Elected Officials
Craig Weaver
Mayor
cweaver@kiawahisland.org

John Wilson
Mayor Pro Tem & Councilmember
jwilson@kiawahisland.org

John Koach
Councilmember
jkoach@kiawahisland.org

Diana Mezzanotte
Councilmember
dmezzanotte@kiawahisland.org

Chris Widuch
Councilmember
cwiduch@kiawahisland.org

Other Officials
Stephanie Monroe Tillerson
Town Administrator
stillerson@kiawahisland.org

Dorota Szubert
Town Treasurer
dszubert@kiawahisland.org

Town Fast Facts
Incorporated in 1988

Demographic Characteristics:

Households: 3,589
Licensed Rentals: 1,213
Undeveloped Lots: 1,239
Median Household Income: $137,250

Population Size: Approximately 1600 registered voters (full time residents)

Population by Age:

- Under 34 years: 3%
- Age 35 - 54: 10%
- Age 55 - 59: 12%
- Age 60 - 64: 24%
- Age 65 - 74: 36%
- Age 75 - 84: 14%
- 85 and older: 1%

Source: U.S. Census & Charleston County
# Town Services

## Town Council & Committees
Establishment of Town polices.

## Municipal Court
The municipal court has jurisdiction to try all cases arising under the ordinances of the Town and has powers and jurisdiction in criminal cases made under state law and conferred upon magistrates.

## Public Safety
Island-wide law enforcement provided by Charleston County Sheriffs Office, Beach Patrol, Code Enforcement, Emergency Response, Disaster Planning and Recovery.

## Public Works
Island beautification and Maintenance of Beachwalker Drive, Kiawah Island Parkway from the roundabout at Betsy Kerrison Parkway to the front gate.

## Solid Waste Disposal
Island-wide garbage, recycling, yard debris, brown trash and household hazardous waste collection and disposal.

## Planning and Zoning
Zoning permits, subdivision of land, re-zonings, planned developments, variance requests, special exception requests, site plan review, zoning & land development regulations and appeals of administrative decisions.

## Building Services
Responsible for the building permit and inspection process for all commercial and residential projects with in the Town. It has an express goal of maintaining a safe building environment for our residents through quality plan review and inspections.

## Environmental

## Communications
Town website, Quarterly Newsletter (Town Notes), Bi-weekly E News, Emergency Communications, Social Media Platforms, and Community Outreach.

## Tourism Promotion
Hosts the Charleston Visitors Bureau office, Allocation of tourism funds, Collaboration with island entities to promote tourism activities.

## Community Outreach
Charitable Contributions, Arts & Cultural Events.
Where does the Town get its money from?

Unrestricted Funds
Revenues sources that are not required to be used for specific purposes. Listed below:

Business Licenses
Fees charged to businesses to be able to operate within the limits of the Town.

Building Permits
Fees to contractors for all construction projects whether done by a licensed contractor or property owner.

Solid Waste Collection
Fees for collection and disposal of residential garbage, recycling, and yard debris.

Franchise Fees
Fees for the rights of certain companies to provide services such as the right to use the beach to rent beach items, to provide electricity and cable.

Other

- Beverage Tax: The state levies this tax for alcohol beverage permits sold to businesses of which a portion is later distributed to municipalities where they were permitted.

- Fines and Forfeitures: The Town keeps a small percentage of fees collected through its Municipal Court with tickets that are issued within the Town limits. The majority of these fees go to the state.

- Aid to Subdivision: state aid to local governments from several tax sources annually

Restricted Funds
Revenues sources that can only be used for specific purposes. Listed below:

State Accommodation Tax (SATAX)
A tax tourists pay from the rental charges for accommodations when staying on the island. Revenues from this tax must be spent on tourism related expenditures except for the first $25K plus 5% of the remaining total revenues which is allocated to the Towns general fund and is not restricted. Allocation of SATAX funds are approved by Town Council. The major areas where money is allocated includes police protection, Beach Patrol, and the sponsorship of events.

Local Accommodation Fund
SC state law allows the Town to levy 1% municipal local accommodation tax. These fees are remitted to the Town by Charleston County monthly. Revenues must be spent exclusively for things such as tourism, cultural events, beach access roads providing access to tourist destinations.

County Accommodation
Charleston County levies 2% accommodation tax of which a portion is distributed to municipalities where they were earned. The Town receives approximately 25% of the fees collected, contingent on the use of the money on capital projects or services that will promote tourism.

Local Option Tax
A uniform 1% tax on the taxable sales. The State collects this tax and distributes a percent to municipalities in the county.

Hospitality Tax
A tax paid by patrons of restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, and any other establishment that sell and prepare food and beverages. The 1% tax is remitted to the Town by these retailers on a monthly basis.

$0 Property Tax - Property taxes paid to Charleston County do not include any taxes for the Town.
Budget Highlights

Projecting $2 million surplus

Projected $10.3 million in revenues
• 15% above 2018 budget
• 11% above 2018 projected actuals

Revenue Drivers
• Town’s revenue is driven by economic activity
• Tourism business/construction

Projections
• Moderate growth in tourism
• Moderate growth in construction and business activity
• Significant short-term increase in revenue from major Resort projects.
• Increase in solid waste fees from rental properties.
• Reduction in building permits for residential construction and maintenance

Projected $8.3 million in expenditures
• 14% above 2018 budget
• 13% above 2018 projected actual spending

Cost Drivers
• Possible change in law enforcement approach
• Municipal Center related costs (maintenance/loan repayment)
• Transfer of funds for capital expenditures
• Moderate increases in operating expenses
• Tourism spending remains the same
Revenues Budgeted

2018-2019 Total Budget

General Fund Revenues

Total $6.5M
63% of total budget

- Business License: $2.3M (35%)
- Franchise Fees: $848K (13%)
- Building Permits: $1.9M (30%)
- Solid Waste: $556K (9%)
- Local Option Tax: $572K (8%)
- Other Misc rev. (Court Fees, Interest, Aid to Subdivision): $338K (5%)

 Restricted Fund Revenues

Total $3.8M
37% of total budget

- Local ATAX: $1.0M (10%)
- County ATAX: $494K (5%)
- State ATAX: $1.5M (15%)
- Hospitality Tax: $597K (6%)
- Other: $75K (1%)

For more information on the Town’s budget visit www.kiawahisland.org/transparency
2018-2019 Expenditures

$8.3 million

Below is how general & restricted funds are budgeted to be spent in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Unrestricted - General Fund
The general fund or unrestricted fund is the Town's primary operating fund. This fund comes from revenue from business license, permit fees, franchise fees etc.

Restricted funds that come from State, Local and County Accommodation Tax, and Local Hospitality Tax. These funds must be used for promotion of tourism, tourism activities and/or tourism related expenses.