



THE TOWN OF  
*INDIAN RIVER SHORES*

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, March 26, 2026 – 9:00 AM

Town of Indian River Shores

6001 Highway A1A Indian River Shores, FL 32963

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Indian River Shores was held on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. 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; Heather Christmas, Finance Director; 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**

There being no reordering, deletions or emergency addition to the agenda, 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. Presentation of the September 30, 2025, Financial Statements – Christine Noll-Rhan of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

Christine Noll-Rhan of Riggs & Ingram, LLC presented an overview of the Town's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, noting a clean audit with no findings.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter commended the Town Council, Town Manager and Staff for their fiscal oversight, highlighting fully funded pension funds, a reduced millage rate and a strong fund balance.

- b. Proclamation declaring the Town of Indian River Shores a Moonshot Community

Marie O'Brien of the Learning Alliance addressed the Town Council highlighting the achievements of the alliance with 90% of Indian River County children reading at grade level by the third grade. Ms. O'Brien thanked the Town for its longstanding support. A film highlighting the program will be available on You Tube after April 15, 2026, following the Vero Beach Film Festival.



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Mayor Foley read the Proclamation into the record and presented it to the representees of the Learning Alliance and Moonshot Community.

c. Proclamation designating April 2026 Florida Water Conservation Month  
Mayor Foley read the Proclamation into the record.

d. Utility Legislation – HB 1451

The Council discussed the passage of HB 1451 during the final minutes of the legislative session. Although not yet signed or vetoed, the bill revises reporting requirements for municipal utilities providing services outside their corporate boundaries. Town Manager James Harpring offered a power point overview.

Beginning January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, affected municipalities would be required to report specified data to the Public Service Commission. If signed by the Governor it would be effective July 1, 2027.

The Public Service Commission would also review transfers into the general fund with Vice Mayor Auwaerter noting the City of Vero Beach transfers 6% of its revenues to their general fund.

Following discussion regarding utilities provided by the City of Vero Beach, the Council authorized the Town Manager to resend correspondence to the Governor and legislative representatives in support of HB 1451 which addresses the disenfranchisement of non-voting utility customers and supports oversight of revenue transfers.

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

None.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting dated February 17, 2026
- b. Approval of September 30, 2025 Audited Financial Statements
- c. Review of Site Plan Modification - Marbrisa Pickleball Courts

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

#### **6. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Foley reported meeting with the Town Clerk, City of Vero Beach Commissioner Aaron Vos, and the retired City of Vero Beach Town Clerk Tammy Bursick regarding the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration being planned. As part of the Nation's 250-year anniversary, each municipality will prepare a historical time capsule. The Town Clerk will coordinate this effort, and Ms. Bursick will make a presentation to the Town Council at the April meeting.

Mayor Foley discussed property tax reform and cited data from the Tax Collector's office highlighting the average Indian River Shores taxpayer paying \$18,355 compared to the County average of \$4,091. While the Town comprises 6% of the County's tax base, it accounts for 15.96% of the County's assessed ad valorem taxes.

Mayor Foley reminded Council of his prior request for a 5% budget reduction and referenced pending legislation requiring a budget workshop to identify potential 10% reductions prior to budget adoption.

Mayor Foley also reported on legislation that had been submitted to the Governor promoting "nature-based solutions" for shoreline protection and improve coastlines using living seawalls, shoreline and vegetative planting, and seagrass. He suggested Staff coordinate with St. Lucie County to learn who provides more permanent erosion solutions. Mayor Foley added there was funding available.

Lastly, he requested Council input on potentially amending the Ordinance prohibiting trucks in residential driveways, suggesting public workshops and review of sample ordinances from other jurisdictions. Vice Mayor Auwaerter supported further discussion, noting the increased prevalence of SUVs and pick-up trucks.

Mayor Foley suggested limiting trucks based on Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) or number of axles, but again, would like input from the community through a scheduled workshop and requested further Council discussion of the subject at the April meeting.

## **7. Councilmember Items**

Councilmember Tedesco reported on the Treasure Coast League of Cities meeting he had attended where Representative Robbie Brackett provided an update on the legislative session.

Councilmember Altieri noted that the Utilities Commission was now meeting bimonthly.

## **8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action**

### **a. Selection of Auditor Selection Committee**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter, seconded by Councilmember Tedesco, and unanimously passed (5-0) to appoint Councilmember Altieri to serve on the Auditor Selection Committee.

### **b. Ordinance No. 587 – Short Term Vacation Rental Enforcement (Second Reading)**

Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 587 into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 587 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

### **c. Ordinance No. 588 – Establishment of Departments (Second Reading)**

Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 588 into the record. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter and seconded by Councilmember Carroll to approve Ordinance No. 588 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

### **d. Ordinance No. 589 – Repeal of Section 31.05 Contracts required for services (Second Reading)**

Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 589 into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 589 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

### **e. Ordinance No. 590 – Repeal of Article VI – Department of Treasury Section 30.45 Organization; powers and duties. (First reading)**

Town Manager Harpring presented Staff's report. The adoption of Ordinance 590 clarifies the organizational chart of the Town. Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 590 into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 590 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

f. Ordinance No. 591 – Amendment to Article VII, Department of Finance

Section 30.50 – Organization, powers, and duties. (First Reading)

Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 591 into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 591 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

g. Ordinance No. 592- Amendment to Section 32.21 – Town Manager (First Reading)

Town Manager Harpring offered Staff's report. He noted that on page 2 of the Ordinance, Subsection 6, the words "the Chief of Police, Fire Chief or the" are to be struck through as deleted text. Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 592 into the record. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 592 on first reading, as amended, by striking through "the Chief of Police, Fire Chief or the" for deletion from the Ordinance. Councilmember Carroll seconded the motion to approve Ordinance No. 592 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

h. Ordinance No. 593 – Procurement of Goods and Services (First Reading)

Town Manager Harpring offered Staff's report. Town Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 593 into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 593 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing unanimously 5-0.

**9. Staff Updates**

- a. Building Official Report & Statistics
- b. Code Enforcement Report
- c. Public Works Department Report

Town Manager Harpring reported the Building Department was completing training for the new MGO software system. In response to Mayor Foley's inquiry regarding the posting of real estate signs in the ROW, the Town Manager explained that the Town prioritizes education and encouragement before enforcement. He further advised street sweeping had been completed on all public streets.

d. Town Treasurer Report

The Town Treasurer was available for questions. Vice Mayor Auwaerter expressed appreciation for her dedication and prompt turnaround in annual reports, audits, and budget preparation.

e. Public Safety Department Report & Statistics

Assistant Chief Ryer addressed the Town Council. His department has been focusing on traffic enforcement, specifically on school bus infractions.

f. Town Clerk – Update on 2026 Election

The Town Clerk provided an update on the upcoming Municipal Election on November 3, 2026. A question-and-answer period followed.

**10. Town Attorney Report**

Town Attorney Sweeney reiterated that during the election process, sitting Councilmembers can speak to any potential candidate. He summarized the legislative session with a total of 1,897 bills presented. 195 passed both the house and senate; four have been signed by the Governor, seven are awaiting signature. The remaining bills will become effective by default after 15 days if the Governor does not sign.

**11. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Harpring offered a brief report on the sand replenishment work being completed at the Fort Pierce inlet by the Army Corps of Engineers. Most of the work is federally funded with St. Lucy County funding approximately 20% of the project.

Town Manager Harpring presented an updated Organizational Chart.

**12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items**

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

Councilmember Tedesko and Councilmember Altieri had no additional comments.

Mayor Foley reported on the Treasure Coast Council of Local Government meeting that provided updates on airport expansion plans from both the Vero Beach Airport and the St. Lucie Airport, scholarship programs, and disaster grant opportunities.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter reported on the Beach and Shores Preservation Committee, the County's update to its beach preservation plan and the ongoing Sector 7 erosion concerns.

**13. Call to Audience**

None.

**14. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Approved: April 23, 2026

  
Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk