



THE TOWN OF *INDIAN RIVER SHORES*

OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 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, April 23, 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 Tedesko and unanimously passed (5-0) to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Presentations/Proclamations

- a. Proclamation: National Safe Boating Week

Mayor Foley read the Proclamation designating May 16 – 22, 2026 National Safe Boating Week. Tom McCarty, Coast Guard Auxiliary, addressed the Town Council reporting that the State of Florida had the most boating fatalities in the country with 61 of the 82 fatalities in the State of Florida not wearing safety jackets. Enrollment in safe boating courses had dropped significantly as well.

- b. Tammy Bursick – Update on City of Vero Beach July 4th / America's 250th Birthday Celebration

Tammy Bursick, former City Clerk of Vero Beach, shared plans for the City's July 4th celebration marking the nation's 250th birthday. Events include a parade, family activities, music, food at Riverside Park, and a 9:00 p.m. fireworks show. The Town's Public Safety Department was invited to join the parade. Municipalities in Indian River County are also invited to place historical items in a Time Capsule that will be buried at the Heritage Center on July 3, 2026, for fifty years.

- c. Domain Name Change Update

Town Manager Harpring offered a Power Point presentation highlighting the transition of the domain name change from IRShores.com to IndianRiverShores.gov. He commented that a Resolution calling for the official seal would be forthcoming. Both Mayor Foley and Vice Mayor Auwaerter requested the updated business cards include the Town Seal.

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

Theresa Morgan, 935 Beachcomber Lane, requested a cost estimate for the septic-to-sewer project. She noted that approving the contract before sharing costs caused concern among residents. Town Manager Harpring clarified the septic project was required by SB 1379.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting dated March 26, 2026
- b. Review of Construction East of CCCL – 630 Ocean Road
- c. Resolution 26-02 – John’s Island Cemetery Fees
- d. Approval of Local Option Gas Tax Interlocal Agreement
- e. Approval of Work Authorization 2026-11 – Kimley-Horn for Building Department Build

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

6. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Foley reported that the Town Clerk recently hosted a meeting of the Indian River Clerks and Supervisor of Elections. He indicated that Municipal Tax Reform is unlikely to be addressed this legislative session and presented information on Property Tax Revenue from Ad Valorem Assessments. Mayor Foley announced a residential input meeting on May 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. regarding parking of non-commercial trucks in residential driveways. The Utility Bill that passed both the House and Senate has not yet been sent to the Governor for signature.

7. Councilmember Items

- a. Vice Mayor Auwaerter – Review of 2026 Indian River County Beach Preservation Plan Draft

Vice Mayor Auwaerter reported on a meeting held earlier in the week at the Community Center that addressed the 2026 Beach Preservation Plan by evaluating current coastal conditions, assessing risks, and identifying management strategies. There were 86 people in attendance. He offered a detailed Power Point presentation that highlighted the findings and recommendations that were addressed by the County at the meeting.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

- a. Ordinance No. 590 Repeal of Article VI – Department of Treasury
Section 30.45 Organization; powers and duties. (Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 590 into the record. There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 590 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 5-0.

- b. Ordinance No. 591 Amendment to Article VII, Department of Finance
Section 30.50 – Organization, powers and duties. (Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 591 into the record. There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altier to approve Ordinance No. 591 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 5-0.

- c. Ordinance No. 592 Amendment to Section 32.21 – Town Manager (Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 592 into the record. There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 592 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 5-0.

- d. Ordinance No. 593 Procurement of Goods and Services (Second Reading)

Attorney Sweeney read the title of Ordinance No. 593 into record. There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Councilmember Altieri to approve Ordinance No. 593 on second reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 5-0.

- e. Award of ITB 26-01 Beachcomber Lane and Pebble Lane Paving, Stormwater and Septic to Sewer Project

Town Manager Harpring summarized the process. The Town worked diligently to minimize paving and drainage costs, while homeowners are required to pay for the septic-to-sewer conversion, which can be paid over ten years via property taxes to the City of Vero Beach. Rob Bolton, City of Vero Beach Water and Sewer Director, confirmed the City will charge approximately 6% interest on amortized loans.

Councilmember Carroll motioned to award ITB 26-01 for Beachcomber Lane and Pebble Lane improvements, seconded by Councilmember Altieri. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0. Town Manager Harpring reported contractor meetings for the next week and said residents will be informed about the timeline and costs through mail and email.

- f. Budget Schedule Budget Workshop – July 23, 2026, 8:30 am
First Public Hearing
Final Public Budget Hearing

By consensus, Town Council set and confirmed the following Budget schedule:

Budget Workshop – July 23, 2026, 8:30 am
First Public Hearing – September 15, 2026, at 5:01 p.m.
Final Public Budget Hearing – September 22, 2026, at 5:01 p.m.

- g. Resolution 26-01 Calling for the November 3, 2026 Election

Attorney Sweeney read the title of Resolution 26-01 into the record. With no public comment, Councilmember Carroll moved to approve Resolution 26-01. Councilmember Altieri seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll. All present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 5-0.

9. **Staff Updates**

- a. Building Department Report

Building Official Fred Held was available for questions from the Town Council.

- b. Code Enforcement Report

Officer Jake Maikrantz was available for questions from the Town Council.

- c. Facilities Department Report

Facilities Director Lucy Scheidt was available for questions from the Town Council

d. **Finance Department Report**

In response to Vice Mayor Auwaerter, Finance Director Heather Christmas responded that the recent legislative budgetary requirements did not distinguish between the general fund or the capital improvement fund.

e. **Public Safety Department Report**

Assistant Chief Ryer offered a brief response regarding the recent moped accident at Beachland Boulevard and A1A.

10. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Sweeney stated that 167 bills are still awaiting the Governor's signature. The budget remains unapproved, and no date has been set for the special session to adopt the budget. A special session on redistricting and medical freedom is scheduled to start on April 28, 2026.

11. Town Manager Report

a. **Parking Ordinance Review**

Town Manager Harpring reiterated the announcement of the informational meeting scheduled for May 19, 2026 to address parking of non-commercial trucks in residential areas.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

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

Councilmember Tedesko shared updates from the Treasure Coast League of Cities meeting. Mandy Collier, Grant Coordinator for the Florida League of Cities, offered free consulting to municipalities. There was also a presentation on data centers, with the presenter available to address municipalities.

Councilmember Altieri noted the Utilities Commission was now meeting every other month.

Mayor Foley summarized the Treasure Coast Council of Local Government meeting, mentioning data centers' pros and cons. He also noted the TCCLG \$1,000 scholarship for students and ongoing discussions about high insurance costs, including the idea of pooling smaller municipalities to reduce expenses.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked about the impact of data centers on electric costs, referencing a Virginia town where expenses increased sharply. He also gave updates on the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Beaches and Shores meeting.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter distributed an article about a ransomware attack on the Water Treatment Plant in Minot, ND. Vice Mayor Auwaerter reminded all that there is a strategic Air Force Base in Minot, ND.

Councilmember Carrol reported on the meeting of the Economic Development Council. There were three presentations that covered incentives to bring people and businesses to Indian River County. Indian River County, Indian River School District, and Indian River State College were all coordinating efforts for education and advancement for working families in conjunction with the support of businesses already established.

12. Call to Audience

Matt Hutmaker, 560 Sable Oak Lane, Bermuda Bay. Mr. Hutmaker lodged a complaint with Council that vehicles from the west, approaching A1A, whether from a gated community or public street, do not stop before the stop sign and drive across the sidewalk often coming very close hitting pedestrians or bicyclists on the sidewalk. He asked for the Town's help in getting a Public Service Announcement out to the residents and HOAs as well as enforcing the law. Vice Mayor Auwaerter commented that FS 316 allows bicycles to traverse sidewalks and sets specific guidelines for passing bikes should they be on the roadways.

Mitzi Zimmerle, Pebble Lane. Regarding septic to sewer and project costs, she asked why the State, who was responsible for legislating the requirement, was not paying for the project. Town Manager Harpring explained it was an unfunded mandate.

Sheila Saville, Surf Lane. Ms. Saville commented on the lack of communication between the Town to the property owners and asked about costs.

Paul Chatterton, Pebble Lane. In response to Mr. Chatterton's inquiry, Mr. Harpring explained that the City did not choose the installation of STEP systems on either Pebble or Beachcomber Lanes.

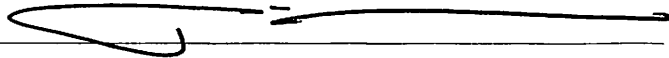
Town Manager Harpring further commented that any requests for grants would have to come through the City of Vero Beach.

Theresa Morgan, 935 Beachcomber Lane came to the podium. The Mayor noted she spoke earlier in the meeting, and did not entertain further comments.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Approved: May 28, 2026



Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk

