

Agenda Item No. C - 1

**VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH**  
Agenda Item Summary

**AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the minutes of the Council Regular Meeting of August 21, 2025.**

**ISSUE: It is necessary for Village Council to approve all Village Council meeting minutes.**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Approve**

<b>Initiator</b>	<b>Village Manager Approval</b>	<b>Agenda Date</b>	<b>Village Council Action</b>
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<b>Village Clerk</b>		<b>9/18/25</b>	
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**VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH  
MINUTES OF COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025  
6:30 P.M.**

**Ways to Participate**

- In Person: Public may participate in person at the Village Council Chambers, 1050 Royal Palm Beach Boulevard, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411.
- Computer, Tablet, Smartphone: Public may participate remotely by joining GoToWebinar from your computer, tablet or smartphone via [www.royalpalmbeachfl.gov/webmeetings](http://www.royalpalmbeachfl.gov/webmeetings).
- Telephone: Public may listen only via phone remotely by dialing United States +1 (562) 247-8422, Webinar ID: 675-970-187, Access Code: 868-545-999.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Jeff Hmara  
Vice Mayor Richard Valuntas  
Councilwoman Jan Rodusky  
Councilman Adam Miller  
Councilwoman Sylvia Sharps

All members of the Council were present along with the Village Manager, Village Attorney (Keith Davis), and the Village Clerk.

**RECOGNITION OF THE 8/U ROYAL PALM BEACH SOFTBALL ALL-STAR TEAM'S 2025 FLORIDA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

Mayor Hmara and the Village Council recognized the outstanding achievement of our very own Royal Palm Beach 8U Softball All-Star Team, proudly known as the 'Pink Bombers.' This remarkable group of young athletes represented our Village with excellence and determination at the 2025 Babe Ruth Florida State Championship, held June 26<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> in Lake City. Competing among more than 100 teams across six age divisions, the Pink Bombers dominated their division with a perfect 5-0 record, demonstrating both skill and teamwork at the highest level. Their journey culminated in an incredible 22 to 4 victory over the Jacksonville Beach Thunder in the championship game, securing the State Title in the 8U Open Division. This victory is not only a testament to the hard work and dedication of the players, but also to the coaches, parents, and supporters who helped guide them along the way. I would like to give special thanks to the coaching staff and especially to Coach Steven Poyner from our very own Parks and Recreation Department, for his leadership and commitment to this team's success. On behalf of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, we congratulate the Pink Bombers on their championship season and thank them for bringing pride and inspiration to our community.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM REPRESENTATIVE ANNE GERWIG**

Representative Gerwig gave an update from the recent legislative session with an overview of certain bills. She successfully sponsored legislation aligning

Florida with the national observance of Fentanyl Awareness Day on August 21<sup>st</sup> recognizing the urgent need to combat the dangers of fentanyl in local communities. She reported on her second initiative, the middle and high school start time bill, which provides schools with greater flexibility. She further explained funds for AP classes and dual enrollment with schools as well. She pointed out that, having both a conservative Speaker and Governor, Florida passed a budget that was \$3.8 billion less than last year's and felt it was a benefit for the taxpayer but also made it a tough year for appropriations. She also referenced appropriations that were approved for the local area.

The Village Council thanked Representative Gerwig and received further information on the insurance crisis, the tort reform bill and flood insurance. The discussion also included the My Safe Florida Home Program and proposed property tax issues in the upcoming year session.

## **PROCLAMATION FOR HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

### **REPORTS**

Councilwoman Rodusky reported on the recent Florida League of Cities Annual Conference and highlighted the 'Building Effective Board and City Manager Relationships' session, which covered strategic planning, rules of engagement, and the code of ethics. She said one idea that emerged from that session, which she supported, was to hold a public briefing once a year—six months after the strategic planning session—noting that it would not be open for public comment or discussion. She announced the many excellent keynote speakers at the conference, including Jefferson Fisher, who was unable to attend due to a family emergency but recommended his new book, *Argue Less, Talk More*. Councilwoman Rodusky reported on the Recreation Advisory Board meeting where Steven Poyner, Events and Facilities Manager made a presentation on the number of events being held at the Cultural Center. She announced that the new *Community Connection* guide is now available. The End of Summer Party for seniors will be held on August 22, 2025 at the Recreation Center. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, there will be Latin music at Commons Park on September 5, 2025. Additionally, *Shakespeare by the Palms* will present *Macbeth* at Veterans Park in February 2026.

Councilman Miller expressed his support for the six-month strategic plan briefing. He also acknowledged receipt of the survey and summary that were distributed to the Education Advisory Board. He raised a question regarding the current seating arrangements for Council members, specifically inquiring whether it would be possible to arrange seats based on Group number. A brief discussion followed, and it was agreed that all members would remain in their current seats, and that the photos displayed in the lobby would also remain unchanged. Councilman Miller gave his monthly AI tip regarding ChatGPT Agents.

Vice Mayor Valuntas attended the Special Magistrate Hearing and commended the Code Enforcement staff for their dedication and hard work.

Councilwoman Sharps provided an update on the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and commended the staff for their professionalism and thorough work. She also highlighted the success of the Florida League of Cities conference. Additionally, she announced that she is now a member of the Village's Young at Heart Club, noting the group's engaging activities. She also commented on the content and distribution of the Village's *Community Connections* newsletter. Dan Liftman, former aide to the late Congressman Alcee Hastings, is recovering and doing well at Palm Garden in West Palm Beach. He is welcoming visitors. Councilwoman Sharps shared that her mentee, a senior at Royal Palm Beach High School, is currently serving as a drum major. She noted that the student only needs one P.E. class to fulfill graduation requirements, with the rest of the schedule consisting of electives. Councilwoman Sharps proudly announced that upon graduation, her mentee will not only receive a high school diploma but also earn a two-year college degree.

Mayor Hmara reiterated his pride in the strong performance and high ratings of the local schools. Mayor Hmara also provided an update on the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference, where he addressed both the DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) initiative and property tax matters. Mayor Hmara referenced the results of the recent school survey and summarized key highlights shared by local school principals and members of the Education Advisory Board. He reviewed four pilot initiatives currently being explored: 1) Retired Teacher Engagement – Assisting schools in recruiting retired teachers to serve as tutors and mentors for after-school programs; 2) Youth Civic Leadership Program – Enhancing civics education by introducing a youth-focused leadership initiative; 3) Teacher Recognition – Launching a "Teacher of the Year" award at each school, with honorees nominated by their respective principals and recognized at the final Education Advisory Board meeting of the year; 4) Teacher Appreciation Program – Recognizing all teachers in Royal Palm Beach and partnering with local businesses to explore offering discounts or special incentives as a form of appreciation.

Councilman Miller supported all four initiatives. Vice Mayor Valuntas supported 1 – 3 of the initiatives. Councilwoman Rodusky addressed initiative number 3, discussing its execution, the level of involvement required, and the possibility of recognizing more teachers more than once a year. She also offered several suggestions on how this could be achieved. Councilwoman Sharps addressed the initiative focused on recognizing all teachers and expressed concerns about initiative number 4, noting that it emphasized recognition from businesses exclusively for teachers, potentially overlooking other professions.

The Village Manager reported on and explained the proposed Leadership Civic Program, which is set to begin with the September 3, 2025 meeting at Royal Palm Beach High School.

**PETITIONS – None**

**STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS OR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – None**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Village Clerk read into the record the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. **Approval of the minutes of the Council Budget Workshop Meeting of July 10, 2025 and Council Regular Meeting of July 17, 2025. (Village Clerk)**
2. **Approval of a special event permit for Mission BBQ Company to hold a “9/11 Ceremony” honoring our first responders, law enforcement and firefighters at a Mission BBQ Restaurant located at 11929 Southern Boulevard. The event will take place during business hours on September 11, 2025. (Director of P & Z)**
3. **Adoption of Resolution No. 25-23, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, approving and authorizing, in accordance with established policy, the making of a budget amendment for Fund 401 in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. Said amendment to transfer a total of \$35,000 from Fund 304 Undesignated Fund Balance to WTP Site Modification (PW1902). (Finance Director)**
4. **Adoption of Resolution No. 25-24, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, approving and authorizing, in accordance with established policy, the making of a budget amendment for Fund 408 in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. Said amendment to transfer a total of \$60,000 from Fund 408 Undesignated Fund Balance to Canal Bank Stabilization (PW1806). (Finance Director)**
5. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to execute the First Addendum to Agreement for Professional Municipal Engineering Services to extend the term with Erdman Anthony for the first two-year renewal period. (Village Engineer)**
6. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement for Landscape Architect Services with Cotleur & Hearing for various projects in the Village of Royal Palm Beach. (Village Engineer)**
7. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to execute Consultant Services Authorization No. 48 with Terracon, to provide quality control services & asphalt lot verification for the Road Resurfacing project. The cost for said services shall not exceed \$102,713.00. (Village Engineer)**
8. **Authorization for the Village Manager to execute the Second Addendum to Agreement for Air Conditioning Monthly Maintenance Services with Horizon Air Conditioning, Inc. to extend the agreement for the second one-year renewal period and reflect a 2.83% CPI increase. The adjusted annual amount of the Agreement**

**for FY26 is \$89,807.36. Funding for the A/C Monthly Maintenance is budgeted in the FY26 Public Works Operating Budget. (Director of Public Works)**

- 9. Authorization for the Village Manager to execute the First Addendum for Grounds Maintenance Service on Crestwood Boulevard & the Village Hall Complex Agreement with Epicurean Park, LLC, dba Nex Era Services to extend the agreement for the first one-year renewal period and reflect a 2.83% price increase. The adjusted annual amount of the Agreement for FY26 is \$107,971.50. Funding for Grounds Maintenance is budgeted in the FY26 Public Works Operating Budget. (Director of Public Works)**
- 10. Authorization for the Village Manager to execute the Third Addendum to Agreement for Roadway Grounds Maintenance Service with Epicurean Park, LLC, dba Nex Era Services to extend the agreement for the third one-year renewal period from October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 and reflect a 2.83% price increase. The adjusted annual amount of the Agreement for FY26 is \$433,659.22. Funding for Roadway Grounds Maintenance is budgeted in the FY26 Public Works Operating Budget. (Director of Public Works)**

Councilwoman Rodusky made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilwoman Sharps. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. Crestwood and Royal Palm Beach Boulevards Speed Study: Findings and Village Council Direction on Mitigation Strategies. (Village Engineer)**

The Village Engineer referenced the strategic planning session, during which concerns about speeding on Crestwood Boulevard and Royal Palm Beach Boulevard were discussed. One of the key initiatives identified was to conduct a speed study along the corridor. To that end, the Village entered into an agreement with Erdman Anthony to perform the study. Chris Bauso, representing Erdman Anthony, was introduced and presented the findings of the study.

Chris Bauso, Civil Engineer at Erdman Anthony, delivered the attached presentation outlining the key issues identified in the study. He reviewed the speed and volume data analysis, crash data analysis, and presented the study's conclusions and recommendations. The recommendations included raising the speed limit to 40 mph, implementing stricter speed enforcement, and installing radar feedback signs with data-enabled capabilities.

Fred Laurie, of 2630 Arbor Lane and President of the Palm Estates HOA, expressed concerns about speeding on Crestwood Boulevard North. He did not

support raising the speed limit but emphasized the need for stricter and prioritized traffic enforcement.

After confirming with the Village Clerk and the Village Manager that there were no additional public comments, Mayor Hmara closed the public comment portion of the meeting, with no further response.

The Village Engineer reviewed the recommendations from Erdman Anthony and proposed amending the traffic calming policy to permit radar speed signs on collector roadways. He also recommended conducting a pilot study by installing radar signs on Royal Palm Beach Boulevard and Crestwood Boulevard, both North and South.

A discussion followed that involved the potential involvement of law enforcement. At this point, Captain Naujoks reported that 548 traffic stops were conducted along that stretch of roadway in 2024. As of August 2025, that number has increased to 945 traffic stops. He emphasized that this area remains a priority for his department but also noted that traffic officers are dispatched throughout the Village to address a wide range of issues.

Following additional questions from the Council and clarifications from the Village Manager, Village Engineer and Captain Naujoks reiterating his department's commitment to addressing concerns along that stretch of roadway. Councilwoman Sharps made a motion to allow the traffic calming policy to be amended to allow radar feedback signs on collector roadways; seconded by Vice Mayor Valuntas. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Rodusky made a motion to approve the installation of radar feedback signs as a pilot effort for one year on Crestwood Boulevard and Royal Palm Beach Boulevard; seconded by Councilwoman Sharps. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**2. Adoption of Resolution No. 25-18, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, supporting the renaming of a portion of Crestwood Boulevard south of Okeechobee Boulevard to Cocoplum Lane within the corporate limits of the Village of Royal Palm Beach to Verdenia C. Baker Boulevard; providing an effective date; and for other purposes. (Director of P & Z)**

The Village Manager stated that the road being discussed is located south of Okeechobee Boulevard and is under County jurisdiction. The County proposed renaming the road in honor of Verdenia C. Baker upon her retirement. The Village has followed the appropriate procedures to advance the renaming request and it is now ready to be brought forward for a vote.

After confirming with the Village Clerk and the Village Manager there were no public comments, Mayor Hmara closed public comment with no response.

Councilwoman Sharps made a motion to approve; seconded by Councilman Miller. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Mayor Jeff Hmara

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Diane DiSanto, Village Clerk