



MINUTES

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

James Island Town Hall ♦ 1122 Dills Bluff Road ♦ James Island, SC 29412

In attendance:

James Island:

Chair and Council Member Cynthia Mignano, Mayor Brook Lyon, Council Member Troy Mullinax, and Mike Hemmer

City of Charleston:

Council Member Caroline Parker

Charleston County:

Eric Adams, Alex Owsiak, Mackenzie Kelly, Philip Sexton

Charleston County School District:

Dr. Carol Tempel

Folly Beach:

Council Member Chris Bizzell, Jenna Stephens

James Island PSD:

Commissioner Brenda Grant, Ashley Kellahan, Mark Davis, Jimmy Jacques

Others:

Anna Kimelblatt (Coastal Conservation League)

Members of the Public:

Frank Barnes, Jason Krusen, George Tempel, Joe Walters

- 1) Call to Order:
Chair Mignano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the group in a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Mignano then introduced attendees and asked others to introduce themselves.
- 2) Approval of Minutes:
Motion was made to approve minutes from January 29, 2025, motion passed.
- 3) Public Comments:
- No one signed up to speak

4) Old Business:

- a. JICHS Crossing Sign:
Caroline Parker reported that the City of Charleston is working on a date in May for the reinstallation of the damaged sign.
- b. Sidewalk behind gate:
Caroline Parker reported that this subdivision is private and that sidewalk was not required to put in a public sidewalk on Nabors Drive.
- c. Raised Medians (Ft. Johnson & Folly Roads):
Mayor Brook Lyon noted that SCDOT has scheduled another community input meeting for May 22, 2025 from 5-7 pm at Camp Road Middle School for the Folly Road Safety Audit. Specifically, the median at this intersection was reviewed with Chris Wannamaker of Charleston County Public Works and there is a clog under Folly Road that the SCDOT needs to repair. The Town has made sure that Avi Rajabi from SCDOT and Philip Sexton with the County task force on flooding are aware of the issue. The raised median was installed for pedestrian crossing safety, but now the stormwater backs up. The City could also put in a request with SCDOT to get the drainage repaired.
- d. Stoplight at George Griffith & Folly Road):
Caroline Parker confirmed with City Traffic and Transportation that the stoplight is the same size as the other lights along Folly Road. Although it is a SCDOT light, it is maintained by the City and is regulation size.
- e. Power line issue on Folly Road
The low-hanging lines are communication lines.

5) New Business:

- a. Town of James Island Emergency Response / CERT Program:
Mayor Lyon took a moment to thank Chair Mignano for her work on coordinating the recent, highly successful, Easter food drive.

Mayor Lyon then reported that the Town is forming a new Emergency Response Department and Team; both in the Budget and with staff. Mayor Lyon reported the Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is coming up in July and several staff members and volunteers are planning on attending. The Town will continue to provide sandbags for James Island residents and has a preferred contractor available for sand supply and debris removal.

Mayor Lyon noted that an agenda for the James Island Emergency Preparedness Council was submitted before the meeting. That

meeting will be at James Island PSD Fire Station #1 on Wednesday, May 21st at 9 am.

Mr. Mark Davis, the James Island Public Service District Fire Chief and Coordinator of the Emergency Preparedness Council (JIEPC) discussed the upcoming meeting Mayor Lyon mentioned. The JIEPC has been inactive for many years, and the PSD would like to re-engage the members to help the area agencies be prepared.

6) Legislative Updates:

James Island PSD Updates:

District Manager Ashley Kellahan provided updates on:

- Clark's Point Public Sewer: Ongoing project, have had some complaints from City residents regarding service interruptions. Phase 1 will not be completed until April of 2026.
- Phase 6 of wastewater collection facility, relining of various mains, was awarded last month.
- Harborview force main project with Charleston Water System is in process.

Charleston County:

Mr. Alex Owsiak provided a presentation with several updates:

- Riverland Drive multi-use path is complete to Crepe Myrtle drive, the next phase is to be designed from Crepe Myrtle to Henderson Drive.
- The Maybank and Woodland Shores sidewalk is under construction and should be completed mid-2026
- The Central Park culvert replacement and road elevation project has been awarded. This project will require complete closure of Central Park from June to September of this year. A detour will be in place and residents will be notified.
- Various rural roads projects are underway
- Central Park and Riverland Drive improvements are projected to be completed in late 2025
- City golf course and sidewalk connection improvements are expected to be advertised within the next 60 days.
- Folly Road bike and pedestrian improvements project is the multi-use project from Ellis Creek to George Griffith Blvd. The County expects to readvertise the bid within the next 60 days.
- Fort Johnson and Secessionville Traffic Light was previously advertised and will be packaged with the Fort Johnson and Camp Road roundabout for re-advertisement within the next 60-90 days.
- Country Club Drive and Folly Road pedestrian improvements by McCleod Plantation is expecting to hopefully receive Fiscal Year 2026 funding.
- Dills Bluff Sidewalk Phase 3 is expected to be advertised in the 3rd quarter of 2025.

- Fleming Road sidewalk the County hopes to advertise the 3rd quarter of 2025.
- Sol Legare Sidewalk will be broken into phases and the County has issued a request for qualifications.
- West Oceanview rocking is a Town of James Island TST project. Meeting with residents on April 30.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the bidding process and the issues that the County has had to get competitive bidders.

Mackenzie Kelly provided updates on pavement management throughout the island and noted the demonstration of the pavement data truck prior to the meeting. It is expected that the collection will take about 2 months to complete. The data will then inform the next round of pavement planning. There will also be a Ft. Johnson sidewalk repair project to start later in 2025.

City of Charleston

Caroline Parker noted:

- Feedback signs for speed limits will be expanded if possible
- Secessionville Traffic Calming Study will hopefully have a report in July
- The City had some Dominion trimming and power outage issues, to be followed-up on in July
- Charleston Water System has begun oyster renourishment
- Folly Road traffic light timing study is ongoing through 2025
- James Island City Recreation Center repairs
- Stephen Washington Park was awarded a \$500,000 grant

Town of James Island

Mayor Brook Lyon provided updates on the following:

- Three major drainage projects completed
- Two more thermal pipe-lining projects needed in Quail Run
- Dills Bluff Sidewalk, working with the County
- Radar sign installation on Dills Bluff by pump station
- Mill Point Park is open
- New James Island Community Center bids to be let soon

Charleston County School District:

Dr. Carol Tempel reported:

- The district is looking for input regarding the phase 6 tax referendum to maintain and improve their buildings.
- A survey is also being conducted for suggestions for the schools to handle upcoming growth.
- Dr. Tempel also reported on the ongoing issues of traffic at the Camp Road Middle School.
- Dr. Tempel also noted that there will be a new principal at Camp Road Middle School.

The Council discussed the issues and the need for improvements on Camp Road if possible. Dr. Tempel is working with the district transportation people to encourage bus transit to school.

Mr. George Tempel reported that the constituent school boards are going to be dissolved by the State Legislature.

The Council discussed other improvements to help with the Camp Road Middle School traffic, including a plan to use the track area for drop-off and pick-up. However, this will need to be included in the Phase 6 tax referendum plans.

- 7) Additional Comments:
Mayor Lyon thanked Philip Sexton for attending and encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming drainage meeting and the May Town Market.
- 8) Closing Remarks:
Dr. Mignano stated that she appreciates everyone showing up and providing information.
- 9) Next meeting is Wednesday July 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. here at James Island Town Hall.
- 10) Chair Mignano adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.