



Town of Hilton Head Island
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC
SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**
Monday, March 9, 2026, 1:00 PM
Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Becker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Tammy Becker, Chair, Ward 4; Steve DeSimone, Ward 3; Steve Alfred, Ward 5

Others present: Alex Brown, Mayor Pro-Tem, Ward 1; Patsy Brison, Ward 2; Melinda Tunner, Ward 6; Curtis Coltrane, Town Attorney; Kim Gammon, Town Clerk

Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Becker moved to amend the agenda to allow Public Comment - Non Agenda Items as the next item. Mr. DeSimone seconded. The amended agenda was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Public Comment - Non Agenda Items

Chair Becker asked for public comment. There was none.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026

Mr. Alfred moved to approve. Mr. DeSimone seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Presentations

Fire Rescue Annual Report - Chris Blankenship, Fire Chief

Chief Blankenship provided an overview of the Fire Rescue Annual Report.

Chief Blankenship reported on total responses since 2021, noting an increase every year. 2025 responses (10,041 total) were mainly EMS related, followed by fire responses and rescue responses. Overall response times have decreased in 2025 compared to 2024 and Fire Rescue is either closely meeting or exceeding the standard benchmark goals for response times.

Chief Blankenship reported on the EMS revenue collected in 2025 (increased), staffing (line

currently fully staffed), training for staff, inspections, interfacility transports (decreased), 911 calls (decreased), emergency management and fleet maintenance. Mr. Blankenship also highlighted Fire Rescue's successful social media marketing as well as the successful and productive community outreach (partnerships, programs, training opportunities and events).

Chief Blankenship reported that the 2026 initiatives include new headquarters, dispatch and EOC build out, new apparatus, re-accreditation, strategic plan, community risk assessment and everyday leader staff training and that the biggest challenge in 2026 will be ensuring the resiliency of the Fire Rescue 5-year staffing plan.

The full report is available to the public on the Town of Hilton Head Island website.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Frank Babel commented that his grandson became a firefighter and that his grandson has never seen a more professional, team-oriented group of people.

Update on Public Safety and Pedestrian Accident Data - Shawn Gillen, Assistant Town Manager

Mr. Gillen provided an overview of the Public Safety and Pedestrian/Bicycle Accident Data Report.

Mr. Gillen reported on data collected since January 2020, highlighting that, in 2025, both pedestrian and bicycle accidents (involving vehicles) are down. He reviewed a map of "hot spots" of accidents, noting that these "hot spots" are directly related to volume, hence there are more accidents in the peak season. All of the data collected assists with planning for safety improvements, specifically in these "hot spot" or focus areas. Safety improvements can include high visibility crosswalks, custom signage, rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), reduced speed limit, high intensity activated crosswalk beacon (HAWK), traffic calming signage and pathway improvements.

Mr. Gillen reviewed safety improvement projects completed in 2026, projects underway in 2026 as well as projects planned for 2027.

The full report is available to the public on the Town of Hilton Head Island website.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Frank Babel commented, requesting focus upon prevention of pedestrian/bicycle accidents as well as education, specifically bicycling etiquette.

Ellen Whaley commented, requesting focus upon Gum Tree Road and the Main Street circle to Hospital Blvd in regards to public safety.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution of the Town of Hilton Head Island Town Council Approving Rental Locations Proposed by Shore Beach Services for 2026 Beach Season - Jimmy Acosta, Asset and Risk Management Director

Jimmy Acosta provided an overview.

He stated that on February 9, 2026, the Community Development and Public Services Committee voted (3–0) to recommend approval of a Resolution to Town Council authorizing the proposed 2026 beach rental locations and associated product quantities for Shore Beach Services.

Subsequent to that meeting, the Town received correspondence from the Island Club Board of Directors dated February 20, 2026, raising concerns regarding the proposed increase in equipment at the Island Club location. Following receipt of that correspondence and additional coordination with Shore Beach Services, Shore Beach Services advised that, based on the current status of the Maidencane development, the additional equipment will not be necessary for the 2026 season. Consequently, the equipment quantities for Island Club have been reverted to 2025 levels. With this adjustment, overall product quantities for the 2026 season remain consistent with the prior year.

Accordingly, the Community Development and Public Services Committee is requested to review and consider recommending approval of an amended Resolution authorizing the 2026 beach rental locations and revised product quantities submitted by Shore Beach Services, as required by Section 5 of the Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement approved on June 18, 2024. The amended Resolution incorporates the updated service schedules and maps for Town Council consideration.

Mr. Alfred moved to forward the resolution to Town Council for consideration of approval. Mr. DeSimone seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Chair Becker asked for public comment.

Jerry Fanelli, resident of Island Club, commented that the concern regarding the proposed increase in equipment at the Island Club location was related to when the Maidencane development is scheduled to open (after the season).

Ellen Whaley commented, requesting that the Committee discuss the reuse of commercial space on Hilton Head Island at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Becker adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

The full recording and a transcript of this meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov