Beach Preservation Committee
9:00am, Thursday, May 7, 2026
City Hall Council Chambers
1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call**

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

Absent: Alice Bova

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Deputy Administrator Kuester

2. **Citizen's Comments** – none

3. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – April 2 and April 21, 2026**

Council Member Cohen will send a spelling error needing correction to the City Clerk.

MOTION: Mr. Schilling made a motion to approve, and Ms. Pasterik seconded the motion. The minutes of the April 2 and April 21, 2026 meetings passed unanimously.

4. **Old Business**

A. **Alternative analysis progress update with Foth/Olsen**

Chris Creed, Evan Heeg, Zak Bedell, and Sydney Goodman of Foth/Olsen met with Committee members via Zoom to share the progress of the alternatives analysis. Mr. Bedell shared some insights they received from a meeting with the Charleston District who said there is a potential opportunity to secure permits for multiple "maintenance" events.

Mr. Creed explained the development of a beach management program: "The first step is deciding what are the minimum conditions that you want to maintain under all circumstances and where are those relative to what the conditions you have now, where do those exist, and how much material does it take to establish that baseline condition. So the Corps of Engineers in their civil works planning process use, beach shore protection projects, very similarly. They call it the design beach, and then beyond that they use what they call advanced nourishment, advanced spill to maintain those conditions. And in the simplest project, you have a pretty uniform erosion rate along the entire beach. You build a minimum beach condition over the desired beach and then

you place a given amount of advanced nourishment similar to that desired beach for the renourishment interval that they determine is most effective. What is the most cost effective way or frequency to come back and maintain those conditions simply by replacing sand that is lost, and ideally if it is for an 8-year renourishment, you have 100,000 cubic yards per year sand loss rate, you put 800,000 yards out there and 8 years later, you are back exactly to your minimum beach condition everywhere. That rarely, if ever, happens, but that is the goal and that's what we are talking about."

He would like to hear the Committee's thoughts their definition of a minimum healthy beach. Ms. Pasterik expressed the need to protect the recreational beach so there is not dune destruction at 8' tides.

Mr. Creed noted, "It is really hard to maintain at high tide, particularly when you have high, clean tides, expansive wide dry beach from the edge of the vegetated dune out to some point on the beach."

He added, "Ideally though, when we set a minimum beach condition, we are going to maintain conditions similar to that. So ideally conditions will always be wider than the minimum condition except right before the nourishment."

Mr. Slotchiver asked if it would be beneficial to "beef up" the more erosional areas of the beach or to have a uniform beach across the island. Mr. Creed said that it is better politically for the entire island to be treated the same. Hard structures should be considered for the "hot spots" to maintain those areas between renourishment projects.

Administrator Kerr pointed out to Mr. Creed that the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee developed a definition for a minimum healthy beach recently. The Beach Preservation Committee would like the City to adopt a new definition that is "200' from either the structure or the baseline, whatever is farther seaward." He also noted that the Beach Preservation Committee is working with a different erosion rate than previously suggested. He will send the supporting information from the Committee to Mr. Creed.

Mr. Schilling would like to see studies related to the economic impact of beach renourishment. Ms. Pasterik requested an updated timeline for their analysis. Foth/Olson representatives will also attend the June 4 meeting of the Committee.

B. **Renourishment project discussion**

Administrator Kerr said City Council approved the project for the north end of the island because all of the easements had been received. They will meet again on May 12 to consider awarding the project for the south end. In the meantime, staff will continue to work on securing the final three easements on the south end. City Council needs to discuss how the project works around properties that don't sign the easements.

MOTION: Mr. Ostermann made a motion to recommend to City Council they move forward with the project on the south end, notwithstanding the cost of the need to work around any properties unwilling to sign an easement. Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **New Business**

Discussion of financing options for future beach projects

Administrator Kerr reviewed the financing options prepared by the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee and the status of each one. Mr. Ostermann would like to speak with the City's lobbyists regarding their efforts to secure beach nourishment funds.

4. **Miscellaneous Business**

Mr. Schilling distributed copies of Hilton Head's 2022 beach monitoring report.

The next meeting will include another update from Foth/Olsen, a discussion with the City's State lobbyist, and a discussion with Dr. Nicole Elko.

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Committee will be Thursday, June 4, 2026 at 8:30am.

5. **Adjournment**

Mr. Ostermann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Schilling seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk