

Business Development Council

November 24, 2025

530 p.m.

- Call to Order by Councilman Dodson
- Motion to move election of chairperson to bottom of agenda by Chase Barton with second by Ben Levitt – all approved
- Creating a Welcome Packet for new businesses – discussion on what would like to see and a flow chart for “getting open”. Have a flow chart in FAQ section on Town website and/or request information section added to GOGov, and a welcome email with information sent from Business Development Council. Julia Drayton-Crumblin to work on starter welcome email that includes important links.
- Discussion on when you apply for a business license and differences with brick-and-mortar vs a service-based business that will need multiple licenses. How can we walk small businesses through the process vs larger operations that have staff to handle the process.
- Visitjamesisland.com Website – worked with Sea Island Chamber of Commerce to build the website and feature Town businesses and funded with accommodations tax monies. Discussion on what can go on the website (pay to feature option for non-Town businesses, business introductions, Town money benefiting people in the Town). Councilman Dodson to contact Robert, who worked on website, to attend next meeting. Now that website is running, it can have search engine optimization to make it a top hit.
- Changes to Business License Fees – Review by Councilman Dodson and Melissa Flick of discussion from council meeting held 11/20/25 and reminder that second reading will be at December’s council meeting.
- Motion to make a recommendation to Council to increase schedule of business license fees by Julia Drayton-Crumblin, with second by Ben Levitt. Ayes won, with one no vote by Joe Walters.
- SCDOT Folly Road Plans – Discussion of plans by SCDOT for raised medians on Folly Road, that would impact the Town’s commercial district. Concern over commercial traffic, including delivery vehicles, being sent into residential areas. Discussion of why a traffic light was denied at the intersection of Folly Rd and Santee St and need for connectivity along the commercial corridor.
- Motion to write a letter to SCDOT and Rethink Folly Rd Steering Committee to evaluate the connectivity of the commercial corridor and support alternative

solutions by Julia Drayton-Crumblin. Joe Walters to write rough draft of letter and Mayor Lyon to contact neighborhood reps of Bayfront and Centerville and ask that they also submit letters.

- Election of Chairperson – Nomination of Ben Levitt by Julia Drayton-Crumblin, second by Joe Walters. Approved by all. Chase Barton volunteers as Vice Chair. Approved by all.
- Motion to amend agenda to add next scheduled meeting by Ben Levitt with second by Julia Drayton-Crumblin. All approved.
- Meetings to be held in person, in Council Chambers. Next meeting tentatively planned for January 2026.