



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 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, June 26, 2025, in Council Chambers, 6001 Highway A1A, Indian River Shores. Those present were Brian Foley, Mayor; Bob Auwaerter, Vice Mayor; Sam Carroll, Councilmember and James Altieri, 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 Town Council members were present except Councilmember Dane.

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

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

3. **Presentations/Proclamations**

- a. 18th Annual Treasure Coast Waterways Cleanup Week

Mayor Foley announced that July 26th, 2025 would be celebrated as the 18th Annual Treasure Coast Waterways Cleanup Week. He then read the Proclamation into the record.

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

None.

5. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes dated May 22, 2025
- b. Approval of Agreement with Sunrise Rotary Club – “Drown Zero Project”
- c. Approval of Capital Asset Disposal - Retired AV Equipment
- d. Approval of Change Order – Public Safety Building Department Construction Project

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

6. **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Foley reported on the number of bills the Governor had signed into law. Of the many pending legislative bills, 124 remained to be signed. He noted the need for the Town to remain vigilant in tracking these bills as many affect the Town through the imposition of unfunded mandates. Mayor Foley then commented on how the Town, through tracking legislation, was proactive in adopting Ordinance No. 579 re: Milestone Inspections to coincide with the Governor signing the legislation into law.

Mayor Foley next reported that the Finance Committee had met to review the proposed 2025/2026 budget and recommended it be presented to the Town Council for consideration. He then announced that the Town Council Budget Workshop would be held July 24, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. prior to the regular Town Council meeting.

Mayor Foley then reminded all that Hurricane Season had begun on June 1st.

7. Councilmember Items

Vice Mayor Auwaerter reported that finally, after his several year endeavor to get a pedestrian activated crosswalk near the tracking station, in front of the 7-11 on A1A, he had learned through the Metropolitan Planning Organization that the FDOT would be installing the crosswalk as well as a sidewalk down to the 7-11. He learned that the funding for the project was included in the 2026 budget for construction in 2026. He was waiting to receive written acknowledgement. The crosswalk would be installed on A1A, in front of the CVS, 7-11 and now the new housing development. Mayor Foley expressed his appreciation to Vice Mayor Auwaerter, noting that safety is the Town's highest priority.

Discussion followed regarding the condition of the sidewalks along A1A. Residents were asked to forward all concerns to the Town Manager.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

- a. Ordinance No. 579 Mandatory Structural Inspections for Condominium and Cooperative Buildings (Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title. The Building Official confirmed that there were two buildings in the Town required to undergo milestone inspections. Councilmember Carroll made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 579 on second reading. Councilmember Altieri seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll. The motion passed unanimously with all in attendance voting in the affirmative.

- b. Approval of FY 25-26 Employee Health, Dental & Life Insurance

Town Manager Harpring offered staff report. He was able to secure the same level of benefits as in the previous year with the same carrier for health and A/D. A 15% discount was realized for dental insurance. A detailed summary had been provided to Council. By consensus, the Council approved the renewal of the FY 25/26 Employee Health, Dental and Life Insurance.

- c. Schedule 2025/2026 Budget Public Hearing Dates

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, and unanimously passed to set the Public Budget Hearing dates for the 2025/2026 Budget for September 16, 2025 at 5:01 p.m. and September 23, 2025 at 5:01 p.m.

9. Staff Updates

- a. Building Official Report & Statistics

Mayor Foley congratulated Building Official Held on his recent letter of commendation from a resident for the Department's exceptional service.

- b. Code Enforcement Report

The Code Enforcement Officer reported that the next turtle survey was scheduled for July 22, 2025. All expressed appreciation to Officer Maikranz for his education and encouragement shown to the residents.

- c. Public Works Department Report

Town Manager Harpring was available to answer any questions. He reported the Public Works Department was involved in illicit discharge training.

d. **Town Treasurer Report**

Town Manager Harpring was available to answer any questions. Vice Mayor Auwaerter commended the Town Treasurer for always being on top of finances and keeping the Town Council informed monthly at a minimum.

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

Chief Tad Stone addressed the Town Council. He reported on several audits the Public Safety Department has undergone including an EMS Compliance Audit, and an ISO Audit that has been completed over 2 weeks prior; however, they were still waiting for results. One issue addressed in the ISO audit was the maintenance of the fire hydrants because the Town did not manage its own water system. Chief Stone has been in contact with the City of Vero Beach that owns the fire hydrants. Chief Stone expressed appreciation to Mayor Foley for sponsoring an EMS employee picnic that was well attended.

Town Manager Harpring reported on the recent loss of the ambulance due to a fire. The Town was working with insurance agencies. Because a replacement could not be built sooner than 2.5 years, they were looking for an alternate procurement method. Mayor Foley added that this was an ongoing, fluid situation that will be resolved with no need for alarm.

Mayor Foley then commended Chief Stone for the letter received from the State Attorney for the department's work in solving a vehicular homicide that had occurred on A1A.

10. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Pete Sweeney offered an update on the legislative session and the bills being signed into effect by Governor DeSantis. The Governor can still veto bills passed by the State. Regarding CS/SB 1080, Local Government Land Regulation, Attorney Sweeney explained that the Building Official was aware of its passage. He then presented the Town Council with information on what was appealed from CS/SB 1622. Regarding oceanfront property rights, the bill created a new legal framework to decide customary use. He explained the bill would mostly affect the County and he believed it was more oriented to Florida's Gulf Coast and Panhandle properties. Discussion followed.

Mayor Foley presented a letter he had written to County Administrator Titkanich regarding the Town using the County website for posting legal advertisements. Although the Town had brought this up to the County several years ago, it was felt it should be readdressed as a better way to notify residents and would comply with DOGE requirements to save taxpayer monies. Mayor Foley would reach out to the other Mayor's in the County for their feedback. Town Manager Harpring referred all to view Palm Beach County's website as a reference to how the ads would appear.

11. Town Manager Report

None.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

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

Councilmember Altieri reported that the City of Vero Beach Utilities Committee had not met the prior month. He reported he would not be present for the next meeting, and Vice Mayor Auwaerter agreed to attend in his stead.

Mayor Foley reported that the July 16, 2025 Joint Meeting of the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities meeting and the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments that would be held in Okeechobee, followed by a Bar b que.

Vice Mayor Bob Auwaerter presented a Power Point Presentation that had been shown at the meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization highlighting the MPO's 2025 List of Priority Projects. Vice Mayor Auwaerter pointed out the proposed 5-year reconstruction of Route 510, all the way to Route 512, including an overpass over the railroad tracks. He then highlighted the proposed plans for the Sebastian Inlet Bridge which when completed would result in two lanes in each direction, much wider bike lanes and overlook areas. They are still planning to keep the old bridge so there would be no traffic impediment during construction. The project, when completed, would be a significant improvement.

Discussion followed. Vice Mayor Auwaerter responded that an issue relating to the Brightline does not come before the MPO. It was reported that it would be extremely unlikely that a station would be constructed in Indian River County as doing so would slow down the train system.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter offered his suggestion that a tunnel be constructed under the railroad tracks to allow emergency vehicle immediate access to the hospital during high traffic volumes.

The Town Council expressed their appreciation to Vice Mayor Auwaerter for his extremely interesting and thorough report and presentation on the Metropolitan Planning Organization's pending projects.

13. Call to Audience

None.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Approved: July 24, 2026

Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk