MINUTES

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting
Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
James Island Town Hall ♦ 1122 Dills Bluff Road ♦ James Island, SC 29412

These minutes are developed from recording devices and may be incomplete

In attendance:

James Island:
Mayor Brook Lyon – Chair, Council Member Troy Mullinax – Vice Chair, Council Member Julia Drayton-Crumblin, Council Member Michael Williams, Laura Cabiness - Town Engineer, and Frances Simmons - Town Clerk

City of Charleston:
Council Member Leslie Skardon

State Representative:
Thomas Hartnett

Charleston County:
Philip Sexton

James Island PSD:
Commissioner Marilyn Clifford, Commissioner Brenda Grant, District Manager Ashley Kellahan

South Carolina Department of Transportation:
Debra Jerideau

Others / Members of the Public:
Jaxie Ferguson, others signed in

1) Call to Order:
Chair Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the group in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Approval of Minutes:
Motion was made to approve the minutes from April 29, 2026, by Marilyn Clifford, seconded by Troy Mullinax; motion passed unanimously.

3) Public Comments:
Bill Lyon, 669 Port Circle: addressed the group regarding the proposed Folly Road medians. As chair of the Town's Neighborhood Council, Mr. Lyon stated that the Council collected more than 1,000 signatures opposing the medians. He also expressed support for sidewalks on Nabors Drive and requested contributions from the City.

Christine Kitch, 1047 Jamsie Cove Drive: addressed the group expressing favor of sidewalks on Nabors Drive and ditches. She also spoke in favor of having bike lanes on Ft. Johnson Road.

John Peters, 1501 Hampshire Road: addressed the group in opposition to the proposed Folly Road medians. Mr. Peters stated that the medians could create additional safety concerns and divert traffic into nearby neighborhoods. He asked the Council to continue to consider and listen to its constituents.

Mark Brown, 654 Daniel Whaley Road: spoke for municipal services from Charleston Water System for Daniel Whaley Road, including water and sewer.

4) Presentation:

Mike Saia, Director of Communications, Charleston Water System; Jonathan Walker, Director of Environmental Resources, Plum Island. Mr. Saia gave an update of CWS projects and Mr. Walker reviewed improvements scheduled for Plum Island. Copy of presentation attached.

Questions and answers followed:

Town Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin asked if payment of impact fees would be required before residents are connected. Mr. Saia answered yes.

Town Councilman Williams discussed the impact from James Island Creek onto James Island. Councilman Williams also discussed the homes scheduled for demolition on Harborview Circle and suggested that CWS consider some form of beautification in the area and causeway.

James Island PSD Commissioner Grant made note of funding grant from the State (Representative Hartnett) and the PSD was a hard fight.

5) Old Business:

a. Raised Median at Fort Johnson and Folly Road Intersection: Philip Sexton discussed that some work has been completed, but SCDOT is waiting on equipment.
b. Sidewalk Updates
    i. Fort Johnson: Mayor Lyon
    ii. Nabors Drive: Town Engineer Laura Cabiness provided a slide presentation on updates for Nabors Drive.
    iii. Dills Bluff Road
    iv. Secessionville Road: Town Councilman Mullinax said he had discussed sidewalks with City Councilwoman Skardon. Councilwoman Skardon indicated she had applied for grant funding.
c. Bayfront Drainage Project: Mayor Lyon indicated the Town has applied for funding for this drainage project.
d. Safety Audit Update: Mayor Lyon announced that she and Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin met with SCDOT last week and will meet again tomorrow for discussion. She is hoping that a compromise will be reached for safety on Folly Road.
e. Water Quality/Creek Testing: Copy provided and attached.
f. Change of meeting day: Mayor Lyon discussed the Council's consideration to change the date of the meeting in order to accommodate members of the state legislature who wished to attend. Monday and Thursday are options, but there is opposition to Monday. The proposal is that it will likely be the third Thursday as Town Council changes it's meeting day to Wednesday. Beginning in 2027, the meeting will be held quarterly on a Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

6) New Business:

a. Drainage Maintenance for Clark's Point following PSD sewer installation: District Manager Ashley Kellahan reported that the area has been restored to its original condition.

7) Legislative Updates:

a. Charleston County Legislative Delegation: Representative Hartnett reported that the legislature is out of session until August 11 and that the state's 2026-2027 budget has not yet been formally approved. Funding for projects, including Nabors Drive sidewalks, remains uncertain, and he will continue advocating for Town and City projects.

b. SCDOT: Ms. Jerideau reported that Harbor View Road bike lanes had been cleared and discussed drainage work.

c. James Island PSD: Ms. Kellahan reported that on June 1, the District consolidated its Wastewater and Solid Waste Departments into one department, Environmental Services. Each division maintains separate functional leadership and is streamlined to create operational efficiencies.

- Two new projects are underway: Phase II of Pump Station #33 capacity upgrade and Harbor View Road Pump Station #44 upgrade and valve replacement.
- A contractor has been hired for Phase VI Rehabilitation of the Wastewater Collection facilities, scheduled to begin August 3. The repair line at Bruce Street and Harbor View Road is a first priority.
- Phase I, Clarks Point Public Sewer Project, is officially closed. Final DOT permit and permit to operate from the Department of Environmental Services have been received. The District has procured six contractors to make the plumbing connections and tie in 155 District customers. The PSD will be working with the Town on reimbursements for those connections as well as building permitting.
- Solid Waste Collection: work continues through the process of securing a piece of property to serve as a vegetative debris lay transfer site to more quickly clear storm debris. The help received from letters of support from the Town, City, and Folly Beach is appreciated.
- The District is moving forward with a General Obligation Bond to replace Fire Station #4 on the same site. The ability to issue the bonds needs approval from County Council. A grant was received through SC WINS for first responders certification. Seventeen are in the program and, once the program is completed, 40 out of 49 fire personnel will have had training.
- Commissioner Grant invited the public to attend the James Island Outreach Community Day, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. She also shared information regarding the new roundabout on Secessionville, noting that there were no impacts to private property. A meeting was noted for Secessionville Park at 6:30 p.m.

d. Charleston County: No report.

e. City of Charleston: Councilwoman Skardon reported on various City projects including drainage work on Folly Road.

f. Town of James Island: Mayor Lyon reported that the Town is gearing up for sandbag operations in the event of a hurricane.

- The Town welcomes Three Monkeys Ice Cream Parlour and is hosting a Grand Opening on Saturday, August 1 at 12:00 noon (Folly Road).
- Drainage pipes for the new Art and Community Center were delivered on Wednesday.
- The First Friday Town Market returns on Friday, September 4 and will feature John Price and the Moonshine Boys band.
- The Town will host CERT trainings on October 9 and 10 along with Charleston County. The community is encouraged to attend. Signup begins August 20.

g. Charleston County School District: No report.

8) & 9)Closing Remarks:

Mayor Lyon thanked Town Clerk Frances Simmons for filling in tonight and Philip Sexton for his hard work.

10) Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.; James Island Town Hall.

11) Adjournment:

Chair Lyon adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes provided by Town of James Island Staff