

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
Regular Monthly Town Council Meeting
July 9, 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. Bagwell made a motion to approve the minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing on June 11, 2026, the Town Council Regular Monthly Meeting on June 11, 2026, and the Town Council Special Meeting on June 24, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

Presentation

State of the Town Address

Mayor Moore delivered the annual State of the Town Address, highlighting the Town's accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Mayor Moore noted the completion of several major projects, including the opening of the new Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall, the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project, and the SCIIP Wastewater Improvement project, which included 11 new lift stations and improvements to the treatment plant. *(State of the Town Address attached to these minutes.)*

Public Comment Period

No public comments were received at this meeting.

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding Between the Town of Edisto Beach and Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) to Update the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan

Council was asked to consider and approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and LCOG in order to update the Town's local comprehensive beach management plan. The Town and LCOG will jointly develop the plan in consultation with the Coastal Division of the Department of Environmental Services. The cost of this work will not exceed \$18,000.

Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Lowcountry Council of Governments in order to update the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Change Order No. 010: Monteith Construction Corp. Substantial Completion Date Extension

Council was asked to consider and approve Change Order No. 010 for Monteith Construction Corp. to extend the substantial completion date of the new Town Hall/Emergency Operations Center from April 13, 2026, to May 26, 2026, to accommodate the change to 19 vented flood vents, changes to the exit sign, and extension of the ramp in Council Chambers.

Mr. Renner made a motion to approve Change Order 010 to extend the substantial completion date from April 13, 2026, to May 26, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and approved unanimously.

Approval of Contract Extension: Lyons Contracting for Garbage Container Rollout and Rollback

Council was asked to consider and approve the contract with Lyons Contracting for garbage container rollout and rollback services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This agreement constitutes the fourth and final extension under the current contract.

Mr. Kizer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bagwell, to approve the contract extension with Lyons Contracting for garbage container rollout and rollback services for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval to Advertise Accommodations Tax (ATAX) Committee Vacancies (2)

Council was asked to consider and approve advertising for two vacancies on the ATAX Advisory Board due to the terms of Mike Hobson and Brandon Jackson ending August 1, 2026. One appointment must represent the hospitality sector, and the other is an at-large appointment.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Watts, to advertise two vacancies on the ATAX Advisory Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval to Advertise Water and Sewer Committee Vacancy (1)

Council was asked to consider and approve advertising for one vacancy on the Water and Sewer Committee, due to the term of Jody Kleckley ending August 1, 2026.

Mr. Watts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Renner, to advertise one vacancy on the Water and Sewer Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval to Advertise Zoning Board of Appeals Vacancy (1)

Council was asked to consider and approve advertising for one vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals due to the resignation of Ron Scroggy. This unexpired term will end September 1, 2027.

Mr. Bagwell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kizer, to advertise one vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was approved unanimously.

Special Event Applications:

Edisto Belles Beachwalk

Council was asked to consider and approve a special event application from the Edisto Belles, a breast cancer advocacy group, to hold a beachwalk on September 5, 2026. The beachwalk will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon between Beach Access 6 and Beach Access 20.

Mr. Kizer made a motion to approve the Edisto Belles Beachwalk application as submitted. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Edislow Time Music and Arts Festival

Council was asked to consider and approve a special event application from Milltown Productions for the proposed Edislow Time Music and Arts Festival, requested to be held at Bay Creek Park from May 7-9, 2027. Mayor Moore indicated Council members had questions regarding the special event application and suggested deferring consideration of the item to a future meeting.

Mr. Renner made a motion to postpone consideration of the special event application for the proposed Edislow Time Music and Arts Festival to a future Council meeting date in order to allow Town Administration time to gather additional information. Mr. Watts seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Department Reports

The following reports were presented to Town Council:

Building Dept.	June 2025	June 2026	YTD
Business/Rental License Fees	\$46,523.95	\$38,488.98	\$544,963.70
Construction Permits	0	1	19
Other Permits	40	65	540
Permit Fees	\$6,658.00	\$16,473.50	\$168,490.00
Inspections	120	125	1182

- Building Code Administrator Patrick Brown noted there are 21 new homes currently under construction.

Fire Dept.	June 2025	June 2026	YTD
Medical Related Calls	38	25	279
Fire Related Calls	1	1	24
EMS/Misc.*	24	35	265

Public Service**	40	45	312
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(*includes alarms, hazmat, public assistance, water rescue, etc.)

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

- Fire Chief Denney Conley reported the Fire Department once again received the Community Risk Reduction Award, and he attended the June ceremony to receive the award.
- 50th Fire Department anniversary plans are progressing; the tentative plans are to have an open house on Labor Day.
- Volunteers painted 46 fire hydrants.
- The donation drive by the Edisto Beach Volunteer Fire Department has been very successful.
- 140 hours of training reported for June 2026.

Police Dept.	June 2025	June 2026	YTD
Miles Patrolled	13,622	14,321	167,655
Incidents & Calls for Service	316	354	2,867
Property Checks	1,880	1,809	26,878
Town Parking Tickets	268	214	888

- Police Chief Daniel Seyle reported Beach Patrol installed the new life rings at 20 beachfront locations.
- Assisted with the July 4 Golf Cart Parade.
- For the June Golf Cart Safety & Education Month, 67 stops were conducted; most of these stops dealt with no seat belts for children 12 and younger as required, and riding golf carts on Palmetto Boulevard.

Utilities Dept.	June 2025	June 2026	YTD
Pumped MG Water	23,381,700	25,366,170	195,054,980
Treated MG Wastewater	4,930,982	2,823,184	47,524,283
Waterline Repairs	1	2	75
Work Orders	49	57	588

- In Mr. Zemp's absence, Town Administrator Aakhus noted the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report on Water Safety has been finalized and will be published as per requirements.
- Mr. Aakhus also noted the recertification of EPA mandated Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan is completed.

Administration

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus presented the following updates to Council:

- All lift stations are completed, and the temporary wastewater plant has been dismantled and ready to be picked up.

- The Town will have another change order due to the excessive amount of sludge removed as part of the Wastewater Treatment Improvement project; Mr. Aakhus noted we will apply for financial assistance for a portion of this additional cost.
- For the AMI project, we are continuing work on the payment and customer portal.
- SCDOT should resume paving and finishing various items the week of July 13.
- Monteith Construction is continuing work on punch list items for the new building.
- Plans for the renovation of the old Town Hall are being reviewed.
- Council Member Jerome Kizer and Mr. Aakhus conducted a site visit of the completed Pollinator Garden.
- Administration had no FOIA requests received during the month.

Council Time

The following items were noted:

- Mr. Bagwell noted the 4th of July fireworks event was very successful and well organized.
- Mr. Watts noted the turtles are starting to hatch.
- Mayor Moore noted the extreme heat we are currently experiencing, so he cautioned all to be very careful.
- Mayor Moore also noted the successful BBQ Festival event in June, as well as the July 4 fireworks show.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Kizer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Renner and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL



Donna Rizer, Municipal Clerk
August 13, 2026



STATE OF THE TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH

Mayor Crawford Moore

July 9, 2026

As Mayor, I am proud to recognize the dedication and commitment of our Town Administration, department heads, and staff, whose daily efforts help keep Edisto Beach moving forward. Together with Councilmembers Jerome Kizer, Bob Renner, Jay Watts, and Joey Bagwell, we remain committed to protecting our beach, serving our residents, and ensuring that the Town continues to provide the essential services our community relies upon. As we continue our work on several important projects that will shape Edisto Beach's future, I am grateful for the continued trust, support, and involvement of our residents.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year, we accomplished a great deal while maintaining the Town's strong financial position. I am especially pleased to report that the Town did not increase the millage rate, nor did we increase user fees for water or sewer.

The Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project has been completed, and all meters have been installed. The Town is now working on increased billing frequency, electronic payment options, and customer portal access.

The new Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall facility, funded by the Colleton County Capital Projects Sales Tax, officially opened its doors for business on May 26, 2026, with a ribbon-cutting event on June 4. The facility was built under the \$10 million budget approved by the voter referendum and is the first completed project among the many projects approved throughout the county. The remaining funds will be used for improvements to the old Town Hall, which will house the Police Department, and for improvements to the Fire Department, all in an effort to continue to improve our emergency and public safety operations.

The SCIIP grant funded improvements to our Wastewater Treatment operations, and all projects associated with this grant are substantially completed. As part of this grant, both Pump Stations A and B were updated and constructed, and an 8" forcemain was installed on the golf course as part of this work. Eleven (11) wastewater pump stations were renovated and improved. The refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant was the final project approved under the grant.

Town Council and the Town administration continue diligently to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to bring the Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project to fruition. Complex real estate requirements are being addressed, and we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This much-needed \$30 million

renourishment and 50-year protection plan for our beach is critical to protecting beachfront homes and protecting our beach, and we are doing all we can to ensure this project moves along and becomes reality very soon. At this point, construction will hopefully take place in Fall 2027.

Additional accomplishments, projects, and actions as follows:

- Auditors Brittingham Group, LLP issued the Town an unmodified, clean opinion for year ended June 30, 2024, signifying the Town's financial statements are free from any material misstatements. The full report is posted on the Town website.
- For the second consecutive year, the Town received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award reflecting the commitment of the governing body and staff in meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.
- The Town continued to make available to residents the Digital Budget Book on the website
- For the second consecutive year, the Town published and printed a user-friendly Annual Report. Please pick up a copy of the 2025 Annual Report in the lobby.
- Approved Town Council 2026-2027 goals following a goal-setting session in January 2026.
- Received \$225,000 in funding from the Colleton County Transportation Committee to begin the design and engineering phase of stormwater improvements.
- Approved bid award for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to Fortiline Waterworks in the amount of \$1,067,727
- Approved bid award for \$4,452,000 to Haren Construction Company for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Edisto Beach Police Department implemented a new Report Management Computer Aided Dispatch Integration System
- Appointed Thomas H. Hart III as Municipal Judge
- Informational Rip Current signs installed at all beach accesses
- Upon recommendation from the TIDE Committee, and recommendation from the ATAX Board on funding, Council approved the installation of a Pollinator Garden at Jungle Road Park
- Approved osprey nest platform at Burley L. Lyons Park
- Repaved McConkey Square
- Approved the Proposal and Scope of Services for the design of interior drainage improvement from Davis & Floyd
- Adopted the 2026-2027 Budget
- Approved the AirMedCare Network Municipal Site Membership Agreement for Town Residents and Town Employees
- Approved sea turtle protection signs
- Upon the TIDE Committee's suggestion, the Town sponsored Shred Day on April 25, 2026, with 1700 pounds of paper shredded

- The newly repaved Jungle Shores Bike Path, funded by a grant received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and with a match from Town funds, was completed and opened for use in September 2025
- Conducted hurricane season tabletop exercises with Colleton County Emergency Management and the Town also held the annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for residents
- Updated the Emergency Operations Plan for the 2026 Hurricane Season
- Approved thirteen (13) special event applications
- Fire Department received the SC Fire Safe Community Award for the third year in a row
- Volunteer Fire Department members painted Town hydrants
- For Summer 2026, an additional beach patrol officer was hired, bringing the total to six (6) officers; extensive two-day trainings held with all beach patrol officers prior to the season start; and a third shift was continued on the weekends for Summer 2026.
- Fifteen (15) Starfish Awards were presented by Council
- Adopted Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations in 2025-26 including:
 - Ordinance updated for golf cart regulations as per new state requirements
 - Ordinance updated for Recreational Fires to address conditions under which they may be permitted in Town limits
 - Ordinance approved to Standardize Business License Class Schedule as required every odd year
 - Resolution approved for the 2026-27 Town Council Goals Resolution
 - Resolution approved for the Annual Town of Edisto Beach Safety Policy for Employees
 - Amended Chapter 86, Article V, Section 214, *Signs for which a permit is not required*
 - Approved resolution for the Lowcountry Council of Governments' efforts to include improvements to the SC-174 Causeway in regional long-range transportation plans and to advance SCDOT's efforts to implement causeway resiliency improvements
 - Proclamation establishing Edisto Lions Club Day for June 12, 2026, in recognition of the 75th anniversary
 - Resolution approved for Hurricane Preparedness Week, May 3-9, 2026
 - Resolution approved for Municipal Clerk Week, May 4-11, 2026
 - Approved Building Safety Month Proclamation, May 2026
 - Approved Golf Cart Safety and Education Month Resolution for June 2026
- Presentations at Town Council meetings were held as follows:
 - Drainage Study Presentation by Davis & Floyd
 - 2024-2025 Auditors Presentation
 - 2025 SC Department of Environmental Services Beach Monitoring Data
 - AirMedCare Presentation
- Approved Accommodations Tax Advisory (ATAX) Funding as follows during the 2025-2026 fiscal year:
 - \$250,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for Beach Renourishment

- \$60,700 to the Town of Edisto Beach for pollinator garden at Jungle Road Park
- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival
- \$18,399 to the Edisto Beach Police Department for Beach Patrol Gator 4X4
- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for the July 4 Family Fun & Fireworks
- \$4,850 to the Art Guild for the Plein Air Paint Out
- \$14,105 to the Town of Edisto Beach for life rings
- \$25,450 to the Edisto Chamber of Commerce for software related to Tourism Data & Visitor Experience Initiative
- \$9,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for Location Intelligence and Foot Traffic Data Software
- \$5,000 to the Animal Lovers of Edisto for the Paddlin' for the Pups event
- \$5,500 to the Edisto Art Guild for the 2026 Arts in the Park Concert Series
- Town Council held seventeen (17) regular monthly and special meetings during 2025-2026, with only seven (7) executive sessions held over these 17 meetings

These items are a few highlights of the Town's accomplishments during the 2025-2026 year. Town Council is committed to working together with our residents to do all we can for our beautiful beach town.