



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, July 10, 2025

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Laura Lovins, Mary Pringle, Eric Cicora, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson

Absent: Todd Murphy, Lucia Spiotta

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Asst. Director Asero, Council Member Miars

2. Citizen's Comments

Ms. Susan Smith's comments are attached to these minutes. Ms. Lovins asked that the subject of Ms. Smith's comments be added to the August meeting agenda.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2 and 8, 2025 meetings, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentations – none

5. Old Business

A. Lighting ordinance presentation

Council Member Miars and Mr. Murphy met to discuss modifications to the proposed lighting ordinance. A new draft has been sent to legal counsel for comments, and they are awaiting an updated draft. Administrator Kerr said that legal counsel has suggested making the light timer a requirement or to take it out and make it part of an educational campaign. Discussion ensued about the enforcement of such a requirement.

Mr. Cicora asked if the intent in Section A is to have all residential lights shielded. Mr. Cicora suggested changing the wording to "Outdoor lighting on residential structures must not shine directly onto the intercoastal waterway, marsh, or other natural areas outside of the owner's property line." Ms. Popson later suggested changing "adjacent lands" to "adjacent properties."

These suggested changes will go back to the City Attorney for review.

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to recommend the amended lighting ordinance to City Council for consideration. Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Water Quality Testing

Referencing the water quality testing information in the meeting packet, Ms. Lovins said it was suggested the City prescreen for bacteria to determine if DNA testing of the water is necessary. She reviewed the testing procedures and associated costs for prescreening and continued DNA testing, if needed.

After some discussion, Administrator Kerr said he would review the budget for Committee initiatives, but he believed there to be enough funding to prescreen water at the outfalls at 25th Avenue, 36th Avenue & Forest Trail, and Myrtle Avenue.

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to move forward with Fluidion prescreening tests for bacteria at the outfalls as discussed. Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cicora will update the recommendations matrix with this initiative.

C. Glyphosate/Round-up – usage and education

Mr. Cicora met with Mr. Scott Ferguson who is responsible for the groundskeeping of the Wild Dunes' golf courses. Mr. Ferguson uses glyphosate on the courses and has no intention of stopping. Mr. Cicora explained that Mr. Ferguson is very well-versed on both sides of the glyphosate debate. He said if the City were to ban the use of glyphosate on the golf courses, he would have to apply more herbicides at a significantly higher cost.

Ms. Lovins believes the next step is educating the public on the effects of glyphosate. Mr. Cicora noted that information about glyphosate usage is prolific on both sides of the usage debate. Ms. Lovins has information from WHO and other municipalities who have banned the use of the substance. Council Member Miars suggested passing an ordinance to ban its use on City property and use that as part of the education campaign.

MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a recommendation to advise City Council to pass a ban on glyphosate usage on City properties. Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Recommendations Matrix

Mr. Cicora referenced the updated matrix and reviewed the status of the previously discussed recommendations. Administrator Kerr said he will speak with the Recreation Director about an eco-event at the Recreation Center.

Discussion ensued regarding the distribution of recyclable plastic straws based on the recommendation that the City adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities. Ms. Smith suggested educating the business community about giving out straws only upon request.

Ms. Lovins reported that she has signed up for the South Atlantic Marsh Initiative newsletter and is investigating how to join the group. She also said that group has a natural resources grant for marsh protection.

Ms. Popson suggested moving the matrix recommendations discussion up to the start of Old Business moving forward.

6. **New Business -- none**

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 4pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Pringle made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk