

The Town of James Island held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in person at the Town Hall, 1122 Dills Bluff Road, James Island, SC. This meeting was also live-streamed on the Town's website: [www.jamesislandsc.com/livestream-townmeetings](http://www.jamesislandsc.com/livestream-townmeetings) and was held in accordance with the SC Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

The following members of Council were present: Dan Boles, Lewis Dodson, Cynthia Mignano, Troy Mullinax, and Mayor Brook Lyon, who presided. Also present: Brian Quisenberry, Town Attorney, Becky Heath, Finance Director, Mike Hemmer, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Keith LaDeaux, Public Works Coordinator/Project Manager, Lt. Shawn James and Deputy Chris King, Island Sheriff's Patrol, and Frances Simmons, Town Clerk.

Opening Exercises: Mayor Lyon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. welcoming everyone. Members of Town Council were introduced. She announced that the Town encourages the public to provide comments prior to Town Council meetings. Residents wishing to address the Council are limited to three (3) minutes to speak and must sign in. Tonight, there are two sign-in sheets; one for a Public Hearing and the other for General Comments. She stated that public comments are not a question/answer period, but for citizens to express their opinions and concerns. Citizens wishing to discuss a matter with Council may do so after the meeting or schedule an appointment.

Councilman Boles gave the Opening Exercises and led Council in a Moment of Silence. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Notice of this meeting was published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of James Island.

Public Hearing: Ordinance #2025-02: Proposed Amendments to the Town of James Island's Zoning & Land Development Regulations: Definitions (153.013); Signs (153.341 A3 a7); Signs (153.341 E5a, b) Measurements, Computations & Exceptions (153.066 A1): No one signed in to speak.

Public Comment: Mayor Lyon asked those making comments to please speak into the microphone and state their name and address for the record. She asked anyone who had a written statement to leave a copy with the Town Clerk or send it to her by email for the record.

Several individuals spoke as well as provided written statements:

Bill Lyon, 669 Port Circle: Statement Attached.

Sharyn Sandstrom, 811 Farnhan Road: Statement Attached.

Ron Jaruzel, 606 Bootlegger Lane: asked Council to reconsider its vote and oppose Resolution #2025-05. He thinks Council is making a mistake by voting on this tonight without public input. The ramifications of the Resolution would cost everyone living in the Town money. He does not think anyone realizes how much it is because they cannot get answers from Council, and the credit on tax bills would go away. For his household that would mean \$1,500/year, which is a significant amount (home, vehicle, other taxes). This is not for Council to vote on or slide under the rug. Everyone is owed an explanation for transparency. He is passionate about this because he loves and supports James Island. No one on Council, except for Councilman Mullinax, gave him an honest answer that made sense. Emails from the other members of Council did not articulate answers about how this would impact the residents. He asked Council why this wasn't shared publicly ahead of time instead of coming out on Monday? He asked Council to postpone the vote until there is a public discussion so everyone understands what the money will be used for and how it would affect the residents.

Steve Browder, 798 Piccadilly Drive: said he is respectfully appalled by the arrogance of the people they elected to represent them are proposing a substantial tax increase when the Town is flushed with money. He knows the Town is flush with money because he sat and listened to the audit report of the finances from the previous

meeting. He said Mayor Lyon campaigned on keeping taxes low and treating residents in a respectful manner - that was the core of her campaign. The disrespect that has been shown by raising taxes and discontinuing the long-standing relationship with the PSD is appalling. He knows the public is not allowed to ask questions in this forum, but if Council supports this radical change from the long-standing norm, the public is owed an explanation. He further stated that if this moves forward, he will do everything he can to ensure that those who vote in the affirmative and lose the people's trust, are defeated in the next election. He was born and raised on James Island and people are angry at the arrogance of imposing taxes on families, after the insane inflation in the last four years. People on social media are asking about joining the City of Charleston. Everyone on Council campaigned on broad generalities to make the island a better place to live and raise their kids. That is not going to happen if people are priced out of their homes by raising taxes when the Town is flush with money.

Marilyn Clifford, 811 W. Madison Avenue: said she has lived on James Island for 55 years. She thanked the Council for allowing the public to express their opinions tonight and to the former mayor who found this way to give a tax credit to the citizens. She agreed that it is confusing because we have the Town, City, and unincorporated areas of James Island. The Town residents were able to get Local Option Sales tax monies from 2019 forward on their tax bills. She pointed out that someone spoke about core values and priorities, and she believes fire protection and solid wastes are definitely priorities. She does not want half of her house to be put out if it catches on fire and she wants all of her trash picked up. Service comes at a cost and any time a taxpayer is given a break, it is appreciated. So, from 2019 to today she thanked the Town for thinking about older residents living on a fixed income. Ms. Clifford explained her tax bill with the Cost Share Credit. She did not know this item would be on the Town's agenda until Monday and didn't think anyone else knew about it. She held up a copy of the Town's newsletter and showed where that information could've been placed to show the \$1.3 million burden on the taxpayers.

Frank Barnes, 1496 Kentwood Circle: Mr. Barnes said he read in the Post and Courier some time ago that the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) held a Public Hearing about adding concrete medians to Folly Road, but he did not know anything about it. After talking with Mayor Lyon, he learned that they plan to hold another Hearing. He was also informed that Dominion Energy hosted an Open House at the Town Hall and only a few people attended. Mr. Barnes said he doesn't think the lack of public attendance is because people are not interested, they just don't know about it. He asked the Town to look into erecting a reader board on Folly Road (Oak Point Rd - Harris Teeter) so people are aware of what is happening in the Town.

Steve Jarrett, 783 Clearview Drive: Mr. Jarrett said his father-in-law built 783 in 1969 and he has lived there for a long time. He said most people living in his neighborhood are retired and the Town is pricing them out of their homes. He retired four times, but most people in the neighborhood have not retired that many times, and don't have much income. The homes in the neighborhood now are selling for over \$1 million; some probably at \$3 million. He said it is something for the Town to look at taxes and says it is low here. Just because the value of a house goes up, it does not mean people have more money. Everything is more expensive, and inflation is eating them alive; especially for retired people. The Town sending a notice about increasing taxes by 28% are fighting words. We need things but we may not need a multimillion, Arts Center. He asked the Town to prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis to show if we can afford the building so taxes don't increase next year. If the Town cannot show what comes in and goes out, they have no reason to ask people for more money.

Wendy Teel, 1290 Hampshire Road: Ms. Teel signed up to speak but inadvertently was not called. She provided the attached statement for the record.

Schuyler Blair, 850 Mellichamp Drive: supports the Resolution to terminate the Cost Sharing Agreement. He said the Mayor and her team worked with him last year to put in new drainage in the Centerville community. The drainage was a considerable issue and the Mayor acted quickly to carry out what was essential for the well-being of the community. He sees both sides of the argument and understands that no one likes taxes, but James Island is in the minority. In N. Charleston, City of Charleston, and Mt. Pleasant, the taxes are higher. James Island is the only place that does not levy a tax on its residents. We have no accommodations tax, hospitality tax, and permit fees are lower than other places; he is thankful and wants it to stay that way. He does not want

taxes to increase but at the same time he understands there is a cost to live, for safety, growth, prosperity and inflation. The cost to do anything, whether drainage or an art project, takes capital. This is the first step, a right step, and a small step in the right direction so that James Island continues to grow and prosper as it has for 200-300 years. He believes that the Mayor, Council, and the people in this room have a duty to uphold the beauty, growth and prosperity of James Island - unfortunately, it comes at a cost. He is in full support of the proposed change. It is not a tax; it is walking back a Cost Sharing Agreement put into place by one individual in 2019 in a handshake agreement.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes of Town Council Regular Meeting, February 20, 2025: Motion to approve by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano and passed unanimously.

Use of Town Facility at Pinckney Park: Cub Scout Pack #50: A request from Cub Scouts Troop #50 to utilize the Pinckney Park Pavilion was made by Councilman Dodson, seconded by Councilman Mullinax. Passed unanimously.

Information Reports:

Finance Report: Finance Director, Becky Heath, provided the Finance report and submitted additional information requested by Councilwoman Mignano. Accepted as information.

Island Sheriff's Patrol Report: Lt. James gave an update of the recent crimes and infractions in the Town. He shared that crime had slowed during the month but encouraged everyone to not leave valuables or guns in unlocked cars. A traffic/speeding report was given for Bruce Street, Dills Bluff and Stiles Point. Councilwoman Mignano shared that James Island Pride, and the Sheriff's Office will host an Easter Food Drive to help families in need. Donations can be dropped off at the Town Hall and Mignano Chiropractic Center, 914 Folly Road by April 16.

Public Works Report: Mayor Lyon welcomed Keith LaDeaux, Public Works Project Manager, back from a family emergency leave. Keith will resume his reports in April.

Mayor Lyon reported on the following: Oceanview Drainage Project: soon to be completed. Waiting on SWPPP inspection and the ground to stabilize on the maintenance road. Mayor Lyon gave a status report about two issues, a house at ground zero where the front yard will not drain after the pipes were installed. The other was about a cracked driveway across the street. The contractor has agreed to take care of both repairs.

Woodhaven Project: project has wrapped up. Waiting on one section to stabilize and for the final SWPPP inspection. Two fences damaged by the contractor have been repaired.

Sidewalks Projects: Laura Cabiness has submitted an application for TST and CTC funding for the Nabors sidewalk.

Road Resurfacing: Charleston County will continue the resurfacing of Greenhill Road during the summer when school lets out.

West Oceanview: Road rocking for this project will begin when school is let out this summer.

Mayor Lyon announced that the staff had an interesting experience with the vac truck demonstration on March 4. Staff was able to clean out some culverts and ditches and see how it works.

Drainage Hotspot Update: Staff spent time today at Bradford and McCalls Corner to investigate problems in those areas. The Town is working with a resident on Greenhill Road about a clogged drainage ditch behind her property.

Fort Johnson/Folly Road Update: SCDOT and Philip Sexton have been contacted regarding flooding at the Church. Mr. Sexton has acknowledged our concerns, but we haven't heard back yet about the plan. We have also solicited the assistance of Representative Wetmore to help move this along.

A meeting is scheduled with Chris Wannamaker next week to review various areas of concern in the Town and to help us develop solutions for how we can accomplish them.

The drainage ditch behind Grand Concourse and Foxcroft is scheduled for cleaning. The City of Charleston will clean the drain box because it is in their jurisdiction.

Requests for Consideration by Staff: none.

Requests for Consideration by Council: none.

Committee Reports:

Land Use Committee: none.

Environment and Beautification: Councilwoman Mignano reported that both Helping Hands and James Island Pride met yesterday and approval was given to order pens, hats and shirts for the volunteers. The service dates for Helping Hands are March 22, April 26, May 24, June 21, July 19, Aug. 23, Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15. Parker Richardson will serve as the staff liaison.

Children's Committee: none.

Neighborhood Council: Councilman Boles reported that the Neighborhood Council met February 27, and an update was given by Co-Chair Bill Lyon on the history of the Lighthouse Point neighborhood. The next meeting is scheduled on March 27, and everyone is invited to attend.

History Committee: Mayor Lyon reported that the SCDNR will host an Open House on Saturday, March 22 and the History Committee will attend and distribute information about the Town. Mayor Lyon reminded everyone about the First Friday Town Market on April 4 at 6:00 p.m. and invited everyone to attend. The Historical Marker for the Seashore Farmers Lodge arrived today and preparation is being made to have it installed. The next History Committee meeting in Tuesday, April 8 @ 6 p.m. at the Town Hall.

ReThink Folly Road: none.

Drainage Committee: Councilman Mullinax reported that he, Mayor Lyon, Melissa Flick, and Chris Wannamaker visited the County's drainage projects on Santee, Prescott, Bradford, Greenhill, Ft. Sumter, Schooner, and Foxcroft. He said the tour of these sites was very informative and a lot of work needs to be done at those areas. He learned a lot about the project and appreciates being involved in the process. Councilman Mullinax said he hopes to have a Drainage Committee meeting in April.

Business Development Committee: Councilman Dodson requested to add two members to the committee. Mayor Lyon moved to amend the agenda in order to add Nick Skover and Joseph Walters as potential members. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boles. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Dodson moved for the appointment of Nick Skover and Joseph Walters to the Business Development Committee, seconded by Mayor Lyon. Passed unanimously. Councilman Dodson hopes to have a meeting in April.

Trees Advisory Committee: Mayor Lyon reported that the Committee met last week and plans to present a Tree Canopy Award on Stiles Drive and Lighthouse Point later this month. Both awards are Grand Oak Trees. An event is being planned at the High School at the end of April for Arbor Day to plant trees and a garden. Fruit



trees will be given away at the Fall Town Market in October. Mayor Lyon added that the Town was approached by a non-profit organization to partner with them in and give away hundreds of large trees. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

James Island Intergovernmental Council: Councilwoman Mignano announced the next meeting on April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Accommodations Tax Committee: No report. Councilman Dodson announced a meeting with Sea Islands Chamber of Commerce to discuss disbursing the funds to promote tourism in the Town. Mayor Lyon thanked Councilman Dodson and Becky Heath for their hard work in bringing the Town into compliance.

James Island Arts Council: No Report.

Resolution# 2025-05: Authorizing the Mayor to Terminate the Cost Sharing Agreement Between the Town of James Island and the James Island Public Service District: Mayor Lyon called for a motion to approve and a second for discussion. Motion made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Councilman Boles spoke that he characterizes the Cost Sharing Agreement as a subsidy that everyone has been paying to the JIPSD. He said the PSD raised the people's rates, and his taxes this past year term and he doesn't know if anyone attended that meeting and voiced their objections. He said this had just happened after the Town paid them a million plus dollars the year before. The Town's subsidy doesn't seem to affect the fact that the PSD rates continue to increase. The Council tried to have a round-table discussion for years to find out what happens with the money. How can he show his neighbors that for which the money is used? What are the projects? He said the money is spread over to all rate payers in Charleston County, and those who are not in the Town also benefit from money we give the PSD every year. Councilman Boles said he appreciates the comments that were made but disagrees with a lot of them, but this is what democracy looks like. He said that everyone on Council is extremely frugal and takes turn shooting things down because they are concerned about costs.

Councilman Boles responded to some comments made: ***"None of the residents can get answers from Council"***. He said the PSD sold the Dills Bluff property and residents came to the Town asking us to stop it. He reply was that if anyone doesn't like what is happening, they should attend PSD meetings and voice their concerns because the Town has no control over them. He said the Town is being sued by the developer that the PSD sold the Dills Bluff property to. ***"Someone said this was going to raise taxes on his house, vehicle, and other property tax."*** Councilman Boles said he did not think that was the case because it is Real Property. According to an internet search, there are roughly 1266 residents in the Town. By going with Commissioner Clifford's number of \$1.3 million and divided is \$107.74 per resident/per year. When that is divided over a month, it is \$8.98. He is not convinced that the numbers he heard are accurate and would discuss it with anyone after the meeting. He said \$8.98 is averaged, so some people would pay more, and some would be less dependent on the value of the home. He stressed that this is not a tax the Town is levying. It is rates and millage the PSD has levied. He further stated that everyone here has been subsidizing the million plus, which is a huge percentage of the Town's annual budget and could be put to good use. ***"The Arts and Cultural Center"*** is one thing the Town could spend the money on and also drainage. He doesn't know if anyone knows how much it costs to build sidewalks, but it is incredibly expensive. We want all of this and can pay for it with this money. Another comment about not being ***"transparent"*** and said this is the moment of transparency. The Town's passing the Resolution tonight means we are authorizing the Mayor to take action; we are not ending it tonight and all of the comments made tonight are what transparency looks like. We do everything that we can to comply with the Freedom of Information Act. Comment: ***"I want to understand what the money will be used for"*** He has asked the PSD repeatedly what they do with the money and to show him what its spent on but has never gotten answers. Comment: ***auditor's presentation on Town's finances.*** Councilman Boles said it is not because the Town has excess funds laying around; it is because we are incredibly frugal. The Town has saved its residents money by voting to change our Stormwater Regulations that improved our flood rating and lowered the costs of insurance for residents. Councilman Boles said saving everyone money is at the top of Council's

list, and we are about to save another million plus dollars. He agreed with Commissioner Clifford that fire protection and solid waste removal are priorities but that is the responsibility of the PSD. The Town does not administer those services. When we give the money to them, we have no control over how it is spent. The Town had to close the old Arts and Cultural Center because we were in a lawsuit from the previous administration and had no parking. He hopes citizens will attend more meetings and engage more to see what we are trying to do. He shared there will be two seats added to Council and encouraged everyone to run. The Town has also set aside monies independent of this for people on septic tanks to hook into the PSD sewer. We give the PSD a lot of money for other things besides what we are talking about tonight. He said if we were giving this money to a private individual or business, our heads would be on pikes. It is no different to give it to a government entity that has its own board, money, and collects its own revenue. Councilman Boles said he will vote in favor of ending the agreement. If people feel this was a horrible decision, there is nothing to stop Council from bringing it back in a year. He knows in his heart this is the correct way for us to do business and hopes the people will join him in that. Councilman Boles availed himself to speak with residents after the meeting.

Councilwoman Mignano said she agreed with Councilman Boles. She was here and listened to all of the Cost Sharing information and it was incredibly convoluted and complex. When we had a meeting with an expert to explain, she asked him if it was like *going around your elbow to get to your nose* and he said yes, this is very unusual. The Town is the only municipality that does this in the entire state. We are not raising taxes. We want to use the tax relief to benefit Town citizens, to provide services such as cleaning ditches; storm drain cleaning, homeschool groups, and providing afterschool internet access to families that do not have that. The Town provides police enforcement protection through the Sheriff Island Patrol (Charleston County) and we look forward to offering more services for our citizens. She is also very concerned about people's budget and does not want to cause hardship on any citizens but once this money leave our doors we don't know where it goes. She knows that the people see it as a credit, but she thinks we would be better stewards of the money for the people's benefit and the Town would be transparent by showing what the money is being used for and citizen input. She understands if citizens disagree because she does not agree with everything others say. When she ran for Council people asked her to help the citizens of James Island and she has. She has children, a practice and is busy but she does it anyway. She explained that she was up until 11:30 reading emails and gives her very best and does it for all.

Councilman Dodson said he is the *new kid on the block*, and it took him a while to *get his head around* the Cost Sharing Agreement, because it is peculiar. He does not like taxes, or government sprawl. He likes an efficient government and that is the reason he ran for Council. He talked about pulling a business license from the Town that took 11 weeks and that is ridiculous in a town this small. Government working efficiently is key and as a Councilmember it is his main goal to be a steward of the people's money. He never wants to levy a property tax in the Town. Since he has become a Council Member, he has been blown away by the massive service requests that come from our citizens. He said people want help, guidance, and to have an email answered immediately and these things take money. We want the police and pay the Sheriff's Office to be our personal police force. These are services that we want but need the staff and facilities to achieve the goals of the people in the Town. So, in getting his head around this and being a businessperson for a long time we should use those monies for our Town and that keeps us from levying a property tax. He talked about having friends in Sol Legare and Riverland Terrace that are paying the taxes that we are afraid to pay that we stopped paying in 2019 but they have been paying it the entire time and is not destroyed by it. People are coming here whether we want them to or not and if we do not grow our infrastructure at the same rate that people come we're going to be screwed. Councilman Dodson stated that this is an open agreement. He asked members of the public to reach out to him if they need further discussion. Councilman Dodson said he feels this is the best way to move forward to be good stewards of the people's money.

Councilman Mullinax spoke about a balance of community good over the genuine individual need (i.e., household budget) and taxes increasing can be difficult. He said we all understand that we do not levy taxes as the PSD does, but this was something that could negate some of those taxes for the citizens in the Town. The Town tried to annex some of the unincorporated areas at the same time we came up with this plan but unfortunately it could not get past the Senate. Councilman Mullinax said he has been on Council since 2012

and has heard from many people that it benefitted them. He knows that we cannot postpone this vote because of the April 1<sup>st</sup> date. He wishes the Council could do a 50/50 phase to see how it would affect what people's bills look like in October then if this didn't work, we could go back to the full amount next year. This is his idea, and he is unsure if we need to make an amendment to see how this would work. He agreed that this is a complicated plan, but it was a plan that benefitted a lot of people.

Mayor Lyon said this agenda item has raised a lot of misinformation. She said this money could have been used to purchase the Dills Bluff property instead of the development that is a big mess right next to some of our citizens homes. The Town would have had more money to do things like that. This is something she's thought about a lot. About transparency, she said this is a contract and we could've just sent them a notice and not have the item for discussion on our agenda, but Council felt it was important to have transparency. James Island is a very special place, and we are lucky to have our Town, but it is not the Town it was when Joan Sooy was Mayor in 1992 or Mayor Mary Clark in 1998. She said people want services now not a paper town. She would love to have a police force one day with Lt. James and Deputy King working for us instead of being subcontracted through the Sheriff's Office. The PSD is a separate entity responsible for its own sources of means and for managing the costs of its operation. Since 2019 the Town has spent the LOST by subsidizing the operations of the PSD through the cost sharing agreement. Most other municipalities utilize LOST funds for services to avoid taxing their residents for those municipal services. No other municipality in the state spends its LOST by subsidizing the operation of another public entity. LOST funds are provided to municipalities to allow them to keep property taxes low or to avoid imposing a property tax. Town citizens pay no municipal property taxes to the Town as the other members of Council shared, and we would like to keep it that way. Ending the Cost Sharing Agreement with the PSD will not impact the Town's property taxes. We plan to continue to charge no property taxes. Mayor Lyon stated that she has had numerous meetings with Peter Tecklenburg (County Auditor), and Town Attorney and read a letter from Mr. Tecklenburg that she received (attached). Mayor Lyon said that either side could end the agreement. James Island has become very popular causing property values to escalate, and many residents are now demanding that we address drainage, increase green space, improve park facilities, and provide an Arts and Cultural Center that we own with adequate parking for the community. Over the last 30 years after our first attempted incorporation the needs and desires of the Town have changed. She said development is rampant and if we are going to better serve our residents it will take additional funding. The Town currently does not collect a property tax and if we are going to better serve our residents it will take additional funding. Other municipalities use the LOST for projects, and some puts it in their general fund and that is why Council is considering redirecting this funding. She does not like taxes, but she comes to work every day and works very hard because she loves James Island and the citizens and wants to do the best she can to come with being a mayor. She speaks for all of Council because they put their hearts and soul into working for the Town and want to do what is best for all residents and the Town. She said it was overwhelming the requests that we receive for services; drainage, and we have much work to do. She talked about the loss of the Arts and Cultural Center and the number of people that came out to the initial meeting and begged us to build it. We own the lot next door and its crazy not to take advantage of using it to help the neighborhood and support children. We could not have computers or books in the old art center because it would have the resemblance of a library. The type of building we're looking to construct is not going to be stick built like the Town Hall or exorbitantly expensive, it will be a frugal steel frame structure for \$65.00 sq. ft. to start plus finishes. There are so many needs for the Town.

Mayor Lyon called for the vote on Resolution #2025-05 to terminate the Cost Sharing Agreement between the Town of James Island and the James Island Public Service District.

Vote

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Nay
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Motion Passed 4-1	

Resolution #2025-06: Approval the Application of Term 2025-2026 Legislative Funding Sources to the Purchase of a Vac-Truck for the Town of James Island Public Works Department: Mayor Lyon called for a motion and a second for discussion for the approval of Resolution #2025-06. Motion was made by Councilman Boles, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano.

Mayor Lyon gave an overview of the request for the Town to obtain a grant through legislative funding 2025-2026 term for a vac truck in the Public Works Department. She has been in communication with Representative Spencer Wetmore, Senator Chip Campsen and Senator Ed Sutton who has given their support. The estimated cost is \$579,000 for a Camel Max mode 1200, 12-yard Combo Truck and would require the operator to have a CDL license. After discussion, the vote was called and recorded as follows:

Vote:

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Ordinances up for First Reading: None

Ordinances up for Second/Final Reading:

Ordinance #2025-02: Proposed Amendments to the Town of James Island ZLDR Ordinance:

- Definitions (153.013); Signs (153.341 A3 a7); Signs (153.341 E5a and b)
- Measurements, Computations and Exceptions (153.066 A1)

Motion to approve Ordinance #2025-02 was made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Dodson. No discussion.

Vote:

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Ordinance #2025-03: Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bond, 2025 for the Town of James Island:

Councilwoman Mignano moved to table Ordinance #2025-03, seconded by Councilman Dodson.

Vote:

Councilman Boles	Aye
Councilman Dodson	Aye
Councilwoman Mignano	Aye
Councilman Mullinax	Aye
Mayor Lyon	Aye
Unanimous	

Old Business:

Mayor Lyon gave an update on the flagpole on Folly Road. Solar lights have been ordered, and we hope to have them by next month.

New Business:

Councilman Dodson asked that we look into the possibility of a Reader Board to advertise meetings and events of the Town.

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) regarding discussion of proposed contractual matters for potential hiring of a financial advisory firm, and regarding cost sharing agreements, and the receipt of legal advice regarding bond issuance, and legal advice regarding litigation matters regarding KT Properties, LLC vs. Town of James Island. Upon returning to the 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. Councilman Boles moved, seconded by Councilwoman Mignano. No discussion. Passed unanimously and Council entered at 8:33 p.m.

Return to Regular Session: Mayor Lyon asked for a motion to return to open session at 9:10 p.m. Motion made by Councilwoman Mignano, seconded by Councilman Dodson and passed unanimously. Mayor Lyon stated that no votes were taken during the Executive Session.

Announcements:

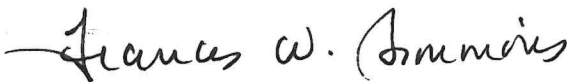
Councilman Dodson recapped his decision for agreeing to terminate the Cost Sharing Agreement.

All members of Council wished Lt. James a Happy Birthday.

Mayor Lyon reminded everyone about the First Friday Town Market, the Open House at the DNR on Saturday and invited everyone to her Lighthouse Point Neighborhood event. Congratulations were extended to Mike Hemmer, Melissa Flick James Hackett and Mayor Lyon for being CERT compliance. The next class will be offered in July. Additional information as it becomes available.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances W. Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances Simmons  
Town Clerk



The lost funds are taxes that are collected in stores and restaurants in the Town. They come from the half cent sales tax levied by the county. James Island is the only municipality that returns the lost funds through another entity instead of using it for the benefit of residents of the Town.

We need an art and cultural center for residents to enjoy and have a place to gather  
and improvements to our drainage, more green space and improvements to our facilities.

Retaining this money is a much better option than levying a property tax. If you live anywhere else in Charleston County this would not be an issue.

There has been much misinformation on social media. The residents of Sol Legare and Riverland Terrace certainly have not been taxed out of their homes.

The members of Council and the Mayor have the best interest of the Town at heart and I fully support ending this agreement with the Public Service District.

It is time for the Town of James Island to become a real town able to provide it's citizens.

Bill Lynn  
669 Port Circle

## **Planning / Funding for the New James Island Arts & Cultural Center via Local Options Sales Tax**

By Regina Ruopoli, Managing & Artistic Director, Palmetto Youth Choir & Palmetto Peace Choir, which is a choir for adults.

Ours is the largest program that took place at the former Arts & Cultural Center, and is now utilizing Town Hall. About 90% of our members have been from James Island. We've reached hundreds of families and provide music literacy as well as community-building for residents.

A few of our milestones include collaborative performances with Spoleto Festival USA and Piccolo Spoleto, Charleston Opera Theatre, Charleston Place Hotel, various touring folk artists and the renowned Taylor Festival Choir. We also sing for local retirement communities at no charge, and had collections for local charities, including James Island Outreach and Lowcountry Orphan Relief.

Our members often say how much arts programming was missing, needed and wanted on James Island! I know firsthand how the arts have the power to transform lives. To develop creativity, confidence and career paths for people of all ages. The arts are valuable - not just because they develop core skills and personal and professional growth - but also as cultural and historical touchstones that bring joy, connection, history, knowledge and a little magic to our lives.

We have many more plans ahead. But that hinges on having the right space in which to do it.

I'm thrilled that the town is prioritizing building this new Arts & Cultural Center. I know they're diligently planning to make the new space as flexible and multi-purpose as possible, to be utilized for many different community needs.

An incredible hub, such as this, is a big investment. A worthy and important investment worth every dollar. Especially as arts funding is being cut from school budgets at an alarming rate. If the arts received even half of the funding as sports do, we'd be better off as a society.

**In working with Mayor Brook Lyon and the folks with the Town, I believe that she has the right priorities in mind with securing the funding needed for this space. I support the use of the Local Options Sales Tax revenue as part of this funding plan.**

**Budgets are moral documents. They reveal priorities and values. Thank you to the Town for prioritizing the development of this space. It will be an enduring gift to the community.**

Ron Jaruzel

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**From:** Ron Jaruzel <cetiger99@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:55 PM

**To:** dboles@jamesilandsc.us <dboles@jamesilandsc.us>; Ldodson@jamesilandsc.us <Ldodson@jamesilandsc.us>; cmignano@jamesilandsc.us <cmignano@jamesilandsc.us>; blyon@jamesislansc.us <blyon@jamesislansc.us>; darrentroymullinax@jamesilandsc.us <darrentroymullinax@jamesilandsc.us>; mhemmer@townofjamesilandsc.us <mhemmer@townofjamesilandsc.us>; townclerk@jamesilandsc.us <townclerk@jamesilandsc.us>

**Cc:** cetiger99@hotmail.com <cetiger99@hotmail.com>

**Subject:** James Island Tax Increase Concerns and Opposition of Resolution 2025-05 - March 19, 2025

Hello Mayor Lyon, James Island Town Council Members and Senior Staff,

I am sharing my concerns this evening about the **Resolution 2025-05** vote regarding the termination of the cost sharing agreement with the JIPSD. I would like Town Council to postpone the vote until further notice. Please provide accurate cost ramifications to the tax payers of what this truly means for our community. Why is the property tax increase necessary? What is the advantage to terminate the cost sharing agreement with the JIPSD? There has been LITTLE information shared to us as the Town of James Island tax payers and I believe if you all are voting on this tomorrow that it will **NOT** in the best interest of the Town of James Island.

I am writing in **opposition** of the resolution until the town can properly notify and share information on why the cost sharing termination is needed. For example, we received a notification in the mail about grand tree sizing changes but **NOTHING** about a resolution that could drastically impact our taxes for real estate and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Ron Jaruzel

606 Bootlegger Lane

Town of James Island Resident

cetiger99@hotmail.com

## Frances Simmons

---

**From:** Brook Lyon  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 3:02 PM  
**To:** Frances Simmons  
**Subject:** Fw: Cost sharing with PSD

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*

Town of James Island  
843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)  
1122 Dills Bluff Road  
James Island, SC 29412  
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



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**From:** Nancy Hadley <nancyhhadley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 11:27 AM  
**To:** Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Cost sharing with PSD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

I don't believe state law has a provision allowing Local Optoon Sales Tax to be used the way you want. That's my concern. The law mandates that 71% of the property credit fund be used as a property taxes credit. You can use 26% of it however you want and you can use the general fund however you want. But the property owners are due a tax credit of the rest. That's why we had the revenue sharing agreement. If you violate the state law the town will be sued. That's not a wise use of public funds.

Nancy

On Thu, Mar 20, 2025 at 4:57 AM Brook Lyon <[blyon@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:blyon@jamesislandsc.us)> wrote:

Good morning, Nancy. Thank you for reaching out. As you know James Island has become very popular causing property values to escalate. It is never popular to remove a tax credit to increase the capability of the municipality to provide services. While the past administration did some things to improve the quality of life for Town residents, I feel that we need to do much more. I have had numerous people reach out wanting better drainage, park facilities, more greenspace and an arts and cultural center that the Town owns that we can be proud of. Over the past 30 years the needs and desires of our Town have changed. Development is rampant. If we are going to better serve our residents it will take additional

funding. Other municipalities use the LOST money for their general fund and projects for their citizens. In the past, the Town used the LOST money for projects benefiting citizens when they paid off the new Town Hall. It seems only appropriate that we use the same funds to provide better services and facilities for our residents.

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*

Town of James Island

843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)

1122 Dills Bluff Road

James Island, SC 29412

[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



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**From:** Nancy Hadley <[nancyhhadley@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhhadley@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:14 AM

**To:** Brook Lyon <[blyon@jamesislandsc.us](mailto:blyon@jamesislandsc.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Cost sharing with PSD

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments**

I am shocked to see that you propose to cancel the cost sharing agreement with the PSD. As I recall the Town receives LOST money which it is required to use ( a proportion at least) to reduce taxes. Since the town wasn't charging taxes this agreement provided a way to have a tax rebate. How do you propose to return the LOST money to the taxpayers? Our PSD taxes will immediately jump. This sounds like the taxpayers are going to get screwed. Your resolution says the money saved (by the government, not by the taxpayers) will be used to further other public purposes. What public purposes? Are you sure James Island residents want these ? Do you remember our motto: change the name to stay the same. I certainly meant keep government out of my business. The Town already does more than I envisioned. It is in many ways intrusive. I was never in favor of LOST but since we pay it I'd like to get the benefit it's supposed to provide.

Nancy Hadley



## Frances Simmons

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**From:** Brook Lyon  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 3:04 PM  
**To:** Frances Simmons  
**Subject:** Fw: Cost-share

FYI

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*  
Town of James Island  
843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)  
1122 Dills Bluff Road  
James Island, SC 29412  
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



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**From:** Jenny C. Honeycutt <JHoneycutt@charlestoncounty.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 10:36 AM  
**To:** Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>; Cynthia Mignano <cmignano@jamesislandsc.us>; Daniel Boles <dboles@jamesislandsc.us>; Darren Troy Mullinax <darrentroymullinax@jamesislandsc.us>; Lewis Dodson <ldodson@jamesislandsc.us>  
**Subject:** Cost-share

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments**

Good Morning,

As always, thank you for your service to the residents of James Island. I would appreciate a written explanation from each of you as to how town council feels a tax increase resulting from the termination of the 2019 PSD cost-share agreement benefits the residents of James Island so I can explain to our shared constituents who are extremely unhappy with this decision.

Kindly,

Jenny Costa Honeycutt  
Charleston County Council District 9  
4045 Bridgeview Avenue  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Cell: (843) 693-6447

RESOLUTION # 2025-03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TERMINATE THE COST SHARING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND AND THE JAMES ISLAND PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Town of James Island ("Town") entered into a Cost Sharing Agreement ("Agreement") with the James Island Public Services District ("District"), dated September 13, 2019, and the Town and District have renewed the Agreement annually through 2024, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Agreement the parties agreed to share the District's costs of providing solid waste and fire protection services within the Town through payment by the Town of the Annual Cost Share funds and the application by the District of a tax credit on the property tax bills of owners of real and personal property situated within the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Agreement requires the Town to provide the District with a preliminary estimate of the amount of the Annual Cost Share that the Town expects to appropriate in the Budget by April 1; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that either party may terminate the Agreement in any year of its term by giving the other party written notice of its termination by no later than April 30 of such year, and the effective date of termination is June 30 of such year.

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to end the Cost Sharing Agreement with the District, and to direct the Annual Cost Share funds towards the Town's budgeted expenses to further public purposes through the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the members of Council of the Town of James Island, duly assembled that the Mayor is authorized to provide written notice to the District as provided by the Agreement, and to terminate the Cost Sharing Agreement effective June 30, 2025.

This Resolution shall become effective upon the adoption by Town Council.

Done this 30 March, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brook Lyon  
Mayor

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frances Simmons  
Town Clerk

## Frances Simmons

---

**From:** Brook Lyon  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 3:00 PM  
**To:** Frances Simmons  
**Subject:** Fw: Cost Sharing Agreement with the JIPSD

FYI

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*  
Town of James Island  
843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)  
1122 Dills Bluff Road  
James Island, SC 29412  
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



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**From:** Susan Milliken <sbmilliken@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>; Cynthia Mignano <cmignano@jamesislandsc.us>; Darren Troy Mullinax <darrentroymullinax@jamesislandsc.us>; Daniel Boles <dboles@jamesislandsc.us>; Lewis Dodson <ldodson@jamesislandsc.us>  
**Subject:** Cost Sharing Agreement with the JIPSD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Good afternoon y'all,

I hope you vote tonight to end the Cost Sharing agreement with the JIPSD which results in the Town using LOST funds to pay down Town residents' JIPSD fire and solid waste property taxes, resulting in a lower property tax bill for Town residents vs. unincorporated county residents (who are all JIPSD customers and taxpayers).

The resulting disparity in the taxing of JIPSD constituents due to the agreement has never made sense to me and is absolutely unjust and unfair in my view.

The "tax credit" funds that go straight to the JIPSD can be better used by the Town for good things for residents (for instance, years ago LOST funds were used in part to build Town Hall). The Town used to mail out tax credit checks to residents, which I also felt was ridiculous.

**Let's use our municipal LOST funds for good, needed things for the Town & Town residents like a new Art and Cultural center and park improvements vs. a tax credit to be issued toward another entities' tax levy and expenditures, which the Town has no control over. As an aside, such future resources can also be enjoyed BY ALL ISLANDERS; including those who were cut out of the Town in 2012 and do not have a tax credit available to them due to no fault of their own.**

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,  
Susan Milliken  
Former JIPSD Commissioner  
2021-2024

762 Fort Sumter Dr.  
James Island, SC 29412

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**From:** Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:03 AM

**To:** Ron Jaruzel <cetiger99@hotmail.com>

**Cc:** Frances Simmons <fsimmons@jamesislandsc.us>; Michael Hemmer <mhemmer@jamesislandsc.us>; Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>

**Subject:** Re: James Island Tax Increase Concerns and Opposition of Resolution 2025-05 - March 19, 2025

Good morning, Ron. Thank you for reaching out. As you know James Island has become very popular causing property values to escalate. It is never popular to remove a tax credit to increase the capability of the municipality to provide services. While the past administration did some things to improve the quality of life for Town residents, I feel that we need to do much more. I have had numerous people reach out wanting better drainage, park facilities, more greenspace and an arts and cultural center that the Town owns that we can be proud of. Over the past 30 years the needs and desires of our Town have changed. Development is rampant. If we are going to better serve our residents it will take additional funding. Other municipalities use the LOST money for their general fund and projects for their citizens. In the past, the Town used the LOST money for projects benefiting citizens when they paid off the new Town Hall. It seems only appropriate that we use the same funds to provide better services and facilities for our residents. For your further information, the credit varies from property to property. The Town is required to give the PSD notice by April 1st.

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*

Town of James Island

843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)

1122 Dills Bluff Road

James Island, SC 29412

[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



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**From:** Ron Jaruzel <cetiger99@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 10:02 PM

**To:** Town Clerk <townclerk@jamesislandsc.us>; mhemmer@townofjamesislandsc.us

<mhemmer@townofjamesislandsc.us>; Michael Hemmer <mhemmer@jamesislandsc.us>; Brook Lyon

<blyon@jamesislandsc.us>; Daniel Boles <dboles@jamesislandsc.us>; Cynthia Mignano <cmignano@jamesislandsc.us>;

Lewis Dodson <ldodson@jamesislandsc.us>; Darren Troy Mullinax <darrentroymullinax@jamesislandsc.us>

**Subject:** Fw: James Island Tax Increase Concerns and Opposition of Resolution 2025-05 - March 19, 2025

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

Resending to ensure receipt of my original email.

Thank you,



## Frances Simmons

---

**From:** Ron Jaruzel <cetiger99@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 7:37 AM  
**To:** Brook Lyon  
**Cc:** Frances Simmons; Michael Hemmer  
**Subject:** Re: James Island Tax Increase Concerns and Opposition of Resolution 2025-05 - March 19, 2025

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments**

Good Morning Mayor Lyon,

Unfortunately, no one can answer my question about the cost impacts to the actual residents. From my research, no one can calculate this cost and provide a simple answer. If so, why is the Town trying to push this when the impacts are not known to a resident like my family? There has to be more information the Town can share to help us understand what burden will be placed on us to "improve the quality of life". One council member who is in favor of the resolution "said this would curb development" and the town is doing this because they have been unhappy with the JIPSD over the Dills Bluff Property sale or other past interactions with prior administrations.

I personally feel like the town is pursuing this resolution without true public collaboration. I support transparency, quality of life and making the Island a great place but we are only receiving part of the formula from the town. I still do not have an answer from any member of council on what the impacts will be financially.

I believe the Town should postpone the vote and be transparent with the entire process to receive public input and also include JIPSD in the discussion. That will allow everyone to be collaborative about the process. Is it possible to delay the vote and have a town hall meeting to discuss before it is voted on in the future? That will allow all of the tax payers to properly oppose or support the resolution in due time.

Thank you for your reply but I am asking Town Council to postpone the resolution vote for at least 30 days. My opinion is this vote favors the council's personal agenda and not necessarily the public concerns based on my interactions with council members. I will do my best to attend the meeting tonight but wanted to share my concerns if I am unable to make it in time.

Ron Jaruzel  
606 Bootlegger Ln  
A Concerned James Island Resident

## Frances Simmons

---

**From:** Ron Jaruzel <cetiger99@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 9:56 PM  
**To:** dboles@jamesilandsc.us; Lewis Dodson; Cynthia Mignano; blyon@jamesislansc.us; Darren Troy Mullinax; mhemmer@townofjamesislandsc.us; Town Clerk  
**Cc:** Ron Jaruzel  
**Subject:** James Island Tax Increase Concerns and Opposition of Resolution 2025-05 - March 19, 2025

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments**

Hello Mayor Lyon, James Island Town Council Members and Senior Staff,

I am sharing my concerns this evening about the **Resolution 2025-05** vote regarding the termination of the cost sharing agreement with the JIPSD. I would like Town Council to postpone the vote until further notice. Please provide accurate cost ramifications to the tax payers of what this truly means for our community. Why is the property tax increase necessary? What is the advantage to terminate the cost sharing agreement with the JIPS? There has been LITTLE information shared to us as the Town of James Island tax payers and I believe if you all are voting on this tomorrow that it will **NOT** in the best interest of the Town of James Island.

I am writing in **opposition** of the resolution until the town can properly notify and share information on why the cost sharing termination it is needed. For example, we received a notification in the mail about grand tree sizing changes but **NOTHING** about a resolution that could drastically impact our taxes for real estate and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Ron Jaruzel  
606 Bootlegger Lane  
Town of James Island Resident  
cetiger99@hotmail.com

## Frances Simmons

---

**From:** Brook Lyon  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:58 AM  
**To:** Nancy Hadley  
**Cc:** Frances Simmons; Brook Lyon  
**Subject:** Re: Cost sharing with PSD

Good morning, Nancy. Thank you for reaching out. As you know James Island has become very popular causing property values to escalate. It is never popular to remove a tax credit to increase the capability of the municipality to provide services. While the past administration did some things to improve the quality of life for Town residents, I feel that we need to do much more. I have had numerous people reach out wanting better drainage, park facilities, more greenspace and an arts and cultural center that the Town owns that we can be proud of. Over the past 30 years the needs and desires of our Town have changed. Development is rampant. If we are going to better serve our residents it will take additional funding. Other municipalities use the LOST money for their general fund and projects for their citizens. In the past, the Town used the LOST money for projects benefiting citizens when they paid off the new Town Hall. It seems only appropriate that we use the same funds to provide better services and facilities for our residents.

*Brook Lyon, Mayor*  
Town of James Island  
843.795.4141 | 843.795.4878 (fax)  
1122 Dills Bluff Road  
James Island, SC 29412  
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)



---

**From:** Nancy Hadley <nancyhhadley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:14 AM  
**To:** Brook Lyon <blyon@jamesislandsc.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Cost sharing with PSD

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the Town of James Island. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments

I am shocked to see that you propose to cancel the cost sharing agreement with the PSD. As I recall the Town receives LOST money which it is required to use ( a proportion at least) to reduce taxes. Since the town wasn't charging taxes this agreement provided a way to have a tax rebate. How do you propose to return the LOST money to the taxpayers? Our PSD taxes will immediately jump. This sounds like the

taxpayers are going to get screwed. Your resolution says the money saved (by the government, not by the taxpayers) will be used to further other public purposes. What public purposes? Are you sure James Island residents want these ? Do you remember our motto: change the name to stay the same. I certainly meant keep government out of my business. The Town already does more than I envisioned. It is in many ways intrusive. I was never in favor of LOST but since we pay it I'd like to get the benefit it's supposed to provide.

Nancy Hadley



Wendy Teel

1290 Hampshire Rd.

There is community value in JIPSO using its funds ~~to~~ and land sales to build updated fire stations, operate waste pickup disposal, and operate + update failing infrastructure.

There is also community value in the town of James Island securing some of the remaining green spaces on James Island for Parks and community activities. Even passively, the community benefits from parks, unpaved, treed areas as ~~if~~ they help absorb excess rain and storm water. This helps lessen or prevent flooding in the neighboring areas. The town of James Island should be able to better the town for the community, and I am in support of ending the cost sharing agreement with the JIPSO in order to do so.

Wendy Teel



## *MESSAGE BOARD*

### **Town Sign on Folly Road Promoting Town/Other Meetings of Interest to Residents**

\*Location—between the exit from the James Island Connector onto Folly Road and Oak Point Road

Possible locations

- > Between the “Bike Lane” sign and the next powerline Pole
- > Nearer to but before Harris Teeter Parking lot

\*Location rationale

- 1) Traffic frequently slows or stops for traffic light at Oak Point Road/Ellis Oak Avenue
- 2) Would capture traffic coming onto the Island from the direction of Maybank Highway, West Ashley, Downtown/Mt. Pleasant

*FRANK BARNES*

*1496 KENTWOOD CIR*

*843-224-4185*



**Peter J. Tecklenburg**  
Charleston County Auditor

March 19, 2025

Mayor Brook Lyon  
Town of James Island  
1122 Dills Bluff Rd.  
James Island, SC 29412

Mayor Lyon:

I received your voicemail last week indicating that the Town would be considering a resolution to dissolve the tax sharing agreement between the Town of James Island and the James Island Public Service District. I appreciate you bringing it to my attention and pledge to have my office work with the Town if council decides to make a change.

As you know, the arrangement between the Town and JISPD is unique. When it was developed, I believed it was a novel approach to seeing the return of unused local option sales tax (LOST) revenue. However, it was very clear when this was created that it would be difficult to see this as a long-term solution. The annual nature of the agreement can create fiscal uncertainties, a key reason why James Island is the only place in the state with such an agreement.

The proposed changes would constitute a change in use but would not change the amount of LOST funding received or spent. Many other municipalities within Charleston County utilize their LOST funding to avoid taxing their residents for municipal services, the Town of James Island would fall under the same category. Please know that my office is always available to assist Town staff if needed.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "P" and a trailing flourish.

Peter J. Tecklenburg