



**Beach Preservation Committee  
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 9:00am  
City Hall Council Chambers  
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC**

**MINUTES**

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Dietmar Ostermann (via Zoom), Wendi Pasterik, Alice Bova, John Schilling, Council Member Cohen

Absent: Dan Slotchiver

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester

**2. Citizen's Comments – none**

**3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes – March 5 and March 23, 2026**

Ms. Pasterick asked that the following be added to and corrected in the March 23 minutes:

“Under A. Definition of minimum healthy beach. Second paragraph. Ms. Pasterik noted that the recent ‘accretion’ noted on the south end is from placement of Army Corps beneficial use project rather than natural accretion.

“Second to last paragraph under A: Mr Traynum shared data showing a **2.8 million** (not 2 million) cubic yard deficit of sand island wide if there were 200’ of dry sand beach seaward of the existing dune line. **This case was dismissed. While not ideal for beach goers to place chairs by bushes, the area is currently accretional, may likely continue to grow bushes, and has great protective distance from baseline to ocean. A middle case, which was previously requested of committee members, showed an island wide deficit of 750,000 cubic yards if there were 200 feet of beach seaward of the SCDES baseline (with adjustments for homes in Wild Dunes seaward of the baseline).**”

**MOTION: Mr. Ostermann made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **New Business**

A. **Discussion of issues for future Beach Preservation Committee consideration**

Ms. Pasterik reviewed the list of topics under “Focus of the Committee as of March 2026” found in the meeting packet.

Two changes were made: align monitoring reports around the new definition of a healthy beach in #1 and reviewing triggers and emergency management recommendations in #9.

**MOTION: Ms. Bova made a motion to approve the focus as amended. Ms. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

B. **Discussion and consideration of recommending minimum healthy beach profile**

Mr. Ostermann reviewed the recommendation from the Committee to City Council, “Healthy Beach Definition.”

Administrator Kerr reminded Committee members that the definition of a “minimum healthy beach” was developed by the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee: “It specifically was the lowest that the City was willing to tolerate, the smallest beach we could ever have. And then that was the line that we worked backwards from to get where renourishment projects should fill out. That was the trigger line.” He noted the Committee is now advocating for something different.

Ms. Pasterik said, “So this is a minimum healthy beach. So if you have 200’ from the for, from 100 Ocean Boulevard all the way up to like 54<sup>th</sup>, the South Carolina baseline works for the island. When you get into some areas in Wild Dunes, you have got homes on the wrong side of that baseline. So there we would switch to from a structure, meaning a house or a pool, and we can discuss if it should be a structure plus 20’ or the structure house pool. But you kind of switch there where you have got problems with that line. So for most of the Isle of Palms, that South Carolina Baseline works fine.”

She continued, “At the end of the renourishment in a perfect world, if you have your calculations perfectly, at the end of eight years, you would end up with 200’ of dry sand beach.”

Ms. Bova added, “By the time we get to the trigger, we are way past where we should have started. So I think we are trying to get to a place where we are more protected to begin with so we never get to that trigger.”

Mr. Schilling believes the City is not spending enough money to protect the beaches and there is “wealth in the community” to have healthy beaches.

Administrator Kerr pointed out that one of the goals of the Committee is to find funding to support future beach nourishment projects. He stated that even with maximizing all the revenue tools of the City, there was still a \$10 million shortfall in funding for the new project. Council Member Cohen stated that City Council is limited by the State on how much it can raise taxes.

Ms. Pasterik said the Committee would like healthy beach “defined, for the most part, at the baseline which, on the south end mimics the dunes.” The Committee does not want to count property that tourists cannot access because “we are not just protecting homes. We are trying to protect the economic engine of the island for residents and tourists to come to the beach.”

The other change they are recommending is changing to 200’ of beach (from 150’) from the baseline to the wet line in an attempt to be proactive.

When asked why the Committee is “hyperfocused” on making this change to the definition of a minimum healthy beach, Mr. Ostermann said, “Reason number one is the City is engaging in one of the largest renourishment projects ever undertaken, and we want to make sure that this project is serving the people of Isle of Palms in a way that we think they should be served with healthy beaches. So that is why we sprinted out of the gate to get a new definition in place that will influence to some extent the project that is coming up. The second is we want to start with the definition of what the outcome of all this should be so that our future work can be directed towards how do we get this accomplished.”

Discussion continued about why changing the definition of a minimum healthy beach is necessary. Ms. Pasterik spoke to why she believes it is important to work from the 2018 line when measuring for a healthy beach.

She also suggested changing when the beach monitoring reports are done from February and August to April and November.

Director Kerr explained the funding of the City’s Beach Preservation Fund and how Isle of Palms differs from Hilton Head Island in its ability to fund beach nourishment projects.

**MOTION: Ms. Pasterik made a motion to recommend the Committee’s definition of a minimum healthy beach along with Mr. Schilling’s introduction to City Council for consideration. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Traynum said that change orders are possible during the project, but City Council would need to approve them.

Ms. Pasterik then began to detail her calculations leading to the Committee’s request for more sand to be placed during the upcoming project. Administrator Kerr said that conversation would need to happen at a later meeting as the information she is referencing was not available to the public to review prior to the meeting.

Discussion ensued about erosion rates on the south end of the island. Mr. Traynum added, “I do not think there is anything wrong with the calculation other than just understanding all the different ways that the same thing could be calculated. The deficit volume was calculated based off of the 200’ dry sand beach width seaward of the setback line. It is important to probably point out that in a lot of areas that condition is a healthier condition that has ever been at that area.”

Mr. Traynum said he will encourage City Council to place additional sand during the project for protective and economic reasons.

Administrator Kerr said the Committee cannot make a recommendation to Council about changing the sand volumes at this meeting as it was not on the agenda and conflicts with FOIA.

Further discussion of recommending increased sand volumes will happen at the May meeting.

**C. Discussion and consideration of recommending a nourishment contractor**

**MOTION: Ms. Pasterik made a motion to recommend to City Council that award the beach renourishment contract to Marinex. Ms. Bova seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting will include an update from Foth/Olsen, more discussion of the definition of a healthy beach, and discussion of financing of future beach nourishment projects.

**5. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Committee will be on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 9am.

Ms. Pasterik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk