

DI Council Minutes

DATE

6/17/2025

TIME

5:33 PM EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

Mike Hubbard

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Hubbard, Don Hunter, Jennifer Risey, John Shartner, Anthony Cappuccio

Absent – Salie Ann Robinson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April minutes were read and approved at the June meeting due to time constraints at May Meeting

May minutes were read and approved

PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMENTS

- RFP for the beach bathrooms, Community center, septic system at D’Fuskies, pot hole repairs were listed by BC Assistant Hank Admunson sent to DI Council
- Resident presented ideas for a golf cart bridge from the mainland to Daufuskie following the power lines on the west side of the island. This would allow options for tourist, but not permit vehicular traffic. Possible revenue source
- Resident gave special thanks to Haig Point for their help on finding a solution and resolving the UPS issue.
- Sandy Lane access from Beach Road is now closed. Traffic now goes through the main gate. No issues for emergency vehicle as they use the paved roads to access Sandy Lane

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

- Mike Hubbard –DI Council Chairman – no new reports
- Don Hunter- DI Council Vice Chairman / Transportation Chairman; Focus has been on solutions for the barge and transportation for the island. The issues that Daufuskie faces will not be resolved with the County. There are viable options with private partners that we need to continue to work through differences and find common ground and solutions to create a barge landing and a transportation terminal. Daufuskie Island Council needs to find a solution other than a tide dependent barge that is operated at the discretion of one entity. DI Council believes that there are solutions on the island, we need to revisit the DI plan, understand all of the transportation, marina, road and barge options, including Prospect Road.

- DI Council is recommending that we incorporate, allowing more control of decisions that need to be made, and raise our own revenue. Mike Hubbard and Anthony Cappuccio have reached out to Rep. Jeff Bradley. Calls to discuss and get assistance from the State to guide us in the right direction.
- John Shartner – Councilman / Infrastructure Chairman; Culvert repairs on Hinson White; Old Haig Point Rd (by the Distillery) in progress. Pot holes in front of Fire station being repair, repairs are temporary and are just patches, THis is not what was discussed in the May meeting,
- Jennifer Risey – Chairwoman; Budget numbers for RFP per Hank Admunson; Beach Bathrooms \$750K; Community Building \$3.0M; D’fuskies Septic \$35K; Potholes no budget, These numbers are extremely high for the amount of work and type of buildings, this is one more example of how managing these projects as Incorporated town would be more economical
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Anthony Cappuccio- DI Council Secretary - Made the motion: Motion: We move that the Island Council establish a Community Governance Working Group to evaluate the potential benefits, challenges, and feasibility of Daufuskie Island pursuing incorporation or establishing a local governmental entity. The group's focus will be to assess how such a structure could:

1. Ensure that local tax dollars are more directly reinvested into an island-wide strategic plan.
2. Enable funding mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, subsidies for protected areas (e.g., historic homes and cemeteries), and bonds for critical infrastructure and roadway improvements.
3. Support the growth and sustainability of our primary economic engines—arts, tourism, and heritage preservation.

The Working Group shall:

- Focus on what is practically achievable under South Carolina law and existing county frameworks.
- Include 8 members representing a cross-section of the island community, with emphasis on relevant expertise and balanced representation from the Historic District and the PUDs.

Suggested composition includes:

- 1 or more individuals with experience in governmental processes or public administration
- 1 or more attorneys or legal professionals
- 1 accountant or finance expert
- 1 real estate professional
- 1 local business owner or tourism operator

Additional community members as needed to provide balance and insight. This group will report findings and recommendations to the Island Council for consideration as part of our broader efforts to protect, preserve, and strategically develop Daufuskie Island.

Don Hunter- proposed that DI Council develops a resolution to present to BCC for the county to subsidize cargo fees, pet fees and other charges for permanent residents and property owners,.In addition we will include the possibility of additional times and ferry runs. The DI council made a motion to approve Don hunter to research and start the process. A resolution will be presented at next meeting. Mike Hubbard will reach out to the BCC in regards to Hurricane evacuation plans

OLD BUSINESS

Beaufort County did not approve an allocation for assisting with a subsidy for DI resident cargo fees.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC FORUM #2

Barge at Freeport transporting vehicles with people and supplies. 2 landing craft companies were being stopped / cited by Coast Guard and they are not permitted to do what the other company does, Commercial watercraft are encouraged to call about waivers to use the county dock for an exception for commercial use, This has been granted in the past and is supported by the community. See number on sign at county dock

DIS Accreditation & Auction Saturday 6/21/25 @ Sportsman Pub from 5pm-9pm

VBS June 23rd – 27th 9am-12p daily

FUABC 144th Anniversary Party following the 10am service. Fellowship and meal afterwards

Kids Dayi at DIFD July 18th 12p-1p

BCSD Starts August 6th

NEXT MEETING

July 15th 2025 @ 5:30pm in the Community Building

Motion to Adjourn at 6:30pm

October 28th, conference room A