



OFFICIAL MINUTES

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024 – 9:00 AM

TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES

6001 HIGHWAY A1A INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FL 32963

The regular monthly meeting of the Indian River Shores Town Council was held on Thursday, August 29, 2024, in Council Chambers, 6001 Highway A1A, Indian River Shores. Councilmembers present were Brian Foley, Mayor; Sam Carroll, Vice Mayor and Bob Auwaerter, Councilmember. Also, present were James Harpring, Town Manager; Heather Christmas, Deputy Town Manager/Town Treasurer; 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. Vice Mayor Carroll offered the Invocation. Mayor Foley led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present except Councilmember Smith and Councilmember Altieri.

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

There being no additions, deletions and omissions, a motion was made by Councilmember Auwaerter, seconded by Vice Mayor Carroll, and unanimously passed (3-0) 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 July 25, 2024
- b. Approval of Budget Workshop Minutes of July 25, 2024
- c. Resolution No. 24-11 FY 2024/2025 Building Department Permit Fees
- d. Audit Engagement Letter Addendum

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

6. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Foley noted he was aware of the traffic issues on A1A and would defer discussion to later in the meeting when Chief Stone can respond to the complaint raised by resident Jerry Weick. He expressed his relief that Indian River Shores has been spared any threat of a hurricane to this point but assured all that the Town was more than prepared should the need arise. He expressed his appreciation to staff for their vigilance in hurricane preparedness.

7. Councilmember Items

Councilmember Auwaerter reported that he has noticed many off-leash dogs on the beach outside of permitted hours. He asked that the Public Safety Department monitor the situation and that the rules and regulations be placed in the newsletter as a reminder for residents. It was confirmed that Lieutenant Ryer has scheduled regular patrols for that purpose, and that those persons found in violation were informed of the Town's registration process and regulations.

8. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

None.

9. Staff Updates

Town Manager Harpring announced that both Building Official Held and Code Officer Maikranz were not present as they were attending a training session for the Department's new software program. The program is the same being used by the County and will help with the day-to-day operations of the Department. A comprehensive report on software migration will be given in September/October.

a. Building Official Report & Statistics

No questions or comments for the Town Manager.

b. Town Treasurer Report

Heather Christmas, Deputy Town Manager/Town Treasurer addressed the Town Council. She presented the Council with the revised proposed budget, the annual Pension Report, and a breakdown of the distribution of the 175/185 funds 2008 through 2024. Town Treasurer Christmas announced she had received approval for the IndianRiverShores.gov domain name. She anticipated the full changeover would take approximately 18 months. Council asked they be copied on the migration plan. Council had no further questions.

c. Public Safety Department Report & Statistics

Tad Stone, Director of Public Safety, addressed the Town Council. He advised on the extensive training of his department including assaillant training, classroom training and hostage training that had taken place at the County's burn building. Chief Stone reiterated that his department was educating persons found to be in violation of having off leash dogs on the beach.

Mayor Foley next introduced Jerry Weick. Mr. Weick expressed his concern over the traffic build up on A1A each morning between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. He explained that John's Island does not allow vendors to enter the main gate and only allows vendors/contractors through the south gates, or the Fred Tuerk gates after 7:30 a.m. Mr. Weick lives in Bermuda Bay, oceanside, and is unable to exit or access his property during these times. He explained that making a left-hand turn to leave his property is dangerous as he is unable to see oncoming traffic.

Chief Stone next addressed the Town Council and explained that his department was aware of the problem and had made several attempts to reach a compromise with John's Island but was told the Board of Directors were not willing to amend their rules. He had suggested issuing pamphlets to those contractors, setting staging areas, etc. Chief Stone noted that his department may have to issue citations as vehicles and trucks and trailers are waiting in the turn lane, which is not permitted. He added that the Town has an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the shoulders along A1A, which the waiting vehicles were also doing. All agreed citing the people trying to get to work was not an effective remedy to the problem.

Councilmember Auwaerter agreed this is a problem, adding that navigating the area on a bicycle was problematic.

Discussion followed. It was suggested a police officer be assigned to direct traffic during these hours, but concern was expressed over spending taxpayers' dollars, or taking an officer off patrol for a problem caused by a private community. It was also suggested that John's Island be put on notice because they are creating a nuisance.

It was agreed that the Town would reach out to Mike Korpar, General Manager and the Board of John's Island, to try to find a solution to the problem. Mr. Weick noted his efforts in that regard were unheeded.

Mayor Foley thanked Mr. Weick for bringing this to the Town Council's attention and thanked the Chief for his efforts.

d. **Public Works Department Report**

Larry Bryant, Director of Public Works was present. Council had no questions.

e. **Code Enforcement Report**

Town Manager Harpring thanked the Town Council for moving from the Code Enforcement Board to a Special Magistrate for Code Enforcement. He noted that the Code Officer's efforts to encourage, educate and enforce Code Enforcement for the residents have worked very well. He congratulated Jake Maikranz, Code Enforcement Officer and Pete Sweeney, Town Attorney, for collaborating with the Special Magistrate towards compliance with Code Enforcement.

f. **Town Clerk Report**

None.

10. Town Attorney Report

None.

11. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Harpring announced an open house meeting scheduled for September 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. regarding the Town's efforts, in cooperation with the City of Vero Beach, to begin work on Pebble Lane and Beachcomber Lane to include new roads, drainage and installation of sewer pipes.

In response to Councilmember Auwaerter, Mr. Harpring reported he had met with the CRS reviewer and presently the Town had achieved 2190 points toward the 2500 points needed to receive a CRS rating of 5. He confirmed for Mayor Foley that the annual update on the CRS program would be forthcoming.

12. Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items

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

Mayor Foley noted that his meetings had been cancelled for the month of August. He will be attending the Treasure Coast League of Local Government meeting next week.

Councilmember Auwaerter next reported that the Utilities Committee meeting had been cancelled as well. He had received copies of plans for the new Fort Pierce Utility which is moving off the lagoon all the way west to their energy center. They had received a guaranteed maximum price of construction in the amount of 139 million with an addition thirty-four million in costs to reverse the flow of water. With this information, he is hoping the City of Vero Beach's costs will be less than expected. He still has objections to the way they scored their bonds. Councilmember Auwaerter complained that the Committee used to be given proposed budgets for review. He expressed his concern over the City's lack of transparency.

Mayor Foley confirmed that the cost for the City of Fort Pierce did not include environmental remediation of the old plant. He then requested the Town Attorney look at the charge given to the City of Vero Beach

Utility Committee to be sure the City was following its own Ordinance as it relates to the Committee. Attorney Sweeney would report back to the Town Council with his findings.

12. **Call to Audience**

None.

13. **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Approved: September 24, 2024



Janice C. Rutan, Town Clerk

