

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
May 14, 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

Mr. Kizer led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting on April 9, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentations

AirMedCare Presentation

During the Town Council Workshop on May 12, 2026, Wes McAden, Director of Global Membership Sales for AirMedCare, provided a presentation to members of Town Council and residents in attendance regarding the Town's participation in the AirMedCare program. Mr. McAden reviewed the services provided in the program, including emergency air medical transportation coverage provided by the Town at no cost to residents and Town employees. He explained participants may purchase additional coverage options if desired.

Following the presentation, members of Council and residents had the opportunity to ask questions and receive additional information regarding the program's coverage and community impact.

Old Business

Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-03 to Amend Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Town's Code of Ordinances, Signs for which a permit is not required

Council was asked to consider and approve amendments to Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Town's Code of Ordinances, Signs for which a permit is not required. The amendments revise language on the timing of sign display and removal for nonprofit functions and add provisions for the number, size, and display period of signs for Bay Creek Park Market.

A public hearing on the proposed changes to the Signs Ordinance was held immediately preceding the 6:00 p.m. Town Council meeting; however, no public comments were received.

Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2026-03, Amendments to Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214 of the Town's Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved unanimously.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were received at this meeting.

New Business

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-08 to adopt Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus provided a detailed review of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget during the May 12, 2026, work session. The first reading of the budget was presented at tonight's regular meeting for Council consideration. A motion to approve the first reading of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget was made by Mr. Bagwell and seconded by Mr. Kizer. The motion was approved unanimously.

A public hearing will be held on June 11, 2026, at 5:55 p.m., prior to the second reading, in order to hear public comments.

First Reading of Ordinance 2026-09 to Amend Section 66-8(c) of the Town's Code of Ordinances to Adjust the Rates for Solid Waste Service

Council was asked to consider and approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-09 to amend Section 66-8(c) of the Town's Code of Ordinances to adjust the rates for solid waste services for residential properties. The ordinance establishes an annual rate of \$347.11 for the first residential trash container, reflecting an increase of \$16.53, and \$237.34 annually for each additional container, reflecting an increase of \$30.96.

Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-09 to Amend Section 66-8(c) of the Town's Code of Ordinances, establishing solid waste service rates at \$347.11 annually for the first container and \$237.34 annually for each additional container. The motion was approved unanimously.

A public hearing will be held on June 11, 2026, at 5:55 p.m., prior to the second reading, in order to hear public comments.

Proclamation 2026-P10: Golf Cart Safety and Education Month for June 2026

Council was asked to consider and approve Proclamation 2026-P10, designating June 2026 as Golf Cart Safety and Education Month in the Town of Edisto Beach.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve Proclamation 2026-10, designating June 2026 as Golf Cart Safety and Education Month. Mr. Kizer seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Revised Emergency Operations Plan for 2026

Council was asked to consider and approve the revised Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for 2026. The revisions include the addition of new forms and expanded, more detailed planning information to support improved preparedness and operational planning.

Mr. Renner made a motion to approve the revised Emergency Operations Plan for 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved unanimously.

Approval of AirMedCare Network Municipal Site Membership Agreement for Town Residents

Council was asked to consider and approve the AirMedCare Network Municipal Site Membership Agreement for Town residents, providing access to emergency air medical transport services through participating providers. Under this agreement, residents would be covered for medically necessary air transport by a participating AirMedCare Network provider, with no requirement for individual enrollment, sign-up, or out-of-pocket payment for covered services. The annual cost to the Town is \$2,465, with the new contract effective June 27, 2026. Funding for this agreement will be allocated under the General Fund Maintenance Contracts budget.

Transport services must originate from either Charleston County or Colleton County, South Carolina. AirMedCare representative Mr. McAden noted residents may purchase an upgraded benefit that removes this geographic restriction. The form for this upgraded benefit is available on the Town website.

Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve the AirMedCare Network Municipal Site Agreement for Town residents in the amount of \$2,465. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of AirMedCare Network Group Full Census Membership Agreement for Town Employees

Under a separate agenda item, Council was asked to consider and approve extending participation in the AirMedCare Network agreement to Town employees under the same conditions previously noted for Town residents. The annual cost to the Town is \$2,750, with the new contract effective June 27, 2026. The proposed pricing remains unchanged from the previous year, and funding for this agreement will also be allocated under the General Fund Maintenance Contracts budget.

Mr. Watts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to approve the AirMedCare Network Group Full Census Membership Agreement for Town residents in the amount of \$2,750. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dominion Energy Proposal for Streetlights Conversion

Council was asked to consider and approve Dominion Energy's request to replace 141 overhead streetlights with 40-watt fixtures and secure a new lighting agreement. The proposed fixtures would not include the Town's turtle-friendly lighting. It was noted the proposed conversion would result in a reduction in monthly operating costs and would require no upfront expense to the Town. An example of the proposed fixture is currently installed at the corner of Jungle Shores Drive and Whaley Street.

Following discussion, Mr. Bagwell made a motion to accept Dominion Energy's proposal to replace 141 overhead streetlights with 40-watt fixtures and secure a new lighting agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kizer and approved unanimously.

Change Amendment Request: Contract Extension for Management Services, Cumming Management Group, Inc.

Council was asked to consider and approve the change order/contract amendment request to extend the contract with Cumming Management Group, Inc. for management services. These services support renovations to the existing Town Hall for the Police Department and renovations to the Fire Station. Funding for these projects will be provided from savings within the Capital Sales Tax Fund. The total cost of the extension is \$48,124 for a four-month period, from May 2026 through August 2026.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the change order/contract amendment to extend the contract with Cumming Management Group, Inc. for management services in the amount of \$48,124. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Advisory Board Recommendations:

Town of Edisto Beach: Life Rings

Council was presented with the ATAX Board's recommendation to approve funding for 20 life rings and accompanying cabinets, to be installed at 20 beach access points in the Town. These were selected to be consistent with those used at the state park for uniformity. This will serve as the first phase of the project, with the potential to request an additional 20 units next year. The 24-inch life rings are intended to enhance public safety by providing readily accessible emergency equipment, helping maintain a safe, visitor-ready beach environment that supports tourism activity.

Mr. Renner made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$14,105.60 for the life rings and life ring cabinets. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved unanimously.

Edisto Chamber of Commerce: Edisto Tourism Data and Visitor Experience Research Initiative

Council was presented with the ATAX Board's recommendation to approve funding to support tourism data and visitor experience research initiatives. The proposal includes two components: a mobility and economic impact data platform (Placer.ai) and a visitor profile and experience survey conducted by Gray Research Solutions. The project is a tourism-related investment that will provide data-driven insights to better understand visitor behavior, inform strategic decision-making, and enhance the overall visitor experience. This proposal reflects a two-year project cost.

The Chamber will contribute 50% of the total cost, with the remaining 50% requested from ATAX funding support.

Following discussion, Mr. Bagwell made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$25,450 for the Edisto Tourism Data and Visitor Experience Research Initiative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kizer and passed unanimously.

Town of Edisto Beach: Location Intelligence and Foot Traffic Data Software

Council was presented with the ATAX Board's recommendation to approve funding for location intelligence and foot traffic data software. The Edisto Chamber of Commerce requested ATAX funding for a tourism data and visitor experience initiative. The Town, in partnership with the Chamber, is requesting \$9,000 to secure shared access and use visitor insights and mobility data to support grant and funding applications.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$9,000 for the location intelligence and foot traffic data. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagwell and passed unanimously.

Animal Lovers of Edisto (ALOE): Paddle for Pups

Council was presented with the ATAX Board's recommendation to approve funding for Paddle for Pups, a fundraising event supporting organizational expenses including veterinary care, food, and shelter supplies. The funding is intended to help attract additional stand-up paddleboard users and kayakers to the Town.

Mr. Watts made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$5,000 for the ALOE Paddle for Pups event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Edisto Art Guild: 2026 Arts in the Park

Council was presented with the ATAX Board's recommendation to approve funding for Arts in the Park – 2026 Summer Concert Series. Arts in the Park is a series of four (4) free music concert events, with concerts to be held in May, June, July, and August.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve ATAX funding in the amount of \$5,500 for the Arts in the Park – 2026 Summer Concert Series. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bagwell and approved unanimously.

TIDE Committee Recommendation: Sea Turtle Protection Signs

Council was asked to consider and approve the TIDE Committee's recommendation to install four (4) turtle-shaped education signs, which will include sea turtle protection rules, at designated beach access points within the Town. The proposed signage is designed to provide simple, effective guidance to residents and visitors at points of beach entry. The TIDE Committee believes this project will enhance public awareness and support the Town's ongoing efforts to protect our sea turtle population.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the TIDE Committee's recommendation to install four turtle-shaped education signs at designated beach access points in the Town. The motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments to the Beachfront Management Committee and Approval to Advertise Vacancies (2)
 Council was asked to consider and approve the reappointment of Paul Oakley to the Beachfront Management Committee for a four-year term retroactive to May 1, 2026, and ending May 1, 2030, and to authorize the advertisement of two additional vacancies on the committee.

Mr. Renner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to approve the reappointment of Paul Oakley to the Beachfront Management Committee and the advertisement of two additional vacancies on the committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments to the Planning Commission

Council was asked to consider and approve the reappointment of Gray Snead and the appointment of Jerry Wackerhagen to four-year terms on the Planning Commission. Each term would commence May 31, 2026, and end May 31, 2030.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to approve the reappointment of Gray Snead and the appointment of Jerry Wackerhagen to the Planning Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

Special Event Application: Edisto Beach Shag Festival

Council was asked to consider and approve the special event application for the Edisto Beach Shag Festival to be held September 4-5, 2026, at Bay Creek Park. Organizers also request the Town of Edisto Beach to sponsor the event at the \$10,000 level. The event organizers will provide additional crowd control and will be responsible for the cost of an off-duty police officer at the applicable market rate. Approximately 2,000 attendees are expected over the two-day festival.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the special event application for the Edisto Beach Shag Festival and sponsor funding of \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

Building Dept.	April 2025	April 2026	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$245,230.46	\$206,219.59	\$382,998.43
Construction Permits	1	1	17
Other Permits	44	36	447
Permit Fees	\$12,614.00	\$11,681.00	\$144,204.50
Inspections	116	110	971

- Morgan Viars, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that April was a busy month due to the April 30 business license renewal deadline, with more than \$206,000 collected.

Fire Dept.	April 2025	April 2026	YTD
Medical Related Calls	17	23	235
Fire Related Calls	1	2	22
EMS/Misc.*	19	15	208
Public Service**	19	16	238

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

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

- Fire Chief Denney Conley reported the department was awarded the South Carolina V-SAFE grant, which is designed to enhance firefighter safety, operational readiness, and community protection.
- Firefighters completed 209 hours of training.

Police Dept.	April 2025	April 2026	YTD
Miles Patrolled	13,061	15,672	138,461
Incidents & Calls for Service	214	401	2,138
Property Checks	1,717	2,548	22,756
Town Parking Tickets	78	110	588

- Police Chief Daniel Seyle noted four returning beach patrol officers and two new beach patrol officers, with two side-by-sides (UTVs) now wrapped and in service.
- Beach Patrol will move to full-time operations starting Memorial Day.

Utilities Dept	April 2025	April 2026	YTD
Pumped MG Water	15,410,940	18,685,020	149,051,080
Treated MG Wastewater	3,470,146	5,644,221	40,474,649
Waterline Repairs	4	6	69
Work Orders	52	59	425

- Utilities Director Patrick Zemp reported that crews completed new street sign and metal pole installations at 30 intersections.
- Work on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System is ongoing, with the Town meeting with portal providers and working on the communications and internet components of the system.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant project timeline has been extended beyond the original schedule, but completion is expected soon.

Administration

In Town Administrator Mark Aakhus's absence due to an administrative conference, Assistant Town Administrator Dee Stalvey presented the following updates to Council:

- **Wastewater Improvement Projects**
 - All lift stations are operational and permitted.
 - The lagoon is anticipated to return to service later this month, with overall completion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project expected in July.

- **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System**
 - The Town met with two customer portal providers and will meet with the Town's software company to discuss electronic billing options.
 - The timeline for transitioning to monthly billing and launching the online customer portal includes issuing six-month billing as usual in June, beginning installation of the billing software and customer portal thereafter, and targeting rollout with the December billing cycle, followed by a transition to monthly billing.

- **Beach Nourishment Project**
 - The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed 100 appraisals, and the remaining appraisals are expected to be submitted to the Corps for review by May 22, 2026.
 - The Town Attorney has issued an initial legal opinion, and once all appraisals are approved by the Corps, the Town will be authorized to mail easement documents to property owners.
 - The Town and the Beachfront Management Committee will then coordinate a public meeting with property owners to answer questions regarding the easements.

- **Town Hall/EOC**
 - The temporary certificate of occupancy was issued May 12, 2026.
 - Town Hall is scheduled to open to the public on May 26, 2026.
 - A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held June 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

- **Jungle Road – Dock Site Road Resurfacing**
 - The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is addressing punch list items including driveway tie-ins, backfilling along the shoulder, and final reflective pavement markings.
 - SCDOT has taken core samples to assess milling and resurfacing depths and determine compliance with contract requirements regarding roadway elevations.

- **Administrative FOIA Requests – April 2026**
 - Kim Moredock (2)

Council Time

Mr. Watts noted the upcoming YMCA Informational Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at the Edisto Beach Civic Center. Mayor Moore and Mr. Watts encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Renner noted the Edisto Island Lions Club Bingo begins June 2, 2026.

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 6:43 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL

Donna Rizer

Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
June 11, 2026