

**TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
ACCOMODATIONS TAX ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
February 5, 2026
3:00 p.m.**

Minutes

Town of Edisto Beach
Town Hall
2414 Murray Street
Edisto Beach, SC 29438

Present

Mike Hobson, Vice-Chair; Judy Blancett, Marie Bost, Emma Hart, Richard Howse, Members
Quorum of Board Present

Absent

Tommy Sandel (Excused)

Staff Present

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey, and Municipal Clerk Donna Rizer

Call to Order

Mr. Hobson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Bost made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025, Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Advisory Board meeting. Ms. Hart seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Mr. Howse made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2025, ATAX Advisory Board special meeting. Ms. Hart seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

The Committee conducted the election of officers for 2026.

Chair: A motion was made by Ms. Bost to appoint Mr. Hobson as Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Howse and approved unanimously.

Vice Chair: A motion was made by Mr. Howse to appoint Ms. Bost as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hart and approved unanimously.

New Business

ATAX Financials

Mr. Aakhus presented the ATAX Fund Balance Sheet and the ATAX Project Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2026 through January 30, 2026. Mr. Aakhus noted the ATAX account maintains a positive cash balance.

Ms. Bost made a motion to accept the ATAX financials as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hart and approved unanimously.

ATAX Applications

The board received and reviewed the following applications for ATAX funding, which were reviewed and considered individually:

Town of Edisto Beach: 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival

Special Projects Coordinator Phyllis McElveen presented the application for the 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival. She noted the event will be moved from October to June to avoid a conflict with the Chamber of Commerce's Turtle Tide Auction and to take advantage of more favorable weather conditions. The festival will remain a sanctioned event with the South Carolina Barbeque Association.

The festival was recognized as a tourism-related event that promotes visitation and community engagement.

Mr. Howse made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2026 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bost and approved unanimously.

Edisto Beach Police Department: Beach Patrol Side-by-Side

Police Chief Daniel Seyle presented the application for a side-by-side vehicle for the Beach Patrol. Chief Seyle noted the current all-terrain vehicle is due to be replaced, as these vehicles have an expected service life of approximately three years when used on the beach. The patrol is requesting a side-by-side vehicle because it is better suited for carrying signs and other equipment, and it accommodates two officers more effectively.

Approval of this request would result in the department having two side-by-side vehicles for patrol duty, enhancing public safety and code compliance during the busy spring and summer months, helping protect visitors and supporting tourism.

Mr. Hobson made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$18,399.18 for the Beach Patrol side-by-side vehicle. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hart and approved unanimously.

Town of Edisto Beach: July 4th Family Fun and Fireworks

Phyllis McElveen presented the application for the July 4th Family Fun and Fireworks event, a community Independence Day celebration culminating in a fireworks display.

The Committee acknowledged the event's role in attracting visitors and encouraging economic activity in local businesses.

Ms. Hart made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2026 July 4th Family Fun and Fireworks. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bost and approved unanimously.

Edisto Art Guild: 2026 Edisto Plein Air Paint Out

Edisto Art Guild Board Member Christian Stemkowski presented the Edisto Plein Air Paint Out for consideration. This is a competitive landscape painting event celebrating Edisto Beach, held annually since 2020. This year, over 100 artists are expected to participate. The event takes place in October, a typical offseason, and draws both artists and art collectors.

The ATAX board noted the event's potential to promote arts, culture, and tourism.

Ms. Hart made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$4,850 for the 2026 Edisto Plein Air Paint Out. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bost and approved unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Hobson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hart seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

APPROVED BY ATAX BOARD



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
April 30, 2026