

**TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH**  
**Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting**  
**February 12, 2026**  
**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 minutes of the Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting of January 8, 2026, Town Council Special Meeting of January 13, 2026, and Town Council Goal-Setting Retreat on January 29, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

**Presentations**

**Starfish Award**

Phyllis McElveen, Special Projects Coordinator, nominated Edye Graves, Lisa White, and Doug White for Starfish Awards in recognition of their extraordinary dedication and creativity in bringing the Christmas tree on the beach to life. Through countless volunteer hours, they managed every aspect of the project – from having a tree donated, to set-up, takedown, and year-to-year storage – ensuring this special tradition could continue safely and beautifully. Their efforts have certainly captured the spirit of Edisto Beach and garnered widespread attention, being featured on multiple local and regional social media outlets, and a photo of the Christmas tree was the image on the Town’s 2025 Christmas card. The Mayor expressed his gratitude on behalf of Town Council for their volunteerism and commitment to their community.

### Twenty-Year Service Pin to Patrick Brown

Town Administrator Aakhus presented the twenty-year service pin to Patrick Brown, Building Code Administrator. Mr. Aakhus congratulated Mr. Brown on this significant milestone and, as well, for the many years of dedicated service to the Town of Edisto Beach and our residents.

### Presentation of the 2025 South Carolina Department of Environmental Sciences (SCDES) Beach Monitoring Data – Councilman Bob Renner

Councilman Bob Renner presented an update on the Edisto Beach Water Quality Investigation for 2025. As Councilman Renner noted at the beginning of his presentation, Town Council asked four years ago: Does Edisto Beach have a septic system problem? In an attempt to answer this question, Mr. Renner noted the following:

- In order to gather data and information, the Town worked together with South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES) to evaluate water quality testing data in the creeks and beach. From 2020 to 2023, there were very few readings over the DES threshold to trigger a swimming advisory. In 2025, a testing site on Side Beach was designated with a long-term swimming advisory status.
- Mr. Renner presented a map which shared the various locations where testing was completed. DES sampled 12 beach locations twice monthly on Edisto from May through September. In 2024, more than 10% of the data collected from the past five years for LC-081 (Beach Access 35) was over the 104 CFU/100ml threshold. For the 2025 season, DES committed to test four Side Beach test sites on a weekly basis. DES also conducted two different qPCR sourcing tests.
- Mr. Renner reported the following was interpreted by DES based on these readings:
  - We do not have a smoking gun, and it appears that septic systems are not the root cause of high enterococcus readings; and readings are not population driven.
  - We again see a correlation with King Tides and Stormwater Runoff with higher enterococcus readings.
  - DES opinion is the high readings are more likely caused by the outflow of the rivers and creeks that slow down in the Sound.
  - When high readings occurred, repeat measurements showed readings back to normal in a day or two.

The Town will continue to work with DES and academia to get more and better data.

### Public Comment Period

No public comments were received at this meeting.

### New Business

#### Resolution #2026-R01, Adoption of 2026-2027 Town Council Goals

Council was asked to consider and approve Resolution #2026-R01, Adoption of 2026-2027 Town Council Goals. Following approval of the resolution, the goals will be posted on the Town's website and disseminated as deemed appropriate.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-R01, Adoption of 2026-2027 Town Council Goals, which was seconded by Mr. Kizer. The motion passed unanimously.

### FY 2026-2026 Budget Amendment

Council was asked to consider and approve the FY 2025-2026 Budget Amendment as presented. On a motion made by Mr. Kizer, seconded by Mr. Watts, the motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Sole Source Justification: McConkey Square Repaving.

Council was asked to consider and approve a sole source justification to contract with Banks Construction to repave McConkey Square. The South Carolina Department of Transportation has contracted with Banks Construction to repave Docksite Road, as well as portions of Jungle Road and Palmetto Boulevard. The Town's engineering consultant, Davis & Floyd, has recommended leveraging Banks Construction's existing mobilization to also repave a portion of Town-owned roadway known as McConkey Square, located off Docksite Road. Davis & Floyd has reviewed the contractor's quantities and pricing, of which two options are available and presented to Council, and determined these to be competitive. Davis and Floyd recommends proceeding with the project. This project will be funded from the General Fund, Capital Improvement Projects.

Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve the sole source justification for Banks Construction to repave McConkey Square in the amount of \$76,665. The motion passed unanimously.

### ATAX Advisory Board Recommendations

Council was asked to consider the following recommendations from the ATAX Advisory Board:

- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for the 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival to be held June 5-6, 2026, at Bay Creek Park. The funds will be used for promotions, advertising, marketing, and SC BBQ Association fees. Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve \$15,000 in ATAX funding for the 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival. The motion was approved unanimously.
- \$18,399.18 to the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department for a 2026 Gator 4X4 vehicle for Beach Patrol. This is a state contract price, and the purchase ensures Beach Patrol officers have appropriate equipment to carry out their duties during the heavy tourist season. Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$18,399.18 for the purchase of a 2026 Gator 4X4 for Beach Patrol. This motion was approved unanimously.
- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun & Fireworks event to be held on July 4, 2026, at Bay Creek Park for advertising, marketing, and the fireworks show. Mr. Watts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve \$15,000 in ATAX funding for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Family Fun & Fireworks Show. The motion passed unanimously.
- \$4,850 to the Edisto Art Guild for the October 13-17, 2026, Edisto Plein Air Paint Out. Funds will be used for advertising, marketing, and promotion of the event. Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve \$4,850 in ATAX funding for the Edisto Plein Air Paint Out. This motion passed unanimously.

### Special Event Applications

Council was asked to consider the following special event applications:

- Edisto Marina Association: South Carolina Governor's Cup Edisto Invitational Billfish Tournament, July 13-19, 2026, Bay Creek Park & Edisto Marina. Bay Creek Park will be used from 8 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily, with approximately 350 attendees projected. The

Edisto Marina Association also requests: (1) \$10,000 to \$12,500 of funding from the Town of Edisto Beach in order to maintain free admission for the public; (2) the waiver of the Bay Creek Park fee; and (3) patrols by the Town of Edisto Beach Police Department are requested due to attendance numbers. On a motion made by Mr. Renner, and seconded by Mr. Watts, this special event application was approved, with \$10,000 from the Town as requested, the waiver of fees for Bay Creek Park as requested, and Police Department patrols during the event as requested. The motion passed as follows: Yeas: Renner, Watts, Kizer. Nays: None. Recusals: Moore and Bagwell

- Schaaf-Melampy Wedding for Bay Creek Park on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 3:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., with approximately 125 attendees. A band will play from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the special event request for the Schaaf-Melampy Wedding at Bay Creek Park on April 18, 2026. The motion passed as follows: Yeas: Moore, Kizer, Renner, Watts. Nays: None. Recusal: Bagwell

**Department Reports**

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

<b>Building Dept.</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Business/Rental License Fees	\$7,467.26	\$3,819.20	\$93,031.44
Construction Permits	0	3	14
Other Permits	45	68	318
Permit Fees	\$5,809.00	\$27,247.50	\$111,505.50
Inspections	77	88	647

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

<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Medical Related Calls	11	18	171
Fire Related Calls	2	2	19
EMS/Misc.*	16	19	157
Public Service**	23	11	195

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

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

- The I & I budget has been completed and is posted for signatures.
- CRR home visits were conducted this month.
- Four CPR/AED classes are planned for the year, and one was held on February 11.
- The Cascade System was tested for certification purposes.

<b>Police Dept.</b>	<b>January 2025</b>	<b>January 2026</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Miles Patrolled	11,293	14,261	95,145
Incidents & Calls for Service	167	121	1,410
Property Checks	1,849	2,604	15,341
Town Parking Tickets	5	4	454

- Assistant Chief Casey Herring presented the report on behalf of Chief Daniel Seyle, and she noted the MASC Risk Assessment for Law Enforcement is being finalized for submission by February 18.
- Met with SLED to review the crime listing and made adjustments as needed.
- New patrol car purchased and the former one was traded in.
- Ordered bulletproof vests for the new officers.

Utilities Dept	January 2025	January 2026	YTD
Pumped MG Water	11,211,240	9,806,310	107,452,230
Treated MG Wastewater	3,054,631	2,261,949	27,622,500
Waterline Repairs	5	9	46
Work Orders	28	52	297

- Mr. Zemp, Utilities Director, noted the month of January was very busy.
- Ditch maintenance for Fort Street was finalized.
- The AMI project is 99% completed. Two training sessions were held with field staff, and one for office staff.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is progressing; the temporary bypass plant should be operational only for two to three weeks.

### Administration

Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- **Wastewater Improvement Projects**
  - Lift Stations: Three more lift stations are almost completed: Docksite, Bay Point, and Cheehaw. Beginning work on four remaining lift stations: Oristo, Summerwind, Bay Creek, and Pump Station C.
- **Advanced Metering Infrastructure System (AMI)**
  - We are scheduling demonstrations for the portals we might want to use in the future.
- **Army Corps Project**
  - The appraisal work is continuing.
- **Town Hall/EOC**
  - Project remains on schedule, with a substantial completion date of March 24, 2026.
  - The parking lot has been milled and repaved.
- **FOIA Update**
  - Administration-related FOIA Requests for the month of January:
    - Krista Birchmore (1)
    - Jimmy King (1)
    - Kevin Cook (1)

**Council Time**

Mr. Renner asked that if any residents are interested in water quality and would like to discuss the presentation from tonight's meeting, he would be pleased to do so.

**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 6:50 p.m.

**APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL**

*Donna Rizer*

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Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk  
March 12, 2026