



## **STATE OF THE TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH**

**Mayor Crawford Moore**

**July 10, 2025**

Along with my fellow Town Council members, I am proud of the dedication and commitment of our Town Administrator, department heads, and Town staff. Jerome Kizer, Bob Renner, Jay Watts, Joey Bagwell and I are focused on continuing to work diligently to protect our beach, serve our residents, and provide needed services. We continue our work on several projects important to our future.

We have accomplished a great deal over the 2024-2025 fiscal year, and the Town is in very good shape financially. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Town did not raise the millage tax. As well, we did not increase user fees for water, sewer, and garbage.

We are working diligently with the US Army Corps of Engineers to accomplish tasks for the Edisto Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, particularly as it relates to the complex real estate requirements. 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 quickly.

The new Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall complex, which is funded by the Colleton County Penny Tax, is currently under construction by Monteith Construction. The bid amount of \$6,818,409 was approved by Council in February 2025 coming in under budget. The total project budget is \$10,000,000 million as approved by the voter referendum. This complex will provide much-needed space, primarily for our emergency response needs. The Town held the groundbreaking ceremony for this new facility on April 25, 2025, and we anticipate the building to be completed by April 2026.

As part of the Town's Wastewater Improvement Project, funded by the SCIIP grant in the amount of \$8,904,385 and an additional \$500,000 from the Rural Infrastructure Authority, both Pump Stations A and B have been updated and constructed, and both are operational. Both pump stations were installed with larger pumps, along with new variable frequency drives, and controls at both pump stations. Southern Fiber Construction Company installed an 8" forcemain on the golf course as part of this SCIIP project work. This month, J.S. Haren Company will begin work on eleven (11) wastewater pump stations. The refurbishment of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the final project approved under the SCIIP grant and will be undertaken in the coming months.

Additional accomplishments, projects, and actions as follows:

- Auditors Brittingham Group, LLP issued the Town an "unqualified 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 first time ever, 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.
- Also for the first time ever, the Town published and printed a user-friendly Annual Report. Please pick up a copy of the 2024 Annual Report in the lobby.
- Approved Town Council 2025-2026 goals following a goal-setting session in January 2025
- Approved bid award for design-build services at Burley L. Lyons Park to Destination Dock in the amount of \$97,000
- Approved bid award for construction services at Jungle Road Park to Blutide Marine Construction in the amount of \$76,510 for the new boardwalk
- Submitted Hazard Mitigation Grant Project application in the amount of \$617,095 for localized flood reduction projects, which were recommendations from the Interior Lagoon Study
- Submitted Hazard Mitigation Grant Project application in the amount of \$164,133 for a backup generator for the new Emergency Operations Center/Town Hall
- Approved Mutual Aid Agreement with the Charleston Metro Marine Patrol Unit
- Received a 12-foot Zodiac rescue boat, which was donated by Zodiac Boats
- Approved Town-wide planning strategy with Davis & Floyd for stormwater improvements to include the development of an approach for inventorying and studying the Town's drainage systems by identifying and prioritizing individual study areas that can be used over a period of time to address draining issues across the Town
- Updated the Emergency Operations Plan for the 2025 Hurricane Season
- Approved and completed improvements to McConkey Square Outfall due to erosion
- Secured \$1 million in funding for automated meter readers through the SC legislative earmarks
- Jungle Road Park Bathrooms opened for use on December 14
- Along with SC DNR and spearheaded by an active, local volunteer group, the Town supported a wildlife initiative in order to educate others about our wildlife here on Edisto Beach. (Thank you to those volunteers: Ken Tingman, Bess Kellett, Bess Watson, and Lisa Cumming)
- Bay Creek Park Dock repairs, funded by SCDNR Water Recreational Resources Fund, completed in March 2025
- Upon the TIDE Committee's suggestion, the Town sponsored Shred Day on April 26, with 5,270 pounds of paper shredded
- Conducted the annual deer survey
- Received \$290,000 grant approved through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Jungle Shores Bike Path repaving project
- Purchased three (3) new beach mats
- Installed 50 new beach access and park signs
- Approved AirMedCare Network Municipal Site Membership Agreement for Town Residents
- Signed the agreement for the SCDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TAP) funding for the Lybrand Street, Docksite Road, Yacht Club Road, Edisto Street, and Lee Street Bike Paths whereby SCDOT is funding \$600,000 to be used for design and engineering along with a commitment to fund the construction; also received

\$175,000 from the Colleton County Transportation Committee to be used as matching funds for the grant

- Conducted hurricane season tabletop exercises with Colleton County Emergency Management and the Town also held the annual Hurricane Preparedness Workshop for residents
- Approved twenty-five (25) special event applications
- Annual Flow Testing was completed in the fall on approximately 160 fire hydrants, and all were found to be in good working order
- Fire Department received the SC Fire Safe Community Award for the second year in a row
- Chief Conley led a group of volunteer firefighters to towns hit in North Carolina by Tropical Storm Helene; needed items were donated by Edisto Beach residents, businesses, and vacationing visitors
- The Volunteer Fire Department painted 18 fire hydrants this year
- For Summer 2024 and Summer 2025, an additional beach patrol officer was hired, bringing the total to five (5) officers; extensive two-day trainings held with all beach patrol officers prior to the season start; and a third shift was added on the weekends for Summer 2025.
- Awarded the Starfish Award to twenty-four (24) individuals
- Adopted Ordinances, Resolutions, and Proclamations in 2024-25 including:
  - ordinance to terminate the temporary moratorium on sewer hookups, and approved new or additional connections for properties situated inside the municipal boundaries to the Town sewer system
  - resolution for Dr. Joe Flowers, Colleton County Council
  - resolution adopting the 2025-2026 Town Council Goals
  - resolution adopting the annual Town of Edisto Beach Safety Policy
  - resolution for the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with Charleston County Sheriff's Office
  - resolution naming Hurricane Preparedness Week for May 4-10, 2025
  - resolution recognizing Municipal Clerk Week for May 4-11, 2025
  - proclamation for Building Safety Month for May 2025
  - proclamation naming Golf Cart Safety and Education Month for June 2025
- Approved Accommodations Tax Advisory (ATAX) Funding as follows:
  - \$7,440 to the Edisto Art Guild for the Plein Air Paint Out events
  - \$7,263 to Edisto Beach Police Department for purchase of Zodiac boat motor and trailer
  - \$36,543 to the Town of Edisto Beach for public access signage at beach accesses and Jungle Road Park and parking lot
  - \$50,000 for the annual contribution to the Bell Property Debt Bond
  - \$22,500 to the Town of Edisto Beach for the replacement of ropes and posts at beach access points
  - \$52,946 to the Edisto Beach Fire Department for radio equipment
  - \$168,153 to the Edisto Beach Police Department for two-year funding for the employment of one (1) police officer
  - \$78,600 to the Edisto Beach Police Department Beach Patrol for salaries, cameras, uniforms and equipment, fuel, replacement UTV, and utility trailer
  - \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach 2025 Cookin' on the Creek BBQ Festival

- \$2,125 to the Edisto Art Guild for the Annual Spring Play
- \$3,200 to the Town of Edisto Beach for pickleball nets and bench
- \$35,000 to Ocean Ridge Master Property Owners Association Club Cottage Drainage Project
- \$3,200 to the Edisto Art Guild Summer Series 2025 Arts in the Park events
- \$15,000 to the Town of Edisto Beach for the July 4 Family Fun & Fireworks Show

These items are a few highlights of the Town's accomplishments during the 2024-2025 year. Working together, we will continue to do all we can for our beautiful beach town.