with four votes in favor, one recusal

Special Event Applications

Edisto Art Guild: Arts in the Park

Council was asked to consider and approve the special event application from the Edisto Art Guild for the Arts in the Park events to be held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., May 24, June 14, July 12, and August 9, 2026. The May, June, and July events will be held at Bay Creek Park, and the August event will be held at the Civic Center. Approximately 250-400 participants are expected. The Art Guild also requested that Town Council sponsor the Arts in the Park series by waiving the Bay Creek Park and Civic Center fees. Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the Edisto Art Guild's Arts in the Park for the proposed dates and to sponsor the events by waiving the facility fees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Whaley's Restaurant Chili Cook-Off

Council was asked to consider and approve the special event application from Whaley's Restaurant for a Chili Cook-Off on January 17, 2026. The event will be from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Approximately 80 participants are expected, and outdoor music will be featured. Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve Whaley's Chili Cook-Off. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

Building Dept.	November 2024	November 2025	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$5,070.30	\$6,704.24	\$72,321.00
Construction Permits	1	2	10
Other Permits	45	33	212
Permit Fees	\$9,804.00	\$13,748.00	\$75,071.50
Inspections	113	81	466

- Mr. Brown, Building Code Administrator, noted there are currently 22 new homes under construction.

Fire Dept.	November 2024	November 2025	YTD
Medical Related Calls	14	16	134
Fire Related Calls	3	1	17
EMS/Misc.*	16	22	122
Public Service**	18	15	171

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

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

- Community CPR training was held on December 10, 2025.
- Firefighters completed 229 hours of training.
- A Community Risk Reduction (CRR) training class will be held December 12, 2025.

Police Dept.	November 2024	November 2025	YTD
Miles Patrolled	13,188	13,461	66,872
Incidents & Calls for Service	157	172	1,159
Property Checks	1,319	2,142	10,194
Town Parking Tickets	13	12	442

- The EBPD's Facebook page assisted in the successful location of a missing person in Walterboro.
- The department's beach ATV was taken in for repair.

Utilities Dept.	November 2024	November 2025	YTD
Pumped MG Water	11,135,030	12,767,860	88,720,400
Treated MG Wastewater	3,280,865	2,611,147	22,631,311
Waterline Repairs	3	6	34
Work Orders	31	44	187

- Mr. Zemp noted 1600 of the 2400 new meters have been installed.
- Christmas decorations and holiday lighting have been placed throughout the Town.

Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- Project Updates:
 - Wastewater Improvement Projects
 - Lift Stations: Pompano Street Lift Station is complete. The Waterfront lift station awaiting startup. Progress has been made on Dock Site, Bay Creek, Bay Point, Lee, and Scott Creek lift stations.
 - Wastewater Treatment Project: Provisional plant has arrived, power pole to be installed. Earthwork has begun around the permanent treatment pond.
 - Advanced Metering Infrastructure System (AMI)
 - Contractor is currently installing the meters; approximately 1,600 meters have been installed.
 - Army Corps Project
 - A meeting was held with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Town's appraiser. Appraisal methodologies were discussed at length. A path forward was agreed upon that includes updating the existing appraisal information.
 - Town Hall/EOC
 - Project remains on schedule.
 - Current work includes sheetrock and Hardie board installation.
 - The contractor invoiced the Town \$4,518,896 for work completed to date, representing a portion of the \$6,818,409 contract amount.

Financial Information for November 2025, (YTD)	Received	Spent
General Fund	36%	38%
Water Fund	37%	34%
Wastewater Fund	21%	22%

- The Town has received 77% of the projected budgeted revenue from the local accommodations tax.
- The Town has received 52% of the projected budgeted revenue from the hospitality tax.

Council Time

- Mr. Kizer encouraged everyone to go out and enjoy the Christmas lights around town, visit the decorated Christmas tree at Beach Access 10, and attend the Christmas parade on December 13, 2025.
- Mayor Moore addressed Phyllis McElveen, Special Projects Coordinator, and noted the Holiday Mix and Mingle Market and Edisto Turtle Tide Art Auction to be held December 12, 2025. Mayor Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

- Police Chief Seyle noted this time of year typically brings an increase in vehicle break-ins and urged residents to remain vigilant by properly securing their vehicles.

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 6:49 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

Donna Rizer

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
January 8, 2026