



MINUTES

James Island Intergovernmental Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

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

In attendance:

James Island:

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

City of Charleston:

Council Member Caroline Parker, Steve Kirk

Charleston County:

John Martin, Wes Linker, Philip Sexton, Council Member Jenny Honeycutt

Charleston County School District:

Dr. Carol Tempel

Folly Beach:

James Island PSD:

Commissioner Brenda Grant, Commissioner Ronald Ladson, Commissioner Marilyn Clifford, Ashley Kellahan,

Others / Members of the Public:

Senator Ed Sutton, Leslie Skardon, Deanna Miller, Victor Williams, Carol Jackson, Jamie Meissner, George Tempel, Adam Friend, Stan Kozikowski, Deana Doocy, Bob Doocy, Amelia Washington, Dominique Ladson, **others who did not sign-in**

- 1) Call to Order:
Chair Mignano called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the group in a prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Dr. Mignano then introduced attendees and asked others to introduce themselves.
- 2) Approval of Minutes:
Motion was made to approve minutes from April 23, 2025, seconded; motion passed.
- 3) Public Comments:

- Deanna Miller, 1568 Ocean Neighbors Blvd. Reported she was running for Charleston City Council District 12 and her primary concern is development out pacing infrastructure.

4) Old Business:

- a. Raised Medians (Ft. Johnson & Folly Roads):
Chair Mignano described the problem and Mayor Brook Lyon noted that SCDOT has responsibility and that there is a clog under Folly Road that the County has cleared. Philip Sexton indicated DOT was working on this and Mayor Lyon noted she has had reports from the nearby church that it may have improved to some extent.
- b. Folly Road Safety Audit Update:
Mayor Lyon noted we are still waiting to hear back from SCDOT regarding changes based on recent comments from the May input meeting. Marilyn Clifford noted that the SCDOT needs to remove their signs for the meeting. Chair Mignano also noted she has had concerns expressed from first responders.

5) New Business:

- a. Camp Road Middle School:
There was brief discussion regarding the car line issues and the light timing. Carol Tempel noted that the sheriff deputies were going to help monitor the traffic this year and the district is conducting a survey to see if there are other options acceptable to the parents. Suggestions were reported to the Rethink Folly Road committee meeting prior to this meeting and included extending the line in the afternoon on the athletic fields, potentially providing a bus to move some students to an off-site pickup location for parents, and possibly reopening the old school on Camp Road where Turning Point Academy is located.
- b. Drainage Issue at Flint Street:
Wes Linker reported on the residents concerns regarding a new drainage ditch or pipe connecting to a nearby runoff pond. The County can't do what the property owner is requesting, but they are working with the City to see if a structure or ditch can be included in their plans.
- c. Joint Task Force on Flooding Update:
Philip Sexton from the Charleston County Legislative Delegation provided a presentation regarding the recent activities of the flooding task force. He noted how the task force works and provided general updates on recent activities, noting that often easements are the main obstacle to improvements, along with funding for long-term solutions. Mayor Lyon thanked Philip for his work.

Senator Ed Sutton also discussed how the task force works to find solutions for residents and echoed Mr. Sexton's comments regarding easement issues.

Caroline Parker asked Senator Ed Sutton if there was any help coming from SCDOT and what can the City, Town, and County do to keep work going. Senator Sutton indicated there is a long list of projects and he continues to work to get DOT to understand they must maintain drainage structures. Sutton and Sexton noted that DOT needs 30 utility trucks dedicated to drainage infrastructure for our district and they have two. Sutton noted that Representatives Brewer and Stravonakis are leading an SCDOT reform task force. Mayor Lyon noted that the Town is working to clear ditches and notifying SCDOT who will then come in and clear culverts. Sutton noted that reform for DOT has to include changes to the gas tax. Marilyn Clifford asked where debris goes and Sexton noted the process for classification, cleaning, and disposal. Brenda Grant asked where and when the Task Force meeting will be held, Sexton noted that it was traditionally held on Fridays in North Charleston, but this has not been set yet. Mr. Adam Friend noted that we live on an island and we will have to deal with water, but drainage infrastructure has to be installed and maintained.

- d. George Griffith / Folly Road Signal:
Chair Mignano noted one of the signals is stuck on a powerline.
- e. Secessionville Sidewalks:
Chair Mignano noted that sidewalks along Secessionville would require a joint effort with City, County, and SCDOT. Troy Mullinix noted how dangerous the roadway is and hoped we could get a conversation going regarding this with SCDOT. Mignano noted that SCDOT has a website where work requests can be submitted. Parker thanked Mullinix and noted that the City will have this issue on the traffic and transportation program. Ronald Ladson noted that Sol Legare Road needs sidewalks as well and Chair Mignano and Mayor Lyon noted that this is a project and Brenda Grant noted that there is funding for a portion of the Sol Legare sidewalk.
- f. ***Agenda was amended*** to add Green Hill Road:
Chair Mignano noted that she recently drove the resurfacing project at Green Hill Road and the job done is very poor. There are several deficiencies including driveways, shoulders, and standing water. Mayor Lyon noted there were some traffic control issues with the contractor. The County oversaw the work on the Town Road completed by Sanders Brothers.

- 6) Legislative Updates:
 - James Island PSD Updates:
 - Commissioner Brenda Grant provided updates on:

- The Commission voted to reduce the wastewater fees on past due bills and the way multi-unit dwellings are billed.
- Harborview force main project with Charleston Water System is in process. Substantial completion was scheduled for July, but it has been pushed due to delays obtaining materials.
- Clark's Point Public Sewer is ongoing. Testing is underway on Julian Clark and service lines are going in on Relyea.
- Phase 6 of wastewater collection facility continues with the relining of various mains.
- Sol Legare lighting improvements and additional led lighting has recently been approved.
- The Fire Department is fully staffed.
- The solid waste automated fleet side loader program has continued
- The district is looking for a vegetative debris layout yard on James Island for debris removal during weather events.
- The district will launch a new website in August.

Charleston County:

Emily Piggott provided an email reporting that the County has recently issued 17 extended home rental short-term rental permits, 2 limited short-term rental permits and one new business license for Girl Next Dough bakery.

Mr. John Martin provided a presentation on infrastructure updates:

- Riverland Drive multi-use path is complete to Crepe Myrtle drive, the next phase is to be designed from Crepe Myrtle to Henderson Drive.
- The Maybank and Woodland Shores complete streets and sidewalks is under construction and should be completed mid-2026
- The Central Park drainage culvert replacement and road elevation project has recently begun.
- Various rural roads projects are underway
- Central Park and Riverland Drive intersection improvements are projected to be completed in late 2025.
- City golf course and sidewalk connection improvements with a hawk signal with a partnership with the City.
- Folly Road bike and pedestrian improvements project is the multi-use project from Ellis Creek to George Griffith Blvd. Bids recently received and being evaluated.
- Fort Johnson and Secessionville Traffic Light bids were recently received with construction starting in the fall. This is packaged with the Fort Johnson and Camp Road roundabout.
- Country Club Drive and Folly Road pedestrian improvements by McCleod Plantation is expected to receive Fiscal Year 2026 funding.
- Dills Bluff Sidewalk Phase 3 is expected to be advertised in the 4th quarter of 2025.

- Fleming Road sidewalk the County is working on utility and easements and hopes to advertise the 3rd quarter of 2025.
- James Island County Park bike/ped access via Riverland Drive will be 700' of concrete sidewalk for park access.
- Sol Legare Sidewalk is a mile long phase to start. Design is currently ongoing with major utility coordination.
- West Oceanview rocking is a Town of James Island TST project is underway.

Caroline Parker thanked Council Member Honeycutt for the County attention to these important projects.

City of Charleston

Caroline Parker introduced Steve Kirk, Project Management Practice Leader with the Charleston Stormwater Management Department who gave a presentation on the City Small Projects program, including:

- Howle Avenue Ecological Park: This is a park that provides a park but also stormwater storage and conveyance structures, currently being graded and landscaped. Expected to be completed fall of 2025.
- Willow Walk: This is in a neighborhood where rear-yard swales and ditches will be constructed and connected. Phase 1 has been recently completed.
- Ferguson Village: Underway, working through easement acquisition. Near the Charleston Museum property.
- Crosscreek: Neighborhood culverts project. Procuring surveying and inventory of existing pipes and junction boxes.
- Trapier Drive Outfall Cleaning: Survey completed, working with property owners and permitting.
- Signal Point Road: Working with County and SCDOT for downstream improvements. Working on easement acquisition.
- Central Park: Drainage improvements along with the roadway work including tide gates, culvert installation, and canal cleaning.

Parker noted the signal timing project on Folly Road in the final study phase and residents may still see some changes.

Town of James Island

Mayor Brook Lyon provided updates on the following:

- Town continues to work on deferred maintenance to the drainage system.
- Grant for basin study master plan will be discussed at the next Council meeting. Melissa Flick has recently been promoted to Public Works manager.
- Two more thermal pipe-lining projects needed in Quail Run and the Town is looking at doing this in other areas.

- Mill Point Park is open and interpretive signage has been installed.
 - The new Art and Community Center received four design build bids.
 - The Town has recently made improvements to Town Hall by adding a rotating Narcan dispenser and a pet microchip scanner.
 - Town Market is coming up again in September.
- Council Member Troy Mullinex reported on the Armed Services memorial flag installation on Folly Road.

Charleston County School District:

Dr. Carol Tempel reported:

- The first day of school is coming up on August 12 and all classrooms are full.
- Principal Virginia Sayer is on the job at Camp Road Middle School.
- The district has put together videos on its website and through its transportation app to help with the traffic situation.
- Martin's BBQ has adopted all of the schools on James Island.

Caroline Parker asked about the schedule changes, staggered times, and impact on the traffic. Have the Principal and PTA been working together? Carol Tempel assured the group that the traffic issue is a high priority to address at CRMS prior to school opening. Jaime Meissner thanked the group for this discussion.

7) Additional Comments:

Brenda Grant noted that there is a James Island Outreach fundraiser, and she invited everyone, and noted an upcoming community leader's roundtable.

George Tempel reported that there was work on making buses safe and finding crossing guards for the afternoon.

8) Closing Remarks:

Chair Mignano thanked the audience and community leaders for attending.

9) Next meeting is Wednesday October 29, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. here at James Island Town Hall.

10) Chair Mignano adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.