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 February 19, 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		03/19/26	

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
MINUTES OF COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 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 (562) 247-8422, Webinar ID: 235-738-627, Access Code: 324-296-424.

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.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS ROYAL PALM BEACH BICYCLE MONTH

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING GOVERNMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONALS WEEK

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING FLOOD AWARENESS WEEK

UPDATE FROM DOUGLAS CRANE, DIRECTOR OF PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Palm Beach County Library System Director Douglas Crane was present along with Karen Crisco, Manager of the Royal Palm Beach Library Branch. He reviewed the system's vision of opening minds to a world of unlimited possibilities and its mission to connect communities, inspire thought, and enrich lives. Mr. Crane reported that the library system is both large and heavily utilized. He shared statistics on the number of library visits, items borrowed, residents served, and usage of meeting and study rooms. He also highlighted the significant number of public computer and internet sessions provided, as well as the distribution of more than 50,000 meals and snacks to children. The system is one of the Big Six Florida public library systems, operating 18 locations, along with a new support services annex and a new branch library. Established by State Statute in 1967 as a dependent taxing district, the current millage rate is .5491 mills. The operating budget is $116 million, supported by additional funding sources including Balance Brought Forward, State Aid, grants, and Friends of the Library donations. Mr. Crane also discussed reciprocal borrowing agreements with municipal libraries and

reviewed the system's vast and diverse collection of free materials and resources. He noted that all past fines were eliminated as of October 2019. Additionally, he highlighted the availability of research assistance services and more than 5,900 children's and teen programs offered annually. He shared information about the Animal Reading Friends (ARF) program, which provides children the opportunity to build reading confidence by connecting with therapy dogs. Mr. Crane further announced the addition of a new bookmobile, which made 42 stops over a two-week period, expanding access to library services throughout the community. He noted that Books-by-Mail services are available for homebound residents, along with Talking Books for individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and Adult Literacy Programs designed to strengthen literacy skills. He shared that the library system is a founding member of the Library Coalition and provides vital community support through summer lunch services and weekend meal kits. The system also collaborates with the Norton Museum of Art for book and art-related events that enrich cultural engagement. Additionally, twelve library locations serve as official voting sites during elections. Mr. Crane emphasized that the library system serves as an educational pillar of the community, offering technology instruction, author talks, and programs that celebrate the rich diversity of Palm Beach County. He invited everyone to "Rediscover Reading," encouraging residents to track their reading progress and earn badges through Beanstack. He highlighted the Royal Palm Beach Branch, which has provided seven-day-a-week service since 1993. The branch offers large meeting spaces and serves as a voting location. He reiterated that a resident's library card may be used at any library location throughout Palm Beach County. Mr. Crane also reported on the system's Capital Campaign and ongoing capital improvements, which include plans to renovate all existing branches and construct a new main library on Summit Boulevard. He noted that discussions are underway to place a referendum on the November ballot that would allow voters to consider approving bonds to accelerate the capital improvement program.

Mr. Crance responded to several questions from the Council. He clarified that passport acceptance services are currently available only at the system's main branch. He was asked to connect with the Village's History Club regarding potential collaboration opportunities. A reading challenge was also extended to the Council through Beanstack to encourage community engagement. Mr. Crane confirmed that study rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Larger meeting rooms may be reserved, with no specific time limit for use; however, reservations are limited to once per month. There was also discussion regarding the potential fiscal impact of reduced property tax revenues on the library system. Mr. Crane noted that a decrease in funding would likely result in a corresponding reduction in library services.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Sharps reported on three new businesses in the Village and extended a warm welcome to each of them, expressing her support and enthusiasm for their contributions to the community's continued growth and vitality. She attended the FAX School Advisory Council meeting for Royal Palm Beach Community High School on Tuesday night, where the principal reported

that the school has achieved a 96% graduation rate and a 77% acceleration rate—an increase of 18 points from last year.

Vice Mayor Valuntas announced that the Municipal Election will be held on March 10, 2026, with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. He noted that one polling location has changed specifically for this election and encouraged all residents to check where they will vote for this municipal election.

Councilman Miller recently attended several community events, including the Green Market—where he recognized the organizers—Pirates of the Treasure Coast, the MLK Jr. event, visited the Holocaust Exhibit at Crestwood Middle School, the Rocking Chairs event at Madison Green, the Young at Heart Luncheon, an Education Advisory Board meeting, and a Community Band Concert. At the concert, he announced that Conductor Mark Freed has invited the Council to participate in some of the songs. He also shared his AI Tip of the Month, noting that image-generation tools have advanced significantly and can now create and enhance visuals from simple prompts.

Councilwoman Rodusky reported on Shakespeare in the Palms, thanking the Parks and Recreation Director and recognizing staff for the event's success after moving it from Commons Park to Veterans Park, noting that attendance doubled this year. She also provided an update from the Recreation Advisory Board meeting, where discussions included the Infrastructure Surtax Oversight Committee's review of several projects: the Recreation Center renovation and expansion, associated art in public places, and a new seating area in Veterans Park. She introduced a new concept called 56 Steps, designed to celebrate America's 250th anniversary this year, named in honor of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. The concept includes a "reversed Halloween," where participants go door-to-door to meet neighbors in a community-friendly event scheduled for July 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with the goal of making it an annual tradition. She directed interested participants to scan the provided QR code and emphasized that participation is completely voluntary.
Finally, she announced that West Fest will take place at Commons Park this weekend, Friday through Sunday.

Mayor Hmara encouraged interested residents to help spread the word about the upcoming 56 Steps event to foster greater community unity and participation. He provided an update on the Education Advisory Board meeting, highlighting Cypress Trails Elementary School, an "A"-rated school, which was recently showcased. Among its notable initiatives is an expanding E-sports team that has advanced to a regional competition.
Mayor Hmara also invited residents to attend the regular monthly meeting held on the second Monday of each month. Additionally, he reported on the Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting, where discussions focused on the allocation of federal and state funding for the transportation system. While much of the funding addresses roadway infrastructure, there was a strong emphasis on improving transportation safety. He further explained the Vision Zero program, outlining its goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries. As part of ongoing safety initiatives, he discussed potential regulations regarding the use of e-bikes and e-scooters and directed the Village Manager to collaborate with neighboring municipalities to explore regulatory approaches.

PETITIONS – None

Mayor Hmara announced that Consent Agenda Item No. 10 has been pulled from the agenda.

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

Gerald Brown, of 175 Miramar Avenue, speaking on behalf of the senior citizens in attendance, requested that the Village consider temporarily relocating gym operations to another Village site during construction at the Recreation Center, rather than closing the gym entirely throughout the renovation period.

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 January 15, 2026. (Village Clerk)**

2. **Adoption of Resolution No. 26-03, a resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, approving an application to the Transportation Alternatives Grant Program through the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization for the FPL Pathway Pedestrian and Bike Improvements Project and Park Road North Parking and Pathway Project, and committing to fund ongoing operations and maintenance through the useful life of the projects; authorizing the Mayor or Village Manager to execute all necessary documents; providing an effective date; and for other purposes. (Village Engineer)**

3. **Approval of the bid award in the amount of $62,334.00 and authorization for the Village Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for Veterans Park Splash Pad Demolition (PR2307) to Khan Builders Inc. (Village Engineer)**

4. **Approval of a Special Event Permit for POTTC Events to hold a Seafood Festival at Royal Palm Beach Commons Park on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 15, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (P & Z Director)**

5. **Approval of a Special Event Permit for Fifi, Hair and Beauty LLC to hold a Customer Appreciation Day at Fifi, Hair and Beauty located at 11150 Okeechobee Boulevard, Unit C & D. The event will take place from 12:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. on March 14, 2026. (P & Z Director)**

6. **Approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute the "2026 Municipal Election(s) Vote Processing Equipment Use and Elections Services Agreement" by and between the Palm Beach County**

Supervisor of Elections Office and the Village of Royal Palm Beach. (Village Clerk)

7. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to execute a 5-Year Renewal Agreement for ProjectDox hosted Electronic Plan Review & Project Management system with Avolve Software Corporation for the amount of $564,294.60. (IS Director)**

8. **Adoption of Resolution No. 26-04, 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)**

9. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to enter into an Amended and Restated Second Addendum to Agreement with ET Pressure Cleaning LLC to correct a mathematical error in the overall total for services under the first renewal term. (Director of Parks and Recreation)**

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

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Public hearing for First Reading and Approval of Ordinance No. 1070, amending Chapter 10. Finance and Taxation. at Article IV. Funds and Accounts of Village; Investment Policies., Sec. 10-51. to adopt an amended Village Investment Policy and at Article IV. Purchasing guidelines., sec. 10-94. to update and clarify the delegation of purchasing authority. (Finance Director)**

The Finance Director introduced John Grady of PTMA Financial Solutions / Public Trust Advisors LLC, who provided an overview of the Village's investment program and presented an economic update.

John Grady of PTMA Financial Solutions / Public Trust Advisors LLC provided a brief overview of the Village's investment program. He reviewed current macroeconomic data, noting a strong third-quarter GDP and resilient economic growth of 4.8% through the third quarter. He also commented on a somewhat weaker labor market, with unemployment at 4.4%, and stated that inflation has begun trending back toward the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Mr. Grady explained that public funds investments are governed by State Statute 218.415 and Chapter 280. He presented a year-over-year analysis of U.S. Treasuries and the Federal Funds rate. He further noted that the Village maintains a three-tier investment program and reviewed both the operating portfolio characteristics

and the capital projects portfolio. He confirmed that the investment program is compliant with the current investment policy, as well as the policy being considered for approval this evening.

The Finance Director reviewed the investment policy revisions and structural enhancements. She reported that the most significant change to the investment policy was the restructuring of the policy framework. Several new sections were added, including provisions related to ethics, internal controls, and the role of the investment officer. Additionally, a new statutory requirement was incorporated based on Section 218.415(24)(a), Florida Statutes. The ordinance also includes the Municipal Advisory Rule. In redesigning the framework, investment maturities were reviewed and strengthened while also being simplified, with a maturity cap set at five years. The redesign also updated the maximum allocation limits for certain investment types. Repurchase agreements were reduced from 40 percent to 25 percent. The allowable allocation for U.S. Government Agencies was reduced from 100 percent to 50 percent. Conversely, the allocation for money market mutual funds increased from 50 percent to 75 percent, while the allocations for commercial paper and corporate notes were reduced from 50 percent to 30 percent. The Finance Director also reported on revisions to the purchasing policy, specifically Section 10-94, Delegation of Authority. Major changes include the removal of the Assistant Finance Director from each purchasing approval level and replacing that role with the Finance Director's designee. Additionally, the purchasing levels of $5,000–$9,999 and $10,000–$50,000 were combined for approval purposes only; the requirements for purchases within those ranges remain unchanged. The revisions also clarify that all positions listed at each approval level must provide approval and require that any designee be formally identified in writing.

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 Vice Mayor Valuntas. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

2. Public hearing to consider Application No. 25-018 (SE), an application by Milestone Motor, LLC, on behalf of MSML, LLC, and adoption of Resolution No. 25-13 confirming Council action. The Applicant is requesting Special Exception Use Approval to allow for an "automobile and/or water craft repair and/or service" within the Industrial General (IG) zoning district, for a property located at 180 Business Parkway, Bay 4. * (P & Z Director)

Village Attorney Mitty Barnard stated this is quasi-judicial in nature and then placed under oath all individuals intending to speak on the agenda item and requested that any ex-parte communications be disclosed for the record. The Director of Planning and Zoning stated that the applicant is requesting Special Exception Use approval. The bay within the building is located in the rear of the property, and there is currently a similar automobile repair shop operating within the building. In reviewing the proposed Special Exception, Village staff

considered compatibility with adjacent land uses, consistency with the Village's Comprehensive Plan, and conformance with the Village's development standards for the Industrial General (IG) zoning district. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended approval with the site-specific condition that the applicant submit a minor site plan modification.

Jonathan Osorio, the applicant, was present and available to answer questions and accepted the condition of approval that includes a minor site plan modification.

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

Vice Mayor Valuntas made a motion to approve with the conditions of approval; seconded by Councilman Miller. Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

3. Public hearing to consider Variance Application No. 25-129 (VAR), the applicant, Urban Design Studio, on behalf of 100 Civic Center, LLC, is requesting Variance Approval to allow a variance from Sec. 26-89(4)(c) in order to allow for a 25 foot front yard setback where Village Code requires 50 feet, a variance of 25 feet, for a property located at 100 Civic Center Way. * (P & Z Director)

Village Attorney Mitty Barnard stated this is quasi-judicial in nature and then placed under oath all individuals intending to speak on this agenda item and Item No. 4 and requested that any ex-parte communications be disclosed for the record. The Director of Planning and Zoning reviewed the applicant's request to allow for a 25-foot front yard setback where Village Code requires a 50-foot setback, resulting in a variance of 25 feet. While not precedent-setting, it was noted that the Medical Office Building located just north of the subject property previously received a variance allowing a reduction of the required 50-foot front setback to 25 feet, which is similar to the current variance request. He also reviewed the section of the Code that allows the Council to grant variances. In summary, the applicant contends that the special conditions and circumstances do not result from actions of the applicant. The irregular configuration of the parcel and the prior setback variance approval for the Medical Office use existed prior to the subject application. The requested variance takes into consideration the existing conditions of both the parcel shape and the previously approved setback for the existing Medical Office Building. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval, and staff recommended that the Council consider the request and make a final decision to grant, grant with conditions, or deny the request.

Lentzy Jean-Louis of Urban Design Studio, representing the applicant, reviewed the variance request, including the location and the proposal to match the existing building. He was also available to answer any questions.

The Village Attorney swore in Michele O'Boyle, Founder and Executive Director of the Kids Cancer Foundation, a pediatric oncology nurse, and the applicant. She made a heartfelt request on behalf of the families of children battling

cancer and addressed the financial, emotional, educational, practical, and relational realities of life during and after a cancer diagnosis. She explained that the proposed space would double the organization's existing facility and include an outdoor play area for the children. She stated that the goal is to create a permanent home where families facing childhood cancer can find stability, strength, and community both during treatment and beyond. Ms. O'Boyle also explained the meaning behind the Kids Cancer Foundation's three-heart logo and asked the Village to serve as the fourth heart in support of the organization and the families it serves.

Dave Sager, 10559 Misty Lane, spoke in support of the project and suggested the addition of two or three stories. It was confirmed that the applicant's request is for a one-story building only.

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

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

4. Public hearing to consider Application No. 25-130 (SPM, AAR), an application by Urban Design Studio, on behalf of 100 Civic Center, LLC, and adoption of Resolution No. 25-37 confirming Council action. The applicant is seeking a Site Plan Modification and Architectural Approval to construct a 6,697 square foot building and a play area to support operations for the Kids Cancer Foundation on Parcel 3 of the Village Center PCD, for a property located at 100 Civic Center Way. (Agent: Lentzy Jean-Louis of Urban Design Studio. * (P & Z Director)

The Director of Planning and Zoning reviewed the site plan and the proposed amenities. He presented the landscaping plan and building elevations, noting they are consistent with the existing office building and comply with Village Code. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended approval.

Lentzy Jean-Louis of Urban Design Studio, representing the applicant, was available to answer questions.

At this time, the Village Attorney asked if there was any additional ex-parte communication.

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

Councilman Miller 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.

5. Discussion on Councilman Adam Miller's Teacher Friendly Business Recognition Program.

Councilman Miller made the presentation. Council discussed a proposed Teacher Friendly Business Recognition Program intended to encourage voluntary business discounts/recognition for educators. Discussion topics included the appropriate role of local government in recognizing or promoting private businesses, potential endorsement perceptions, fairness across professions, staff/time impacts, and whether to address the concept during strategic planning and in a business round-table setting. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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Mayor Jeff Hmara

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Diane DiSanto, Village Clerk