

ORDINANCE #2021-10

**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING BASELINE INSPECTIONS OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN
THE JAMES ISLAND CREEK TMDL**

WHEREAS, James Island Creek has been designated as an impaired waterway by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control; and

WHEREAS, Microbial Source Tracking has shown that human waste is a major cause of pollution in James Island Creek; and

WHEREAS, Failed septic systems are a frequent source of contamination of stormwater; and

WHEREAS, There exist two hundred twenty-four septic systems in the James Island Creek TMDL under Town of James Island jurisdiction, most of which were initially installed more than fifty years ago; and

WHEREAS, Town Council finds that an effective targeted response to the impairment of James Island Creek requires a baseline inspection of the septic systems in the James Island TMDL;

THEREFORE, TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ORDERS AND ORDAINS:

1. All septic systems in the James Island Creek TMDL under Town jurisdiction must have a baseline inspection at Town expense before June 30, 2022.
2. A “baseline inspection” means a thorough evaluation of an operating private sewage system to determine whether the system is functioning as designed, is not exhibiting signs of failure, and is being operated properly. A pump out of the system is required for a baseline inspection to properly examine the interior of the tank and to check for leaks from the house or saturated conditions in the drainfield. All inspections and pump outs must be performed by septic contractors with valid SCDHEC licenses.
3. Town Council appropriates \$150,000 to pay for baseline inspections for septic systems in the James Island Creek TMDL under Town jurisdiction from unencumbered capital project funds in the 2021/2022 budget year.
4. The Town Public Works Department shall coordinate with one or more licensed septic contractors and property owners and residents to provide for the required baseline inspection.
5. The required baseline inspection is an “additional inspection” as provided for in Town of James Island Code 91.03 Section C 10.
6. Any septic system that received a baseline inspection that is properly documented within the last three years meeting these requirements is exempt from the ordinance.

First Reading: October 20, 2021

Second Reading: November 17, 2021

W W Woolsey

Mayor Bill Woolsey

Liane W. Simonis

Attest: Town Clerk

Adopted: November 17, 2021