



THE TOWN OF
INDIAN RIVER SHORES
OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 22, 2026 – 9:00 am

Town of Indian River Shores

6001 Highway A1A Indian River Shores, FL 32963

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Indian River Shores was held on Monday, June 22, 2026, 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 Peter Tedesko, Councilmember. Also present were James Harpring, Town Manager, Peter Sweeney, Town Attorney and Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk.

1. Call to Order

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

Mayor Foley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. 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

Per the request of Town Manager Harpring, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Altieri, and unanimously passed (5-0) to remove item 8.c. Parking Ordinance from the agenda.

3. Presentations/Proclamations

None.

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

Mayor Foley addressed the audience confirming that each member of the Town Council had received and read the petition regarding the septic to sewer conversion program. The petition had been signed by sixty-four affected parties representing forty-four homes and seven streets within the Town. Mayor Foley reminded all that the Town was required to comply with the mandate of HB1379. The Town does not operate the utility; therefore, it cannot apply for grant funding.



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5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting dated May 28, 2026
- b. Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement
- c. Approval of Ambulance Order Change and EMS Equipment Purchase
- d. Award of ITB 26-02 Building Department Addition
- e. Approval of 2026/2027 Employee Health Benefits

Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously (5-0).

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Foley reported on the passage of HB 1451 which was signed into law by the Governor. The legislation regulates utility services by increasing reporting requirements of municipal utility companies. It further regulates surcharges to customers outside the utility's municipal limits, adding that if a surcharge was not in place at the time of enactment, it cannot be assessed. All existing surcharges must be phased out within a certain period.

Mayor Foley next reported on proposed property tax reform noting it requires a 60% majority vote in November to move forward. Preliminary calculations by the Town show a minimal impact. Schools and Police/Public Safety will continue to be funded.

Mayor Foley announced that due to redistricting, Indian River Shores was now included in Congressional District 9. Mayor Foley reminded all to be sure to register to vote, request an absentee ballot if needed and to vote in both the Primary and General elections. Absentee ballots for the August Primary would be mailed beginning July 9, 2026, and on September 26, 2026, for the November election.

Mayor Foley reported that the Town was finalizing the cost allocation for the septic to sewer conversion with the City of Vero Beach. The Town would be hosting a comprehensive meeting for the residents on June 24, 2026. Mr. Rob Bolton, Utilities Director, City of Vero Beach, would be present at the meeting to explain the costs in detail.

7. Councilmember Items

Vice Mayor Auwaerter noted the Town Council support of Staff related to the approved the funding for health benefits for the upcoming fiscal year without increasing the employee contribution. He hoped staff appreciated the importance of the Council's actions.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

- a. Ordinance No. 595 Real Estate Sign Penalties
(Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title. There being no public comment, Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 595 on second reading. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- b. Ordinance No. 596 Adoption of Town Seal
(Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title. There being no public comment, Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 596 on second reading. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor

Auwaerter. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

~~c. Ordinance No. 597 Amendment to Sections 162.00, 162.07, and 162.08 (First Reading)~~

~~Parking in Residential Areas~~

d. Ordinance No. 598 Amendment to Sections 150.036, 160.02, and 161.07 (First Reading) Utility Easement

The Town Manager offered Staff's report explaining the Ordinance would provide an approval process for utility easement encroachments. Attorney Sweeney read the title. There being no public comment, Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 598 on first reading. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

9. Staff Updates

a. Building Department Report

Building Official Fred Held updated the department statistics noting the department issued nine hundred permits year to date; twelve of which were for new construction; 111 for single family residences; one commercial; 360 for alterations and 536 for miscellaneous. He noted the continued reinvestment in homes and properties remain strong, citing the increase in miscellaneous permits from 431 the previous year to 536 this year.

b. Code Enforcement Report

Jake Mainkranz, Code Enforcement Officer was present. The Town Council had no questions.

c. Facilities Department Report

Facilities Director Lucy Scheidt was present. The Town Council had no questions. Vice Mayor Auwaerter commented positively on the detail of the Staff reports being filed.

d. Finance Department Report

1) Update to FY 26/27 Budget

Heather Christmas, Finance Director noted she would be presenting the proposed budget at the Budget Workshop scheduled to be held July 23, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. She spoke briefly on the Town's loss of revenue should the proposed property tax reform pass. It would result in an approximate \$250,000 loss in the first year, and approximately \$450,000 upon the implementation of the second phase.

The Auditor Selection committee met and would be recommending Town Council approval in awarding Carr Riggs the contract for auditing services. Ms. Christmas explained that the prices were sealed, and scoring was based strictly on technical matters. This matter was being scheduled for the July agenda.

e. Public Safety Department Report

Assistant Chief Ryer commented that many of the Town residents have left for the summer. Traffic was still being enforced. Council thanked the Assistant Chief for the strong department presence throughout the Town.

10. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Sweeney spoke briefly on the recently enacted HB 1451. He continues to monitor the actions of the legislature. He is working closely with the Town on the Anchorage Limitation Area agreements.

11. Town Manager Report

a. River Club Report on Approval of Minor Modification – Curb Removal

Town Manager Harpring reported that in accordance with the provision of the Town's Ordinances, he approved a minor site plan modification for the River Club PRD to allow curb removal.

b. River Club Report on Approval of Minor Modification – Garage Depth

Town Manager Harpring reported that in accordance with the provisions of the Town's Ordinances, he approved a minor site plan modification for the River Club PRD to allow for a garage depth of 22 feet, which is within Town code.

c. Update to Paving and Septic to Sewer Project

Town Manager Harpring reported the Town would be hosting a Septic to Sewer conversion meeting scheduled for June 24, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Notices had been mailed to all affected property owners. Rob Bolton, City of Vero Beach Utilities Director, would be present to outline the cost allocations to answer questions.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

a. Call for Committee Reports, Informational Updates or Comments

Councilmember Tedesco reported that the Treasure Coast League of Cities had co-hosted a bar b q with the Council of Local Governments.

Councilmember Altieri had nothing to report.

Mayor Foley reported he had attended the bar b q on behalf of the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments which was held in Okeechobee. There was a presentation on data centers.

b. Vice Mayor - MPO – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2027- 2031

Vice Mayor Auwaerter represents the Town by serving on the Metropolitan Planning Agency. Each County is required to have either an MPO or a Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). He offered a Power Point presentation that highlighted upcoming transportation projects that would have an effect on the Town. Funding for these proposed projects located in Indian River County is available.

c. Vice Mayor – Beach and Shores Preservation Advisory Committee - Issues with Using Offshore Sand Sources to Replenish Our Beaches

Vice Mayor Auwaerter represents the Town by serving on the Beaches and Shore Preservation Committee. In response to the question as to why offshore sand resources cannot be used when replenishing our beaches, he worked with Quentin Bergman, Coastal Resource Manager with the County for answers. Vice Mayor Auwaerter narrated a very detailed power point presentation that explained the difference between state and federal waters and the specific required qualities of the sand to be used. In addition, offshore reefs must be protected. Often the sand was located so far offshore that it would require it to be barged in. The permitting process itself was quite extensive, costly, and timely. Coastal Engineering studies would need to be completed. Stewart is presently opening a new mine to be used for onshore sand.

13. Call to Audience

Congressional District 9 candidate Thomas Chalifoux introduced himself to those present.

Paul Chatterton, Pebble Lane. He spoke on behalf of the residents regarding the Septic to Sewer projects. They were not objecting to the conversion but were concerned about the financial impact on property owners. He requested Council waive all assessments until they have exhausted all grant possibilities. He added that any assistance the Town Council can give toward securing grants would be appreciated.

Steven Sharrock, Pebble Lane. Not in objection to the conversion but questioned the methodology

interest being charged on the assessment. He requested Council consider a zero-interest loan.

Wayne Sommers, Beachcomber Lane. Believed costs were not equitable.

It was explained the Town would be waiving impact and permit fees to assist the homeowners. The Council would reach out to the legislators and representatives on behalf of the residents.

Sheila Seville, Surf Lane. Ms. Seville commented that the Town has been looking at this for some time. She asked for all assessments to be waived until grant funding was available. She further asked the Town's support in finding grants through legislators, State and County resources.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Approved: July 23, 2026



Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk