



THE TOWN OF *INDIAN RIVER SHORES*

OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 28, 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 Thursday, May 28, 2026, in Council Chambers, 6001 Highway A1A, Indian River Shores. Those present were Brian Foley, Mayor; Bob Auwaerter, Vice Mayor and Sam Carroll, Councilmember. Also present were James Harpring, Town Manager, Peter Sweeney, Town Attorney and Janice 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. Members present were Mayor Foley, Vice Mayor Auwaerter and Councilmember Carroll. Councilmember Altieri and Councilmember Tedesko were absent. A quorum was present.

2. Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions

There being no reordering, deletions or emergency additions, a motion was made by Councilmember Carroll to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Auwaerter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

3. Presentations/Proclamations

- a. Municipal Clerks Week

Mayor Foley read the Proclamation into the record noting the importance of the position of Town Clerk in municipal government. He thanked the Town Clerk for her service to the Town.

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

None.



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5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of Town Council Meeting dated April 23, 2026
- b. Approval of Capital Lease - Public Safety Cameras
- c. Approval of Resolution No. 26-03 Public Safety Department Special Detail Rates
- d. Approval of Resolution No. 26-04 Budget Amendment FY 2026

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Auwaerter seconded the motion. The Town Clerk called the roll. All members present voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 3-0.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Foley reported the Town was working with the FDOT to repair the sidewalks south of Town.

He also advised that due to the redistricting, the Town was included in Florida District 9, previously District 8. He reminded those wishing to vote absentee, whether in the Primary or the Regular election, would need to request a vote by mail ballot from the Supervisor of Elections.

Governor DeSantis called for a special session to begin June 1 to address Florida's homestead property tax structure. Property taxes would still be required to pay for core services such as public safety and first responders. This proposal would raise the homestead limit to \$250,000 which would benefit 60% of Florida homeowners. Moving forward, the legislature would be required to create a schedule to eliminate homestead property taxes allowing for 92% of the taxpayers to cap out at \$500,000. These proposals would need to be passed by 60% of the voters by referendum at the November 2026 regular election. Presently there was no call for additional taxes to be levied. Town has begun calculations to determine the impact, if any, on Town services.

Mayor Foley reported that HB 1451 - Utilities was expected to be approved which would improve reporting but not prohibit transfers into the general fund.

7. Councilmember Items

Vice Mayor Auwaerter noted ad valorem taxes make up 78% of Town's revenue with the Public Safety Department's budget expenditures being approximately 65% of that. Fiscally constrained counties will be hit the hardest.

Presently, Indian River County and the City of Vero Beach do charge franchise fees to residents within their boundaries. The Town does not charge franchise fees to its residents.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

- a. Ordinance No. 594 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Transmittal Hearing

The Town Manager offered a brief presentation explaining the State's requirements for updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan. He explained that although this matter had come before the Town Council in November of 2025, the Town postponed action until they were sure there were no further amendments required by Senate Bill 180.

Mayor Foley explained that this was essentially an unfunded mandate from the State as the Town was essentially built out. He likened it to other State mandates enacted without regard to the cost to municipalities.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter requested staff receive clarification as to the Level of Services C and D referred to for A1A south and north of the Town Hall.

Attorney Sweeney read the title into the record. A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 594 on first reading for transmittal to the State of Florida – Florida Commerce. The Town Clerk called the roll. All in attendance voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 3-0.

b. Ordinance No. 595 Real Estate Sign Penalties-

Attorney Sweeney read the title into the record. Vice Mayor Auwaerter confirmed with Attorney Sweeney that the reference to “shall” resulted in mandatory action and not by discretion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 595 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All in attendance voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 3-0.

c. Ordinance No. 596 Adoption of Town Seal

Attorney Sweeney read the title into the record. Town Manager Harpring offered Staff’s report.

A motion was made by Councilmember Carroll and seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter to approve Ordinance No. 596 on first reading. The Town Clerk called the roll. All in attendance voted in the affirmative with the motion passing 3-0.

d. Parking Ordinance Review

Town Manager Harpring reported on a Community Meeting held to receive input from residents on preferences pertaining to the existing Ordinance that prohibits pickup trucks from being parked in residential driveways between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The meeting on May 19, 2026, was well attended and allowing non-commercial, private use pickup trucks seemed to be the preference for those in attendance.

He requested Town Council instruction on how to proceed.

All Councilmembers present were in favor of changing the Ordinance and looked for Staff’s input.

Terri Bowman, Pebble Bay. Ms. Bowman expressed her appreciation to the Town for hosting the meeting. She and neighbors she spoke with were in support of changing the Ordinance. Ms. Bowman added that the Ford F150 truck series was the highest selling vehicle in the USA. She offered her assistance in drafting the Ordinance.

Manager Harpring would present proposed amendments to Council at the June meeting.

9. **Staff Updates**

a. Building Department Report

Officer Maikranz was present to represent the Building Department. Council had no additional questions.

b. Code Enforcement Report

Council expressed their appreciation to Officer Maikranz for his efforts noting that his attention to the life safety issues of the residents and the aesthetics to the Town were very important to the Town. Officer Maikranz acknowledged the posting of illegal signs had jumped from 20 in 2025 to 55 in 2026.

c. **Facilities Department Report**

Facilities Director Lucy Scheidt presented her report to the Town Council. Council had no additional questions but thanked Ms. Scheidt for the noticeable improvement in the Town's property.

d. **Finance Department Report**

Finance Director Heather Christmas addressed the Town Council. The Town may have challenges related to property tax reform, but they will be manageable.

e. **Public Safety Department Report**

Assistant Chief Ryer noted that in addition to the Department's report, in response to the previous month's resident complaint about traffic turning right onto A1A, the department had issued 43 warnings and 1 citation to violators. They will continue to enforce.

Mayor Foley noted that his review of the signage leaving those properties showed many signs were very high and obstructed by foliage. The Town will follow up on that as well as continue to encourage people to look both ways.

10. Town Attorney Report

Attorney Sweeney reported that the Governor has the proposed budget before him and does maintain line-item veto powers without having to go back to the legislature.

11. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Harpring offered a power point presentation on the Anchoring Limitation Areas (ALA). He has been in communication regarding the private submerged lands included in the ALA. There is a template consent agreement that would allow placement of signs, buoys, etc. on these lands, however locating principals of Lost Tree is proving difficult.

In response to Vice Mayor Auwaerter, Attorney Sweeney reported that submerged lands can be privately owned.

Mayor Foley suggested the Town form a liaison between the Public Safety Department and the Florida Fish and Wildlife for proper enforcement protocol to address abandoned vessels.

Town Manager Harpring explained that Septic to Sewer HB 1379 has resulted in unfunded mandates from the State to the individual property owners. The Town investigated grant opportunities on behalf of property owners, as well as waiving permit and inspection fees. The Town will host a follow-up informational meeting on June 24, 2026, with the City of Vero Beach discussing costs and abandonment at that time. The project has been accelerated and equipment is on site.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

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

Councilmember Altieri attended the City of Vero Beach Utility Commission meeting the week prior and had offered a report. Vice Mayor Auwaerter had also been in attendance and referred to Councilmember Altieri's report confirming that a 2022 rate study had been completed. The total cost for the new water treatment facility has risen approximately 90% from 82 million to 156 million.

Other capital projects have the total cap expected up to 217 million through 2030. Operating expenses have increased 14%.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter commented these costs will lead to a significant rate increase for utility customers of at least 47%. Vice Mayor Auwarter expects 72% increase for reuse rates. He further suggested the City be required to cap the amount of transfers from the utility fund into the general fund to 6%.

Mayor Foley reported on the meeting of the Treasure Coast League of Local Governments. The League is offering scholarships for students pursuing careers in public safety. He had been appointed to serve on the audit committee. There was a presentation by the Florida Cattleman's Association.

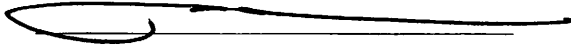
13. Call to Audience

None.

14. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Approved: June 22, 2026



Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk