

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 January 15, 2026.

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Approve

Initiator	Village Manager Approval	Agenda Date	Village Council Action
Village Clerk		02/19/26	

**VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
MINUTES OF COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026
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.
- Telephone: Public may listen only via phone remotely by dialing United States +1 (631) 992-3221, Webinar ID: 926-446-915, Access Code: 246-902-115.

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 (Mitty Barnard) and the Village Clerk.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE BY IRA BREWSTER, DIRECTOR OF TRANSIT PLANNING OF PALM BEACH COUNTY PALM TRAN

Ivan Maldonado, Executive Director did an introduction and introduced the staff from Palm Tran that was present for any questions. Ms. Ira Brewster, Director of Transit Planning gave a background on the BusLink program where through the program riders were able to use up to four ride-share trips per day with \$8.00 off per ride with a voucher. She noted that program began in August 2024 and reported on how it has performed this year for the Village of Royal Palm Beach. She added that the Palm Beach County Commission did approve continuation, but advised to come up with options to extend the service to other areas with modifications that are set to go into effect on February 1, 2026 for the Village noting the program will now only provide two ride-share trips per day as opposed to the current four ride-share trips and reducing the voucher amount to \$5.00. Ms. Brewster gave an explanation and an update on the proposed program. Mr. Maldonado, Executive Director further explained the extension will come with another six-month trial period to gather new data and make adjustments. He said the program will also enable the cross between different zones to allow for more personalized, efficient travel for users and create a mobility on demand service.

Mayor and Council raised concerns about how the changes and expansion seemed to be disproportionately impact Royal Palm Beach residents, particularly because they accounted for a small portion of total rides.

Ms. Brewster responded the savings from the changes were allocated to higher-performing routes, however, reiterated they recognize the needs of this

community noting this is a pilot program and are looking into ways to offset some of the effects of the change. She review the proposed plan that includes to identify how the service works with the western extension with the mobility on demand and will explore options with Uber to increase the voucher amount strictly for Royal Palm Beach.

Palm Tran Executive Director, Ivan Maldonado explained that the Palm Beach Countywide Transportation Master Plan will also guide where Palm Tran will be expanding. He said the ultimate goal is to get to a level where every single municipality in Palm Beach County has the services the citizens need and demand.

Christopher Walker, Interim Transit Service Planning and Scheduling Manager, responded to a question reporting that when reviewing the one-year pilot data program it included what and when the trips were occurring.

Ms. Brewster also responded to a question regarding the Mobility on Demand program, explaining that it began as a pilot in the Belle Glade area. Due to its success, the program has since been adopted as a standard service within the system. She added that an additional pilot will be launched in a new zone, and that data will be collected over the next six months. This information will help inform the Palm Beach Countywide Master Transportation Plan, which is a five-year plan that is updated every ten years in accordance with state requirements.

Mayor Hmara received information on how riders were notified of the change, as well as their reactions. It was announced that the marketing team implemented additional signage at existing bus stops, sent text messages to customers, and shared information via social media.

The Village Manager made several suggestions and requested follow-up information from Palm Tran, including a summary of costs and a description of service for Fixed Bus Route 52; a breakdown of Bus Link trips per day per person; consideration of extending the Royal Palm Beach Bus Link to the Sansburys Way Fixed Bus Route stop; and a commitment to continue Connection Plus services with the Village of Royal Palm Beach.

Vice Mayor Valuntas stated concerns with regard to eliminating ADA Federal Entitlement because there is no bus route and cutting back the Connection Plus program in order to save money. A discussion ensued with regard to the federal mandates, changes in funding and how changes can be made to accommodate those issues.

Ivan Maldonado, Executive Director and Ira Brewster, Director of Transit Planning both agreed to come back and update the Village in six months.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Sharps announced that her opponent has withdrawn from the race and that she will be sworn into office on March 19, 2026. She also complimented staff regarding the LaMancha roadway project and noted her

attendance at the Martin Luther King, Jr. observance in Royal Palm Beach, as well as a breakfast honoring Dr. King hosted by Palm Beach County and the City of Riviera Beach. She also stated that she will continue to monitor discussions being held in Tallahassee regarding property taxes and insurance.

Vice Mayor Valuntas congratulated Councilwoman Sharps and thanked the Council and Village staff for their help and support during a difficult time for his family.

Councilman Miller congratulated Councilwoman Sharps. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and retaining outstanding teachers in the community and requested consideration of placing a Teacher Friendly Business Program on next month's Council agenda. The proposed discussion would focus on recognizing local businesses that support educators through discounts, appreciation efforts, or partnerships. It was the consensus of the Council to add the item to the agenda.

Councilwoman Rodusky followed up on an idea discussed at the National League of Cities Conference regarding *America's Pot Luck*, an initiative to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. She noted that the proposed event would take place on July 5 and could include block parties and activities in Village parks, making it a large-scale undertaking. As an alternative, she suggested a lower-key approach—a "reverse Halloween," where residents would walk around their neighborhoods offering treats to their neighbors on July 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This concept would provide an opportunity for residents to engage and interact with one another. She also reported on a toolkit she received that included a bingo card with 25 squares encouraging residents to meet 25 neighbors, with optional participation indicated by displaying a flag in the yard. She suggested promoting the idea at upcoming Village events by displaying posters throughout the Village with a QR code and a three question survey to gauge resident interest. It was the consensus of Council to move forward with this idea.

The Village Manager reported on an upcoming meeting with the purchasers of Pod 6 – Tuttle Royale.

Mayor Hmara reported on the recent Palm Beach County Days in Tallahassee and the Governor's State of the State address. He discussed topics including home rule, the property tax reform bill, and affordability. He added that the Governor plans to call a special session of the Legislature to continue discussions on property taxes. Mayor Hmara also reported on the various holiday events he attended.

PETITIONS – None

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON AGENDA ITEMS OR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Ron Blicksilver, of 102 Van Gogh Way, expressed concern about the disbanding of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office COP volunteer program and requested that the Council encourage them to consider reinstating it.

Mark Villeda, a student at Royal Palm Beach High School and Command Senior Enlisted in the Navy ROTC program, reported on upcoming events with the program. He also noted that on January 14, 2026, he was recognized by the Local Scouting America Council/Gulf Stream as a fully pledged Eagle Scout.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. Approval of the minutes of the Council Regular Meeting of December 18, 2025. (Village Clerk)**
- 2. Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to execute the First Addendum to extend the Architectural Design Services provided by REG Architects, Inc. for the first two-year renewal period. (Village Engineer)**
- 3. Adoption of Resolution No. 26-01, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida adopting a revised Schedule of Fees and Charges; specifically repealing Resolution No. 25-31; providing that this Schedule of Fees and Charges shall be available for inspection at all times at the Village Hall during regular business hours; providing an effective date; and for other purposes. (Village Clerk)**
- 4. Approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute a Traffic Control Jurisdiction Agreement by and between the Village of Royal Palm Beach and Wyndham Village Homeowners Association, Inc. (Village Engineer)**
- 5. Adoption of Resolution No. 26-02, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, declaring certain personal property owned by the Village to be either surplus to its needs and sold at a publicly-noticed sale or determined to be obsolete, non-serviceable, or beyond economic repair pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions and requirements of Section 2-3 of the Village Code, and authorizing the Village to remove such surplus property when sold or disposed of from the fixed assets of the Village. (Finance Director)**
- 6. Approval of a Special Event Permit for the Village of Royal Palm Beach to hold the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival at Royal Palm Veterans' Park on February 13, 14, 15, and 16, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)**
- 7. Approval of six (6) Special Event Permits for Our Lady Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church to hold a fish fry at 100 Crestwood**

Boulevard on February 20, 2026, February 27, 2026, March 6, 2026, March 13, 2026, March 20, 2026 and March 27, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)

- 8. Approval of a Special Event Permit for the Village of Royal Palm Beach to hold “West Fest” 11600 Poinciana Boulevard, the Royal Palm Beach Commons Park on Friday, February 20, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, February 22, 2026 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)**
- 9. Approval of a Special Event Permit for the First Baptist Church of Royal Palm Beach to hold a Father-Daughter Event located at 10701 Okeechobee Boulevard on February 28, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)**
- 10. Approval of a Special Event Permit for First Baptist Church of Royal Palm Beach to hold an Outdoor Morning Service located at 10701 Okeechobee Boulevard on March 1, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)**

Councilwoman Rodusky pulled Consent Agenda #6 for discussion.

Councilwoman Sharps made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda less Item #6; seconded by Vice Mayor Valuntas. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Rodusky announced the correct dates of the Palm Beach Shakespeare Festival at Royal Palm Veterans’ Park will be held on February 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Rodusky made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Item #6; seconded by Councilwoman Sharps. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Public hearing for second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 1068, amending Chapter 5. Animals. of the Village Code of Ordinances at Sec. 5-1 to add select definitions and to create entirely new Sec. 5-18. General Nuisances and Habitual Nuisances caused by Animals. to address nuisances caused by the keeping or feeding of wildlife within the Village. (Community Development Director)**

Village Attorney Mitty Barnard read into the record Ordinance No. 1068 by title only. The Director of Community Development stated that this was the second reading and that there were no changes. He also reported on feedback received from residents.

Jessica Brent of 200 Martin Circle stated her concerns regarding the verbiage and requested clarification on monetary fines and enforcement,

including confirmation that only one sworn affidavit from a resident is required for a fine to be issued.

Sally Balch of 182 Martin Circle asked for clarification on the process used to determine whether an animal is classified as a nuisance, including which authority is responsible for that determination and who decides if euthanasia is necessary.

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

The Village Attorney stated that the definition of a nuisance is set forth in the ordinance and will be enforced through the alternative code enforcement process with civil penalties, as provided by the ordinance. She further explained that any civil penalties imposed will be in accordance with state law and will not exceed the maximum amounts permitted under state law. A formal complaint must consist of a sworn, written statement that is notarized.

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

2. Public hearing to consider Application No. 25-024 (Comp Plan – Text Amendment) and adoption of Ordinance No. 1057 on second reading, an application by the Village of Royal Palm Beach, amending the Future Land Use Element of the Village’s Comprehensive Plan to create an entirely new future land use designation, the Mixed Use Social Center less than 40 acres (MXS<40). (P & Z Director)

Village Attorney Mitty Barnard read into the record Ordinance No. 1057 by title only. The Director of Planning and Zoning reported that, in 2021, the Village partnered with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) to complete a comprehensive State Road 7 Corridor Study. As part of this effort, TCRPC prepared a series of conceptual redevelopment plans for four (4) sites along the corridor. The concepts illustrate potential configurations for new buildings, blocks, roadways, and public open spaces. Each project site would range in size from approximately 15 to 40 acres, with proposed residential densities between a minimum of 14 dwelling units per acre and a maximum of 25 dwelling units per acre. The developments would require a minimum floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.20 and a maximum FAR of 0.75. Open space would be provided at no less than 20 percent of each total project site. The projects may also include alternative transit opportunities within the site or provide convenient access to mass transit. The Local Planning Agency and staff recommended approval.

Julie Montesano of 2204 Ridgewood Circle, stated her concerns with traffic and opposition to the ordinance.

Sharon Waite of 15058 75th Lane North, Loxahatchee, stated her concerns with the height requirement, density, traffic and opposed the ordinance.

Dave Sager of 10559 Misty Lane, stated concerns about the density and traffic on State Road 7.

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

The Planning and Zoning Director explained that the proposed land use category is a new designation being created and may be applied to properties within the Village of Royal Palm Beach that are a minimum of 15 acres and less than 40 acres in size. He further summarized the findings of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's State Road 7 Corridor Study, which identified potential redevelopment opportunities along the corridor. The study included an analysis of common density and non-residential intensity parameters for four properties, emphasizing that the land use category is conceptual in nature and is not being applied or assigned to any specific property within the Village of Royal Palm Beach.

The Village Manager and the Village Attorney provided additional clarification and information regarding the study, including an overview of the additional steps required to establish corresponding land development regulations, as well as the multiple phases remaining in the overall process.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jeff Hmara

Diane DiSanto, Village Clerk