



**Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, November 1, 2024, 9:00am**  
**1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC and**  
**broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Dan Slotchiver, Cindi Solomon, Andrew Vega, Tim Ahmuty, Council Member Pierce, Stephen Traynum (via phone), Mayor Pounds, Administrator Fragoso, Director Kerr

**Absent:** Council Member Miars

**1. Call to order**

**2. Discussion of Emergency Erosion Control Policy Protocol**

The Committee discussed at length whether or not and to what extent the City should be performing emergency beach restoration work to protect private property.

Director Kerr said that only in the last year has the City made efforts to protect private property during an erosional cycle. He said from the Administration's point of view, it was a "massive financial pivot." He said that one issue with paying for this kind of work is having a bigger need in the future and not having the funds to pay for it.

Mayor Pounds said it is the Committee's function to make a recommendation to City Council, who will make the final decision how the City reacts to emergency needs.

Referencing the City's Beach Management Plan, Council Member Pierce said the City is supposed to pass ordinances that support the plan. Director Kerr and Mr. Vega suggested the need for a cap in beach preservation spends and a budget for beach preservation funds.

Mr. Slotchiver disagreed and said that if the City does renourishment then there won't be a need for emergency protocols to protect private property. He also asked if the wording of the City's Beach Management Plan obligates the City to protect private property and, if so, is the City taking all reasonable steps to do so. He also believes the City it is the City's responsibility to protect private property even if it doesn't have the funds to do so. He pointed out that residents do not contribute to the Beach Preservation Fund, but that should not alleviate the City from paying for nourishment efforts from other funds.

Administrator Fragoso said that even with proactive planning, the City cannot guarantee the absence of future erosional events. Mr. Vega added the City also needs to remain fiscally responsible in the use of the City's funds. Mr. Slotchiver disagreed with the idea of financial caps and limiting what the City can do to protect private property.

Council Member Pierce suggested that one of the Committee's recommendations to City Council should be revising the Beach Management Plan to specify the responsibilities of the City and the property owner regarding emergency protective measures.

Director Kerr pointed out that Dare County has a proactive renourishment plan and still lost homes to the ocean. Administrator Fragoso said the State's Beachfront Management Act is an unfunded mandate.

Ms. Solomon said it is important to educate the public about the Beach Preservation Fund and that the fund is not sufficient to keep a full dry sand beach at all times.

Conversation continued to center around the need to put in writing the responsibilities of the City and property owners in emergency situations. Council Member Pierce suggested the recommendation to City Council should be to aligning policy with reality while recognizing a limitation of funds.

Administrator Fragoso noted that the City's current efforts are emergency protective measures, not creating a full dry sand beach. She added that homeowners also do not have the responsibility to restore the beach in front of their home, only to do what is necessary to protect their home.

Mr. Traynum reminded the Committee that the USACE Beneficial Use Project will place more sand on the south end of the island than has been lost in the last 10 years.

He also suggested a separate fund for large scale renourishments and then earmark a portion of that fund for emergency protective efforts. He believes a \$2-\$3 million earmark would be sufficient.

### **3. Next Steps**

The Committee will discuss hard erosion control protocols at the next meeting.

A draft of the Committee's recommendations will be available in about two weeks.

### **4. Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Beach Preservation Ad Hoc Committee will be Friday, November 15, 2024 at 9:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane  
City Clerk