

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC. This meeting was also live streamed on the Town's website at [www.jamesislandsc.us/livestream-townmeetings](http://www.jamesislandsc.us/livestream-townmeetings) and was held in accordance with the S.C. Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

The following members of Council were present: Lewis Dodson, Julia Drayton-Crumblin, Dr. Cynthia Mignano, Darren "Troy" Mullinax, Michael O. Williams, and Mayor Brook Lyon, who presided. Absent: Councilman Dan Boles, (gave notice). Also present: Town Attorney, Brian Quisenberry, Finance Director, Mike Hemmer, Code Enforcement and Facilities, Parker Richardson, Island Sheriff's Patrol, Captain Shawn James and Deputy Taryn Booth, and Town Clerk, Frances Simmons.

Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She announced that the Town encourages public participation and welcomes comments prior to Town Council meetings. Residents wishing to address Council are limited to three (3) minutes and must sign in prior to speaking. Written comments may also be submitted in advance by emailing [info@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:info@jamesislandsc.us), by mail, or by placing them in the drop box at Town Hall. Mayor Lyon introduced herself as Mayor, the members of Town Council, and welcomed those attending.

Opening Exercises: Councilman Mullinax led Council in prayer and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Lyon introduced Victor Crouch, Town Poet Laureate, who read a poem in recognition of Black History Month, "*Our King Makes a Home for Us.*" Copy attached.

Presentation by Shawn Salley, SC Department of Transportation: Mayor Lyon introduced and welcomed Shawn Salley, Program Manager, SC Department of Transportation, to give an update on the Folly Road Safety Project.

Mayor Lyon informed the public that the evening's format would not be a question-and-answer session. She encouraged everyone to attend the Neighborhood Council meeting on Thursday, March 5, at 6:00 p.m. as Mr. Salley will come back then and we can ask questions.

Mr. Salley thanked the Council for the opportunity to share the scope and intent of the project. Some slides from the past SCDOT presentation highlighting the safety improvement aspects of the project, updated changes, and feedback received from the two public meetings were shown. A copy of SC 171/Folly Road Safety Assessment Presentation is provided. <https://sc-171-folly-road-safety-project-scdot.hub.arcgis.com/pages/project-updates?preview=true>

Afterward, Mayor Lyon stated that the presentation was enlightening, informative, and thanked Mr. Salley for his thorough comparison of the changes that were made. She asked Mr. Salley and other staff from the SCDOT to stay at the meeting to hear comments from some of the residents.

Mayor Lyon acknowledged that the plan may improve safety along Folly Road based on crash history but expressed concerns that it could potentially introduce other safety issues. Mr. Salley stated that a traffic study would be conducted before the medians are installed. If the study determines that additional traffic is diverting into neighborhoods, a backup plan would be implemented. Members of Council thanked Mr. Salley for the presentation followed by questions.

Presentation by Senator Ed Sutton: Mayor Lyon introduced and welcomed Senator Ed Sutton and asked him to give an update on the SCDOT Modernization Bill.

Senator Sutton thanked Council for the opportunity to share this information. Both the House and Senate have been actively working on this bill. He complimented Shawn Salley for outstanding work, noting that several residents had contacted him regarding the Folly Road Safety Project and that Mr. Salley had him updated by providing information to him about the project. Senator Sutton represents James Island, West Ashley, and downtown Charleston. He is currently serving the second year of his first term and greatly enjoys the work. He thanked City Councilwoman Skardon and Councilman McBride for their service.

Senator Sutton provided an overview of the Transportation Modernization Bill. The bill is designed to enhance the SCDOT by amending various state laws to improve infrastructure and services. Some key components of the bill includes establishing a Coordinating Council for transportation and mobility to oversee transportation planning and development; mandating that SCDOT develop a long-range statewide transportation plan; authorizing the department to enter into public-private partnerships to streamline project delivery and improve efficiency; and imposing fees on new developments to mitigate congestion and fund infrastructure improvements.

Mayor Lyon and Council thanked Senator Sutton for coming and sharing this information with the citizens.

Public Comments: The following persons addressed Council:

Adam Friend, 448 Woodland Shores Rd. said he moved here after Hurricane Hugo. He has been here a while to watch us explode, "*so to speak*". His initiative is Safe Roads. In the summer of 2023, Jen Drummond was hit on Woodland Shores Road and was found in the middle of the road. Since he purchased his home in 1995, he has been fighting for safe roads. Unfortunately, it took somebody getting hit before they were able to organize a Coalition to get speed humps from the County and now a sidewalk. He is not a huge fan of the loss of left-hand capabilities, but it is something that has been happening more and more. He had the opportunity to speak to Mr. Salley who has been very good and hands-on. After speaking to him and having a better understanding, and getting federal funding, that is something that needs to happen, unless the Town wants to pay for it. We know how hard it is to get money these days and it is something that needs to happen because it will address safety. There have been four fatalities between Camp and Fort Johnson - that is a lot, and another two north of there. One person dying is too many and this is something data has driven.

He stated that the DOT looked at the roads and produced the formulas that says that we are the fifth most dangerous road in the state. They looked at where these crashes were happening and whittled it down to the lowest they could, but the data nationally is on these raised medians. We have had ideas of rumble strips, and other ideas, but there is no data on it -- we just do not know and SCDOT is not going to take the chance to do these things. If the Town and City wants to say no, they can, and they will go away. But you will have to sign off taking the liability going forward on that road; that is a fact. He does not think a small municipality has the budget to take on the risk of doing something outside of what the data shows and having to unfortunately be the ones to be the bearer of the lawsuit. It is very important that we understand it is something that we cannot stop and it sounds like the SCDOT is willing to work with us as logically as possible. He thinks this is going to happen and he supports it because of that and an opportunity to do something that shows a reduction in fatalities and crashes.

Marilyn Clifford, 811 W. Madison Ave. Ms. Clifford stated that she has lived at 811 West Madison Avenue for 55 years. Her mother is 88 years old and lives on Lady Cooper Street, and an aunt lives on Gilbert Street, all in the Centerville neighborhood. She thanked SCDOT for coming and appreciates Mr. Salley's presentation.

She has obtained 356 signatures from business owners, residents, and patrons. As Mr. Friend pointed out, this is federal money, even though on the outset we want to applaud the Town for coming out against the plan as it appeared in the Post and Courier but if you get involved at your state level, it does not matter because the Feds are going to run you over. She is sorry, that is the way it is and there is no nice way to put it. So we are beholden to the federal government. She does not think any of them live off of Folly Road. She does not think they know that her neighborhood needs a park – they do not have one vacant lot in her neighborhood for a park, and they do not have room for a sidewalk. One of the illustrations in the presentation showed a big wide Folly Road and there is no big wide Folly Road. She lives on West Madison Avenue that can be called Folly Road #2, and she affectionately calls it the Chick-fil-A Speedway because Eugene Gibbs blends into West Madison. When the school traffic gets out, that is just a whole other ball game. At the time the article was written and the information that she was given, it roused 356 people. Now with the new proposed plan we are taking into specs and doing stuff. She has pictures of a crash median at South Windermere, big chunks of three pieces of cement. It is not yellow and pretty like it was 10,000 years ago and an old person is not going to be able to see that and God help them. And, then somebody is like, why don't you pick it up? Because I am not going to kill myself in the middle of the road.

Bill Lyon, 669 Port Circle: Mr. Lyon stated that three weeks ago the Neighborhood Council held a meeting attended by many concerned citizens. During that meeting, residents discussed the proposed plans for Folly Road, specifically from Camp Road to the Eugene Gibbs intersection and from Taco Bell to Santee Street. Many expressed concern that the proposed medians could cause irreparable harm to businesses along that portion of Folly Road—businesses that are vital to the community. Also that Community members voiced concerns that the potential for traffic would be diverted through residential neighborhoods where pedestrians walk and children play. He noted that several constructive alternatives were suggested by residents that would not require the installation of medians.

Mr. Lyon announced that Mr. Salley has agreed to attend the Neighborhood Council meeting on March 5 at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions and further discuss the project. He encouraged the public to attend. More than 200 additional signatures have been collected in support of the petition.

Edward Greene, 1115 Seaside Lane: Mr. Greene thanked Mayor and Council for having SCDOT to give the presentation because he has been concerned about the project. He expressed concerns about the connector area where overgrown trees and bushes are encroaching onto Folly Road. He stated that it is unsightly to see a wooded area at the peak of Folly Road and that he is frustrated with its appearance. He assumes that the proposed median would run through that section and potentially extend in front of someone's vehicle. Mr. Greene requested that the Town and SCDOT address the issue by removing the trees.

John Peters, 1301 Hampshire Rd: Mr. Peters thanked Council and Mr. Salley for the presentation stating that it means a great deal to the citizens. He expressed concern about traffic conditions at the intersection of Folly Road and Harborview Road, noting that it has already been mentioned but deserves further review. As someone who travels the route daily and has an elementary school student, he described the difficulty of making a left-hand turn, explaining that only about six cars are able to get through in a two-minute cycle, resulting in extended wait times and continued backups. He said that intersection needs closer evaluation.

He also asked about the ratio of traffic volume to accidents, suggesting that understanding how many vehicles travel the corridor compared to the number of accidents over a five-year period would be helpful. While acknowledging that safety improvements are important, he questioned whether eliminating left-hand turns everywhere is justified without seeing clear data. He further inquired about the accuracy of traffic study metrics, recognizing that all studies have potential flaws and asked where weaknesses in data collection may exist.

Mr. Peters stated that he supports the proposed improvements at the old Folly Road and the connector. However, he requested clearer visual representations of projected traffic impacts, particularly how much additional congestion may result from restricting left-hand turns. He suggested that diagrams showing current versus future traffic backups would better illustrate the reality of the changes. He also commented that some of the presentation images, particularly those depicting neighborhood traffic, appeared to show conditions late at night and did not accurately reflect midday traffic volumes. In his view, while medians may improve safety, they could also increase congestion. He questioned what trade-offs the community will need to accept as James Island continues to grow and traffic increases.

Carol Jackson, 1461 Patterson: Ms. Jackson stated that she attended the meeting after initially believing, based on a front-page article in the Post and Courier, that the safety audit and project plans were already finalized. After participating in both open houses and submitting online comments, she was surprised to learn following Council's discussion and Mr. Salley's presentation that many decisions are still pending. She expressed agreement with Councilmember Mullinax's comments that there are tons of safety recommendations the State could implement. She questioned why those measures cannot move forward while the proposed medians are further evaluated and noted Councilmember Dodson's concerns about accurately assessing potential future consequences.

Ms. Jackson stated her personal experience in navigating traffic near Hunley Avenue and Folly Road, particularly near Bojangles, where traffic backs up toward the Connector. She explained that she often turns left onto Hunley and is concerned that the addition of medians would create unsafe conditions. She noted that when attempting to visualize how vehicles would queue between medians, she feels that her Prius would remain partially exposed in the through lane and multiple vehicles attempting the same turn could block traffic, leading drivers to veer into adjacent lanes. She stated that there are too many vehicles and too many risky drivers for the proposed changes not to have unintended consequences. She questioned how traffic modeling can fully account for such real-world behaviors. She asked for greater intergovernmental coordination; that this is not solely a Town issue but cooperation with City, County, and state agencies for the best plan for residents.

Robin Guerin, 1733 Combahee: Stated that it was illuminating to hear more information tonight and shares the sentiment of many here that with more information, we can make better decisions. After hearing everything tonight, she still feel that this is not the best fix for our town. She understands the focus on safety as she is a safety professional herself and recognize that it is data driven. When she was first approached about this project, she specifically stated that nothing should move forward without data. Preparing for this meeting, she realized that most of what she wanted to say has already been covered by others. However, there are two points that stood out. We already have a median in place at Ashley Phosphate that is not effective. She would be very interested in hearing from the residents there about their experiences. She knows a friend who drives that route daily, and there have been accidents—or near-accidents—right in front of them. While not strictly data-driven, these resident experiences are important. She hopes that future traffic studies in our neighborhoods take resident experience into account. We certainly do not want these streets to become de facto frontage roads. In her neighborhood alone, there is a school nearby, and children walk those streets daily. Even if automobile accidents are rare, a single incident involving a child would be tragic and unforgettable.

She noted that she moved here from Louisiana and is aware of a 2016 case where data-driven research showed that medians contributed to flooding. A \$21 million class-action lawsuit followed, and the residents and businesses prevailed. This demonstrates that these types of changes can have serious unintended consequences.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting, January 15, 2026: A motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026, meeting was made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Mullinax, and passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Mayor's Report: Mayor Lyon reported on the following topics:

**Art and Community Center at the Hillman Lot**

A rendering of the Art and Community Center was shared.  
Recent meeting held on permitting; zoning is completed, stormwater nearly done.  
Moving toward land disturbance permit; groundbreaking hoped for in April or May.  
Fundraising efforts and starting to support additional amenities

**Green Hill Road Paving**

Mayor, Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin, and Councilwoman Mignano met with citizens and county representatives.  
Residents waited a long time for paving, and it is not up to par. The County is reviewing potential solutions.  
Ongoing follow-up is anticipated.

**Town Hall Repairs**

New deck completed; it is now safe and secure.  
Shutter replacements underway; first batch had color issues that was resolved by contractor.

**Staff Updates**

Parker Richardson and Jackie Mays completed emergency certification training.

**Mill Point Park and Dock Street Park**

Met with engineer Laura Cabaniss and architect; drawings are expected in 4 weeks.  
Playground and pavilion reconfigured to improve views and utility access.  
Restrooms and spaces for events such as birthday parties are planned.

**Other Updates**

Staff preparing parks for spring.  
Folly Beach-style information sign planned; estimates being reviewed

**Upcoming Events**

Poetry reading & open mic: Feb 25, 7 p.m.

Neighborhood Council meeting: Mar 5, 6 p.m., with Shawn Salley, SCDOT  
Town Market: Mar 6; nearly fully booked with vendors, food trucks, and live music.

Finance Report: Mr. Hemmer presented February's Finance Report reflecting activity through the end of January. We are seven months into the fiscal year; approximately 58% of the year is completed. He said the audit process has begun and is very close to being delivered, hopefully within the next month or two. Mr. Hemmer and Mayor Lyon have begun working on next year's FY 2027 Budget. He would like to provide Council with a draft budget by March 27, and, if possible, schedule a Budget Workshop on April 2. With that schedule it would place the Workshop two weeks after the March meeting and two weeks before the April meeting. If those dates are suitable with Council he will proceed with that schedule. Mr. Hemmer availed himself to answer questions. Report accepted as information.

Island Sheriff's Patrol: Captain James reported a quiet month in February and provided a summary of crimes and infractions that occurred last month. Report accepted as information.

Public Works: Mayor Lyon reported for Melissa Flick. Public Works continues working on reestablishing ditches and clearing culverts and cross pipes as part of ongoing maintenance. The team is working to catch up on these projects and making steady progress.

There is a sinkhole at 778 Folly Road that the SCDOT has been assisting us with in front of a business. Last week, Mayor Lyon and Melissa Flick attended the SC On-Site Wastewater Association Conference. They gave a presentation on septic tank testing by the Town on James Island Creek that was well received by the group.

Site visits were conducted with Charleston County, including coordination regarding the Greenhill Road meeting. We are working closely with the County's Stormwater staff, who have been helpful in providing ideas and suggestions.

The Intergovernmental Flood Prevention Task Force has a meeting scheduled for March 6. This is Philip Sexton's Intergovernmental Flooding Task Force. The last meeting held in North Charleston was very informative. Report accepted as information.

Code Enforcement Report: Ms. Richardson informed Council that they received a copy of the Code Enforcement Report in their packets and available herself to answer questions. Report accepted as information.

#### Requests for Consideration by Staff:

New Vehicle for Town Deputy: Mayor Lyon explained that when the ISP program began in 2019, the Town purchased a vehicle for the program and remains responsible for providing a vehicle for the Town Deputy. The vehicle currently assigned to Deputy Booth has required frequent and expensive maintenance and has been in the shop more often than it has been in service. As a result, Deputy Booth has had to repeatedly transfer equipment between vehicles. The vehicle has also experienced issues with GPS tracking, the camera system, and the brakes.

Mayor Lyon asked Captain James and Deputy Booth to provide an overview of their request for a new vehicle. Deputy Booth described several ongoing problems with the current vehicle, including brake issues, camera malfunctions, and GPS failures. She also noted power interruptions to accessories, a clunking noise in the front driver's side suspension when going over bumps, and other maintenance concerns. The vehicle was recently in the shop for two weeks.

Captain James explained that police vehicles accumulate significant engine hours due to idling while officers respond to calls. Although the vehicle has approximately 80,000 miles, the high number of idle hours and the way the vehicle is used contribute to accelerated wear. He stated that when agencies evaluate vehicles for replacement, they consider mileage, years in service, maintenance costs, and projected repair expenses. Records show the total maintenance cost for the vehicle to date is approximately \$21,058.

There was discussion comparing possible replacement vehicles, including a Chevrolet Tahoe, Ford Explorer, Ford Expedition, and Ford F-150. Captain James noted that Tahoe's are currently difficult to obtain and may not be available until late in the year if ordered when the next contract opens July 1. Ford F-150 police package vehicles are currently available and would be suitable for carrying the equipment used by Deputy Booth. The F-150 also costs less than a Tahoe.

Council members discussed safety considerations between an SUV and a pickup. Captain James explained that the F-150 police responder model is specifically designed and tested for law enforcement use. He noted that police vehicles undergo extensive performance testing, including high-speed and maneuverability testing, and would not receive police certification unless they meet those standards.

Mayor Lyon stated that staff had identified several areas in the current budget where funds could be reallocated for the purchase, including items that were budgeted but not yet spent or projects that will not occur during this fiscal year.

Council also discussed the importance of ensuring the vehicle selected is suitable for an officer who spends long hours inside the vehicle with multiple pieces of equipment.

A motion was made by Councilman Mullinax and seconded by Councilwoman Mignano for the approval of a new vehicle for the Town Deputy Mayor Lyon asked that the motion and second be withdrawn and restated with a spending limit for the vehicle. Councilman Mullinax withdrew his motion and Councilwoman Mignano withdrew her second.

The motion was made by Councilman Mullinax and seconded by Councilwoman Mignano to approve the purchase of a police vehicle **not to exceed \$80,000**, which would include the cost of the vehicle and any necessary equipment or additional expenses that may arise.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Councilman Williams	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Requests for Consideration by Council:

Palmetto Fiber Arts Guild Request for Meeting Space: Motion to approve the dates requested by the Palmetto Fiber Arts Guild was made by Councilman Dodson, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano, and passed unanimously.

Linus Blanket Request for Meeting Space: Motion to approve the dates requested by the Linus Blanket group was made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Land Use: Mayor Lyon announced that no Planning Commission or BZA meetings were held this month and staff is working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Environment and Beautification Committee: Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin reported that the committee met yesterday and approved a request to change the meeting to the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting. The Committee is working with the Charleston Beautification Committee to partner with the Adopt-a-Highway event scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 9-11 a.m. Security will be needed. The goal is to involve the entire James Island community, not just areas within the Town limits, and to expand efforts to clean up litter. Current consideration is the Riverland Drive area along with several other locations, depending on the number of volunteers who sign up. More information to be announced.

Children's Committee: Councilwoman Mignano reported that she and Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin have been working on plans to host a Spring Children's Festival in April. Dates and additional details will be available soon, but it is expected to take place toward the end of April. They are hoping for another great turnout, even better than last fall.

Neighborhood Council: Councilman Mullinax presented two appointments to the Neighborhood Council. He moved for the appointment of Robin Guerin to represent the Centerville subdivision, seconded by Councilwoman Drayton Crumblin. Passed unanimously. Councilman Mullinax moved for the appointment of Sandy Hall, representing Fort Lamar, seconded by Councilman Williams. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Mullinax announced that the last meeting primarily focused on the topic discussed tonight regarding the Folly Road Safety Study and medians.. The March meeting has been adjusted to accommodate Mr. Salley's schedule so that he can attend and will be held on Thursday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m.

History Committee: Councilman Williams thanked Bill Lyon and Mike Corbo, who recently rejoined the History Commission after being away for a period of time. The History Commission continues to work hard and move forward with activities at the Town Market and establishing historical markers. .

Black History Month was celebrated at the Town Market and was also featured on the Town's website. During the recent meeting, they discussed making this an even stronger focus in the future by highlighting the incredibly rich local history specific to James Island during Black History Month.

Historic markers are a priority of the History Commission. The Saint James marker has been recently submitted after discussion of placement with the appropriate parties. The marker will be placed out of the right-of-way on a better post in a safer spot.

The upcoming March Town Market will highlight the Town's historic markers, and we will continue working toward adding additional markers throughout James Island. The Commission is planning to launch a volunteer initiative within the next month. The goal is to bring together volunteers, particularly local high school students, to help clean and maintain historic marker sites throughout the community.

Rethink Folly Road: Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin announced the next meeting for the Rethink Folly Road Steering Committee is March 11 at 3 p.m.

Drainage Committee: Mayor Lyon announced that Councilman Boles is not present tonight and provided notice regarding his absence. She informed Council that the Flood Prevention Task Force will meet on March 6 with Philip Sexton. Details on the time and location will be provided.

Business Development Committee: No Report.

Trees Advisory Committee: Mayor Lyon reported on a successful tree giveaway on Saturday, February 7, giving away over 250 trees. The event was well organized with many volunteers and now there are many trees being planted around the community. On March 19th, we will be going to the middle school on Camp Road to plant some trees with students and a couple of their teachers. That should be a lot of fun as well.

Looking ahead to the fall of 2026, another tree giveaway is planned like the one we done last fall at the Town Market. We plan to have a booth and will be giving away fruit trees. George Hyams with Hyams Nursery is helping to source them. We expect a lot of interest in this giveaway.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Mayor Lyon reported that she is honored to have been elected Chair of the Intergovernmental Council. She is excited about working to bring the municipalities together and working for the betterment of our island. To Carol Jackson's earlier point, (thought she has left) she wants to assure everyone that the Folly Road issues will certainly be addressed. The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Council is April 29th at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Accommodations Tax Committee: No Report.

James Island Arts Council: Mayor Lyon reported that the James Island Arts Council met on Tuesday. The Council is planning art displays for the front lobby and engaged in brainstorming ideas for fundraising efforts to support the Art and Community Center.

Parks and Gardens Council: No Report.

Proclamation and Resolutions:

Proclamation: Recognizing Women in Construction Week, March 1-7, 2026: Read into the record by Mayor Lyon.

Resolution #2026-02: Recognizing and Honoring "A Century of Black History Commemorations": Mayor Lyon read the resolution into the record and recognized Jerome Harris and Millicent Brown in attendance.

Memorandum of Agreement #2026-03: James Island Creek TMDL: Mayor Lyon introduced the Memorandum of Agreement for the James Island Creek TMDL MS4 Monitoring Program. She said for those unfamiliar with the terminology, this program relates to monitoring pollution levels and water quality in James Island Creek. Chris Wannamaker with Charleston County was present to explain the agreement and the importance of the monitoring program.

Mr. Wannamaker explained that the monitoring effort has been underway for several years and involves collaboration between Charleston County, the City of Charleston, and the Town of James Island. Previously, the work was conducted through a private consulting firm, but the program is now being brought in-house by Charleston County.

Mr. Wannamaker stated that analyzing the collected data internally will allow the team to apply more advanced analysis methods, including machine learning, to evaluate water quality data gathered over the past four years. The goal is to better understand the multiple factors contributing to water quality issues in the creek. He emphasized that there is unlikely to be a single cause (“smoking gun”) responsible for the impairment of the creek. Instead, it is expected to be a complex combination of factors, potentially including stormwater runoff, increased development, chemicals, wildlife, and other environmental influences.

Councilwoman Mignano discussed previous efforts to identify causes of the creek’s impairment, including investigations related to dog waste, septic systems, and other potential pollution sources. Some frustration was expressed about the ongoing monitoring and whether sewer lines transporting wastewater to Plum Island had been pressure-tested to rule out possible leaks.

Mr. Wannamaker County responded that the investigation remains ongoing and that the new monitoring approach aims to collect more detailed information and develop a strategic plan to identify contributing sources.

Councilman Williams raised concerns about people fishing from the Buxton Bridge and potentially consuming fish from the creek. Mr. Wannamaker explained that the E. coli and fecal coliform bacteria being monitored generally do not accumulate in fish tissue, particularly when fish are properly cleaned and cooked, although other contaminants that bind to fatty tissue can accumulate in certain species.

The Council expressed interest in staying involved in the effort and emphasized the importance of finding solutions to improve the health of the creek.

Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the James Island Creek TMDL MS4 monitoring program.

Motion was made by Councilman Dodson, seconded by Councilman Williams.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Councilman Williams	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Ordinances up for First Reading:

Ordinance #2026-01: An Ordinance Amending the Town of James Island Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR), Article 153.026, Section D, and Article 153.027, Section D to increase the membership of the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals: Mayor Lyon explained that the Ordinance is intended to allow our new Councilmembers to make appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission.

The Ordinance was drafted with the assistance of the Town Attorney. She stated that when the Town was first established in 2012, the terms for the BZA and Planning Commission members staggered. The five members drew straws to determine their initial term lengths. Three members drew long straws and received

four-year terms, while the other two drew short straws and received two-year terms. After two years, those two members were reappointed to four-year terms. This system created staggered terms so that the entire Board would not turn over at the same time.

Under this Ordinance, Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin's appointments would receive a four-year appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals and a two-year appointment to the Planning Commission, and Councilman Williams' appointments would receive a four-year appointment to the Planning Commission and a two-year appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

At the end of the two-year terms, either the same individuals would be reappointed or someone new would be appointed for four years to maintain the staggered structure. No discussion. Mayor Lyon called for a motion and a second. Motion was made by Councilman Williams, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Councilman Williams	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading: None.

Old Business: None.

Executive Session: Mayor Lyon announced that the Town Council may enter into an Executive Session in accordance with Code of Laws of South Carolina 30-4-70(a)(2) to discuss receipt of legal advice for the litigation matter KT Properties, LLC vs. Town of James Island. Upon returning to Open Session the Council may act on matters discussed in the Executive Session.

Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to enter into the Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. Councilman Dodson moved, seconded by Councilman Williams.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Councilman Williams	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Return to Regular Session: Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to return to Open Session at 10:07 p.m. Motion made by Councilman Mullinax, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. Mayor Lyon announced that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

Vote:

Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Councilman Williams	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Announcements/Closing Comments:

Councilman Dodson stated that everyone wants to see Folly Road made safer. However, he emphasized that safety improvements should not come at the expense of the neighborhood's quality of life and safety. He noted that the goal is to work with the SCDOT to create solutions that improve safety while also protecting surrounding neighborhoods. He thanked the staff and everyone who contributes to the Town's work and wished everyone a good weekend.

Councilman Williams addressed the community, noting that James Island is full of passionate residents who want their voices heard. He encouraged those who were not present at the meeting to attend future meetings, join committees, and participate in the civic process. He stressed that meaningful change comes from community involvement and encouraged residents to be part of the solution.

Councilwoman Drayton-Crumblin expressed appreciation for everyone who attended and shared gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Council and be part of the community. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that residents feel heard, seen, and appreciated. She also thanked the Mayor for her support and leadership and acknowledged fellow Council members for their collaboration. She looks forward to the continued growth and progress of James Island.

Councilwoman Mignano expressed hope that a compromise could be reached that preserves local businesses and neighborhoods while also achieving safety improvements and implementing the positive elements of the proposals.

Councilman Mullinax thanked the large audience that attended the meeting, noting that such attendance is rare. He referenced the twelve proposed reforms from the DOT, stating that eleven of them are positive and expressing hope that disagreement over one proposal would not prevent the community from benefiting from the others.

Mayor Lyon concluded by thanking everyone for their support and participation. She noted that Council cares deeply about the Town and its residents and appreciate those who stayed late to attend the meeting. She also thanked Town staff and the Town Attorney for their guidance throughout the evening.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Frances Simmons  
Town Clerk