



**Beach Preservation Committee
Thursday, February 5, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Dietmar Ostermann, Wendi Pasterik, Alice Bova, John Schilling, Dan Slotchiver, Council Member Cohen

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester

2. Citizen's Comments -- none

3. Introduction of Staff and Committee Members

4. Discussion of Committee's Purposes and Goals

Administrator Kerr reviewed the stated purposes of the Committee as outlined by City Council. He said the Committee will act as an advisory group to Council on future beach-related concerns. A main focus of the group will be funding for beach projects.

Committee members suggested other goals for the Committee to consider such as observing the upcoming renourishment project, addressing erosion concerns at Beachwood East ahead of the renourishment project, and input on the Foth/Olsen report.

Administrator Kerr told the Committee that since the project will be going out to bid shortly, City Council will be the body responsible for observing the upcoming renourishment project. City Council will also be working with Wild Dunes regarding funding for that portion of the renourishment. Administrator Kerr pointed out that this Committee's role is to advise City Council on high-level beach protection strategies and not an active part of the upcoming project.

The Committee discussed this and decided that they need to be part of the project in several ways:

1. recommending to Council the appropriate sand volume to be contracted in the upcoming project;
2. reviewing the bids and recommending to Council the selection of the best contractor for the work;

3. recommending to Council a better and more detailed definition of a healthy beach;

4. monitoring the execution of the project and recommending to Council any adjustments that need to be considered while the project is on-going.

He also shared that the job description for the Resilience Officer is expected to be finalized soon. While someone could be hired in 3-4 months, he believes it will be a year before that person is truly up to speed on all the aspects of their job, the City's needs, and beach-related projects.

Ms. Pasterick expressed concern about the proposed beach volumes for the upcoming renourishment project. Administrator Kerr explained how the varying volumes of sand for the project change throughout the permitting, bidding, and contract stages of the process. City Council and the Wild Dunes Community Association will vote on how much sand goes on the beach based on the bids. Mr. Slotchiver suggested City Council consider the costs associated with not adding more sand to the beach.

Administrator Kerr said beach volumes are a good thing to track before and after a renourishment project to determine if what is put down on the beach is the healthy beach the community expects. He said the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee developed the volume amounts they believed to make up a healthy beach.

Mr. Shilling would like to know more about Hilton Head's beach nourishment plan and how it is funded. He suggested a tax increase may be necessary to pay for beach-related projects to protect the island's property values.

5. Discussion of Prior Beach Preservation Efforts

Administrator Kerr explained the overarching purpose of the 2023 IOP Beach Management Plan. He said, "At its core, what it does is it makes us eligible for State funding. Without this plan, the State of South Carolina will not fund a beach."

He noted that the 2025 Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations will touch on healthy beach volumes. Beach volumes and funding will be discussed more at the March meeting.

He briefly reviewed the prior renourishment projects on the north end in 2008 and 2018. That link also includes the beach monitoring surveys throughout the years.

6. Discussion of Active Beach Projects

Administrator Kerr briefly reviewed the ongoing beach projects including two concurrent projects managed by USACE. He also stated that City Council approved the expenditure to have Foth/Olsen prepare a beach alternatives analysis. He predicts that deliverable is several months away from completion.

Committee members asked if City Council had a position on protecting Beachwood East ahead of the king tides predicted for the end of March. Administrator Kerr said City Council has not indicated a position on that and will react based on current beach conditions. He explained that prior to this current erosional cycle it had been City Council's position to let property owners do what they needed in order to protect their property from erosion. City Council took the recent position to assist in property protection since it had funding available through the Beach Preservation Fund, set up after the last beach renourishment in 2018.

The briefly discussed sandbag placement and securing property easements for the upcoming project.

7. Discussion of Committee's Future Beach Preservation Efforts

The Committee would like to have Mr. Traynum of CS&E attend the next meeting to discuss a minimum healthy beach. They would also like to review the most recent beach monitoring survey completed by CS&E. They would like to discuss the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee's funding recommendations.

The Committee would like to have three opportunities to talk with Foth/Olsen about their report. Administrator Kerr will speak with them about that request and see when a representative from Foth/Olsen would be available to participate in a meeting.

The Committee will also select a Chair and Vice Chair at their March meeting.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Committee will be on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 9am.

Mr. Slotchiver made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Pasterick seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk