



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2025 – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BUDGET WORKSHOP
TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES
6001 HIGHWAY A1A INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FL 32963

1. Call to Order

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

Mayor Foley called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance had been offered at the previous Budget Workshop and waived. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members were present except for Councilmember Altieri.

2. Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions

There being no reordering, deletions, or emergency additions, a motion was made by Councilman Carroll, seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, and unanimously passed (4-0) to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Presentations/Proclamations

None

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

None.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes dated June 26, 2025
- b. Approve Voting Delegate for Florida League of Cities Annual Conference August 14-16, 2025

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously passed (4-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Foley announced that at the preceding Budget Workshop, Council recommended roll back of the mil rate. He reported that Collective Bargaining negotiations were ongoing, adding that the Town had offered a highly competitive wage package and had proposed a reform to the pension package. He expressed his appreciation to the Vice Mayor for his work on the pension package repurposing 175/185 funds. The Town's offer was still being considered. Mayor Foley extended his appreciation to the Public Safety Officers, adding that the package offered reflected that sentiment.

Mayor Foley reported that the Governor had vetoed HB 11 which would have required a municipality to charge same utility rates to an outside municipality as it charges its customers within its own municipal boundaries. Mayor Foley is preparing a letter to the Governor in support

of his actions. Once drafted, letter would be circulated to Council. Council expressed support in sending the letter.

Mayor Foley next reported on the guest speaker that addressed the Treasure Coast League of Cities and Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments joint meeting held in Okeechobee on July 16, 2025. The President of the League of Counties spoke on the effect removing property taxes would have had on local government had the proposed legislation passed, explaining local governments would be to seek out other revenues sources such as assessments, stormwater, utility and airport authorities, user fees, etc. He stressed the need for public education in understanding the role of local government.

7. Councilmember Items

Vice Mayor Auwaerter commented, on the failed legislation cutting property taxes as a source of revenue, noting it was the main reason he has signed up to serve on the Florida League of Cities advocacy committee, specifically tax and finance.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

- a. Set Maximum Tentative Millage Rate for FY 25-26 at 1.2810

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, and unanimously passed (4-0) to set the maximum tentative millage rated to FY 25-26 at 1.2810.

- b. Approval of Tentative Budget for FY 25-26

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, seconded by Councilmember Carroll, and unanimously passed (4-0) to approve the Tentative Budget for 2025/2026.

Councilmembers expressed their appreciation to Town Treasurer Heather Christmas for her comprehensive budget preparation.

9. Staff Updates

- a. Building Official Report & Statistics

Building Official Fred Held addressed the Town Council. Vice Mayor Auwaerter noted that there had been a decrease in permitting, commenting it provided evidence of a slowdown in the real estate market.

- b. Code Enforcement Report

Jake Maikranz addressed the Town Council. The sea turtle lighting survey was completed on July 22nd. Vice Mayor Auwaerter reported that the Town's efforts in sea turtle safety had been applauded at a recent Beach and Shore Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting. As a follow up to a recent article in Vero Beach 32963, Vice Mayor Auwaerter confirmed with Fire Marshall Jake Maikranz that all Knox Boxes in the Town are inspected annually and are current with emergency access keys for emergency responders.

- c. Public Works Department Report

Town Manager Harpring expressed appreciation to Max Wiltzius, Public Works and Janice Rutan, Town Clerk for the completion of the headstone realignment project at John's Island Cemetery. He also thanked Max Wiltzius, Public Works and Lucy Scheidt, Executive Assistant, for completing the NPDES reporting requirements.

- d. Town Treasurer Report

Heather Christmas, Town Treasurer, addressed the Town Council. She handed out a report highlighting the 2025 Pension Fund balances. She would defer to Vice Mayor Auwaerter for reporting on the Pension Board meeting held earlier in the week. Vice Mayor Auwaerter attended

the Pension Board Meeting and offered a detailed presentation on an alternative approach to investing in real estate. The Town Council, other than its two appointees, has no say over the management of the fund. The presentation was made separate from the Council. Council expressed their appreciation to Vice Mayor Auwaerter and suggested the report be included in an upcoming newsletter.

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

Ed Ryer, Assistant Chief - Law Enforcement, reported the department had participated in a joint law enforcement program operating between June 14 - 19. Traffic infractions have been down, with the last crash being reported in April of 2025 and the last crash with injuries in December 2024. Assistant Chief Ryer reported completion of the Public Safety renovations were about 90 days out.

10. Town Attorney Report

Town Attorney Sweeney gave a brief legislative update and presented Council with a report of bills passed during the legislative session.

11. Town Manager Report

Nothing additional to report.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

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

Mayor Foley reported on the joint meeting held July 16th between the Treasure Coast League of Cities and The Treasure Council of Local Governments. After the presentation given by the President of the League of Counties, all adjourned to a barbecue hosted by the City of Okeechobee. Mayor Foley thanked the City of Okeechobee for their hospitality and sharing their cultural attributes.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter thanked the Town Manager and Town Treasurer for their due diligence in gathering the requested DOGE reporting information back to them in less than a week.

12. Call to Audience

None.

13. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Approved: August 28, 2025


Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk

