



MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 – 9:00 AM
TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES
6001 HIGHWAY A1A INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FL 32963

The regular meeting of the Indian River Town Council was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in Council Chambers, 6001 Highway A1A, Indian River Shores. Those present were Brian Foley, Mayor; Bob Auwaerter, Vice Mayor; Sam Carroll, Councilmember; James Altieri, Councilmember and William Dane, Councilmember. Also present were James Harpring, Town Manager; Heather Christmas, Deputy Town Manager/Town Treasurer; Peter Sweeney, Town Attorney and Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk.

1. **Call to Order**

- a. Invocation
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

Councilmember Carroll offered the Invocation. Mayor Foley led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members were present.

2. **Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions**

There being no additions, deletions or substitutions, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve the agenda as presented.

3. **Presentations/Proclamations**

- a. Proclamation: National Safe Boating Week:

Jim Vaughn, Flotilla Commander and Tom McCarty, Flotilla Vice Commander of the Coast Guard Auxiliary spoke about the duties and responsibilities of the Coast Guard Auxiliary including teaching boating safety, vessel inspections and setting up communications with all local jurisdictions. He then gave the history of Boating Safety Week and the positivity of the program on the boating community.

Mayor Foley expressed his appreciation to the Coast Guard Auxiliary for their efforts in supporting and educating on boating safety. He then presented the Proclamation to the Flotilla Commander and Flotilla Vice Commander.

- b. Proclamation: Moonshot Community

Marie O'Brien, Frances Atchison, and other members representing the Learning Alliance were present to address the Town Council. Ms. Atchison, a former Councilmember, addressed the Town Council giving the history and achievements of the Learning Alliance within the community. Mayor Foley highlighted areas of the Proclamation and expressed his appreciation to the Alliance as well as expressing his support over the Town of Indian River Shores was a Moonshot Community.

- c. Presentation of the September 30, 2024 Financial Statements – Christine Noll-Rhan Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Christine Noll-Rhan Carr reported that the Town's 2024 Financial Statement review resulted in a clean audit with no findings. Due to GASB requirements the Building Department has become a major fund. ARPA funds have been committed and were on track. Ms. Noll-Rhan also reported, and congratulated the Town, for the favorable rating on the financial indicator report. Effective next year, GASB amendments will require the Town to accrue sick leave.

4. Comments From the Public Regarding Agenda Items(s)

None.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes dated March 26, 2025

- b. Resolution No. 25-05 Ambulance Fee Schedule Effective October 1, 2025

c. Approval of Planning, Zoning & Variance Board Recommendation of Site Plan Modifications
Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Auwaerter seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously (5-0).

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Foley announced that the Town had received notification from the Department of Environmental Protection that the Sector 4 beach in the Town had been designated as Critically Eroded by FDEP. He explained that the Town has been working towards this designation for over a decade and was thrilled to finally achieve its long sought after goal. Mayor Foley expressed appreciation to Representative Brackett and Senator Grall as well as the Town Council, staff, and consultants for their efforts. Mayor Foley noted that the designation will make it easier to repair, replenish and preserve the beaches and dunes.

Mayor Foley reported on the cart exchange taking place between Republic Services and Waste Management in anticipation of the October 1 Solid Waste and Recycling Agreement with Waste Management. Foley expressed appreciation to Town staff for their efforts in the program.

Mayor Foley announced effective May, the dress code for Councilmembers through September would be business casual.

Councilmember Altieri, the Town's representative on the Beach and Shores Advisory Committee, expressed his appreciation to Town Manager Harpring and outside Counsel, Holland, and Knight for their diligence in securing the Critically Eroded designation for Sector 4. Vice Mayor Auwaerter concurred.

7. Councilmember Items

None.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action.

- a. Resolution No. 25-04 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment for Solid Waste

Mayor Foley opened the Public Hearing. The title was read by Attorney Sweeney. Al Kettel inquired if the non-ad valorem assessment was in addition to the recycling fee already included on the tax bills. It was explained that the recycling fee was already part of the landfill fee. It was confirmed that sales of property would include the proration of the assessment on the closing statement at the time of purchase. With no further questions, Mayor Foley closed the Public Hearing. Councilmember Carroll made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-04. Vice Mayor Auwaerter seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

b. Ordinance No. 578 – Modification to Planned Residential Development, Tract Ua, River Club at Carlton

Attorney Sweeney read the title. It was noted that it was the second reading of a matter that had passed unanimously on first reading the prior month's meeting during a quasi-judicial hearing. With no public comment at second reading, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 578 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

c. Approval of September 30, 2024 Audited Financial Statements

Councilmember Auwaerter expressed his appreciation to Heather Christmas, Town Treasurer for her diligence in her timely filing of all required reports and documents. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve the September 30, 2024 Audited Financial Statements.

d. Request to Reschedule November 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, and unanimously passed (5-0) to reschedule the November Regular Town Council meeting from November 13 to November 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

9. Staff Updates

a. Building Official Report & Statistics

Town Manager Harpring reported that the department was getting close to final implementation of a software change which would allow the Indian River County Property Appraiser to access the Town's permitting records.

b. Code Enforcement Report

Town Manager Harpring reported that the Code Enforcement Department was busy with Turtle Season and effectively communicating to enforce compliance.

c. Public Works Department Report

Town Manager Harpring reported that the Public Works Department was focusing on preparations for the upcoming hurricane season.

d. Town Treasurer Report –

Heather Christmas, Town Treasurer/Deputy Town Manager reported on the recently received Pension Report and budget analysis. She would be preparing Budget Amendments for the May meeting. Currently she is in budget preparations for the upcoming fiscal year and is working with the Public Safety Department. The new Ambulance Billing Company will begin May 1. Vice Mayor Auwaerter expressed his appreciation to the Town Treasurer for providing the Town Council with monthly Finance Reports. He referred to the City of Vero Beach which had not received Financial Reports from its Finance Department since 2023, adding the Water and Sewer Department had not even received any financial reports. He questioned how they could even budget their finances. Commenting that Councilmember Altieri is doing a wonderful job representing the Town on the City of Vero Beach Utilities Commission, he wondered if he could ask whether the Commission is on task and on budget.

e. **Public Safety Department Report & Statistics**

Assistant Chief Edward Ryer gave an update on the construction progress. He reported that traffic enforcement had been a priority and replied that the digital speed signs were working very well. A discussion followed regarding the car carriers that were stopping along A1A instead of Fred Tuerk Lane where they are permitted. Assistant Chief Ryer responded that the officers were aware of the issue and were moving toward stricter enforcement.

10. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Sweeney gave an update on the current legislative session adding that the bills the Town has been watching were moving forward. He noted that the budget was the only item that must be finalized by Tuesday, or a special session would be required. He was watching the legislation on Accessory Dwelling Units, Condo Associations, Sovereign Immunity and matters relating to unfunded mandates. He would provide an update for Council review.

He confirmed that the only requirement for filing with the Ethics Commission was for filing Form 1 as the injunction against Form 6 still stands.

11. Town Manager Report

a. **Anchor Preservation Project**

Town Manager Harpring forwarded a report to Councilmembers on the Anchor Project. He then commented on the Council Chambers AV project that would be commencing the following week and should be completed in time for the May meeting.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

a. **Call for Committee Reports, Informational Updates or Comments**

Councilmember Alteri reported on the City of Vero Beach Utility Commission meeting during which the main topic of discussion was fluoride in the water. Next discussed was the cost of the reclamation facility. The 177-million-dollar cost, plus 10% for contingencies, did not include tariffs and/or demolition and remediation of the present plant. Discussion followed regarding financing and the effect of these costs on the Town's resident ratepayers.

Councilmember Dane reported on the League of Cities meeting.

Mayor Foley announced his Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments meeting had been cancelled.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter reported on the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee meeting held the previous Monday. He had presented an amendment to the Committee to the Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the Sebastian Inlet District. His proposed amendment would require the District to monitor and report on the amount of sand transference in the first 2.5 years of the MOU to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of the MOU. Vice Mayor Auwaerter expressed his disappointment with the Committee for the lack of support he received. He had hoped the matter would come before the County Commission for consideration.

Councilmember Carroll had no report.

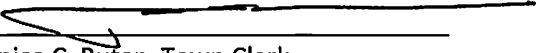
13. Call to Audience

None.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Approved: June 26, 2025


Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk

