

Agenda Item No. C - 1

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of the minutes of the Council Workshop Meeting of May 8, 2025 and Council Regular Meeting of May 15, 2025.

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		6/5/25	

**VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
MINUTES OF COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, MAY 8, 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.
- Telephone: Public may listen only via phone remotely by dialing United States +1 (631) 992-3221, Webinar ID: 673-290-467, Access Code: 164-086-516.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

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

Mayor Hmara summarized workshop meetings are to achieve and provide information as well as to strive for a consensus on particular agenda items. In addition, to provide direction to the staff and in this case the Village's support on Royal Palm Beach schools. He said this was a topic of the strategic planning session and Citizen Summit.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

REGULAR AGENDA

The Village Manager provided information on the strategic planning Council discussion and the desired school support with funding and achieving "A" rated schools as the goals. The Village Manager stated this workshop is to discuss Council desired school support, best practices, provide staff direction and potential funding to be included in the 2026 budget. He reviewed what the Village currently provides to the schools, which includes ten (10) \$1,000 college scholarships. At least four recipients are required to attend Royal Palm Beach High School. Additionally, the Village funds five (5) \$200 donations to the schools supporting Arbor Day in support of the Village's Tree City USA status. The scholarships are guaranteed by allocating funds in the budget and the annual Mayor's Golf Tournament. He reported on the Education Advisory Board and its mission of showcasing our schools. The Village and the schools have had a shared facility use agreement for over 25

years, which recently has included the stage at Commons Park. He explained the shared facility at Royal Palm Elementary school extracted from the Madison Green development for public land dedication. It includes the 15 acres site, half of which is the school and parking lot and the other half is the softball and all-purpose fields. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office coordinates with the school police; crossing guards and includes the bike safety program.

The Village Manager reported on information from two larger cities that have received CDBG funding describing how other local governments deal with education issues. He reported that Palm Beach Gardens donates about \$5,000 a year to local schools, which is designated for their youth and neighborhood programs. He reported the City of Greenacres shares the Royal Palm Beach model and has an Education Advisory Committee that gives out \$15,000 a year in scholarships. The Village of Wellington being one of the two larger cities also receiving CDBG funds gives out \$400,000 in direct grants to local schools annually, has a youth council, an Education Committee, a tutoring program and a variety of other educational programs, such as bringing Civics 101 into middle and high school. Lastly, the Town of Lantana's programs include holding School Advisory Council meetings.

Councilman Miller received insight on the details of the CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) federal government grant.

1. **Workshop for Council action regarding Strategic Planning initiative for Village Support for Schools: Desired Outcomes, Village Role, Best Practices, Direction and Funding. (Village Manager)**

Councilwoman Sharps reported that the Palm Beach County School Board just approved a 5.66 billion dollar budget. She asked for stronger engagement with school principals but said she feels comfortable with the Village's present level of spending on education. She said her goal would be to add 2-3 youth to the Education Advisory Board in order for the students to be more exposed to civics and supported the idea of a youth council as well. She indicated that she is happy with the amount of money currently being donated to the schools and does not feel that the amount needs to be increased. She indicated that knowing more about the schools is important to the Village.

Vice Mayor Valuntas supported participation in the SAC (School Advisory Council) program as well as the tutoring aspect. He indicated that tutoring would be a way to support schools achieving success. He also supported finding ways to recognize good teachers, noting the current shortage.

Councilman Miller emphasized the need to retain good teachers, possibly through low or no cost initiatives like a Royal Palm Beach teacher of the month award program and milestone recognition program. He also recommended “Welcome Tours” for teachers. He also supported the idea of getting the local business community more involved, giving an example of the Village compiling a list of teacher-friendly businesses that would give out teacher discounts. He also pointed to the idea of auctioning out a “Mayor for a Day” program along with participating in career day for the students, members of the Education Advisory Committee being liaisons to each school or members of the school SAC, recognizing teachers during appreciation week and supporting Esports program.

Councilwoman Rodusky stated that she supports prioritizing and prefers no-cost programs with an emphasis on measurable outcomes and parental involvement. She also indicated that she would like to hear from the public regarding financial commitments from the Village. She provides examples of where parents can get involved at a higher level, like participation in civics and career days, read for the record participation, student lead tutoring programs that parents can participate in. She emphasized the role that parents needs to play in these efforts.

Mayor Hmara said he wants to enhance civics education, advocate for, and celebrate schools and education. He mentioned Florida Leage of Cities initiatives like city-government week to increase the advocacy efforts of the Village. In addition, he noted how the Village might do a better job celebrating school achievements as one way to combat negative perceptions of the Village schools. Mayor Hmara then described his plans to expand the potential of the present Education Advisory Board into an enhanced version EAB 3.0. He mentioned his support for creating a youth council, internships, Council and staff to engage in career days, civic education and a youth council.

Councilwoman Sharps also announced there is a “Thank a Teacher Program” as well.

Mayor Hmara asked for input on the following items:

- 1) Desired outcomes

Discussion ensued on desired outcomes with Councilman Valuntas stating the desired outcome is for schools be the highest rated they can be. Councilman Miller indicated his outcome would be that the teachers within the Village feel more appreciated and want to continue working in the Village. Councilwoman Sharps’ desired outcome is more communication with the principals and those in leadership to determine what issue the Village can have an affect on, and further engaging the

students. Mayor Hmara noted his support for engaging with the principals in this discussion. Councilwoman Rodusky would like to increase parent participation and ensure that principal involvement is limited to issues identified by the Council. She further suggested making a connection with the parents during the Education Advisory Board when their children's school is being showcased.

The Village Manager reported that a yearly meeting is currently held with the Principals to discuss traffic circulation on the school property.

2) Village Role

Councilman Valuntas suggested including five (5) more scholarships for students pursuing a teaching profession, having the Education Advisory Board (and SAC) be more involved in the middle and high school levels. Councilwoman Sharps recommending considering soliciting sponsorships from businesses to provide the additional scholarships. Mayor Hmara noted the need for more engagement and the vehicles to create that engagement.

3) Best Practices and Direction and Funding

Mayor Hmara noted the public input from the Citizen Summit and reiterated discussed practices which included developing tutoring and enrichment, educational programs, enhance the mission and charge to the Education Advisory Board to identify issues and develop solutions with the principals.

Mayor Hmara addressed direction and funding opportunities. The Village Manager responded and a discussion ensued with the Mayor clarifying direction that staff will get an estimate of the resources required and if any are budgetary, it will be included in the Budget Workshop meeting when options are discussed including sponsorships if needed.

Councilwoman Rodusky asked for clarification on the direction and the number of elements for the Village Manager to investigate. It was the consensus there were three initiatives, one to create a youth council, participate in Florida City Government Week as outlined by the Florida League of Cities and civic education. Also discussed was to shift the duties of the Education Advisory Board and add a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior student as liaisons to the board to begin to develop the Youth Council.

Mayor Hmara then described his plans to turn the EAB into an enhanced version "EAB 3.0".

Councilman Miller again asked for clarity on the initiatives and the Village Manager responded the direction for staff is to investigate the resources needed to have a Youth Council program and a Florida City Government Week as outlined by the Florida League of Cities as well as explore working with the schools to create a 1) civics education program, 2) internships and 3) career day.

A discussion ensued with career focused scholarships. Councilman Miller added that teacher recognition should not be dropped off and should be discussed at the next Education Advisory Board meeting. Councilman Valuntas concurred and the Mayor confirmed it would be brought up at the next EAB meeting.

2. **Workshop for Council action regarding Strategic Planning initiative for “A” Rated School Strategy: Problem Analysis, Village Role, Desired Outcomes, Direction and Village Actions. (Village Manager)**

Mayor Hmara asked for comments for this agenda item. Councilwoman Rodusky stated the problem analysis is not her top initiative. Councilman Miller referred to his comments from the first agenda item. Councilman Valuntas suggested celebrating the successes and accomplishments of the Village schools and being an advocate for school boundaries. Councilwoman Sharps stated improving the image and reputations of the schools and asking the principals what is needed and increasing parental involvement, developing tutoring. She recommended clear objectives and questions to the principals.

The Village Manager suggested getting a better understanding from the School Board on the school matrix and how the schools are rated.

Mayor Hmara gave an overview of the number of residents/students that attend each school and the various enrollments for different career paths and magnet programs as well as initiatives for each of the schools noting 40 percent of Royal Palm Beach students attend magnet schools outside the Village. He also noted how the Village might do a better job celebrating school achievements as one way to combat negative perceptions of Village schools. Councilwoman Rodusky addressed the image problem and wanted more information about what the schools are doing to improve their image. Also discussed was advertising the programs in the schools and specific points and highlights regarding each school, adding reports to the Education Advisory Board from the school and having students post reports on social media regarding their school.

Mayor Hmara summarized the following areas to address:

1) Problem Analysis and Village Role

Councilwoman Sharps indicated a desire to develop clear objective questions to present to the principals. Councilman Valuntas notes that we need to be advocates for the schools and keep Royal Palm Beach students local and remove the school's negative reputation. Councilman Miller indicated that the Village's role is advocacy and amplifying Village schools.

2) Desired Outcomes

The Village Manager commented that he will get information from principals on what the schools are providing so there are talking points.

3) Direction and Village Actions

Mayor Hmara noted contact with the Florida League of Cities and to having an enhanced version of the Education Advisory Board (EAB 3.0).

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jeff Hmara

Diane DiSanto, Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
MINUTES OF COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
6:30 P.M.**

Ways to Participate

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- 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 (415) 655-0060, Webinar ID: 247-656-635, Access Code: 669-944-186.

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), Village Attorney (Mitty Barnard) and the Village Clerk.

PROCLAMATION HONORING VERDENIA C. BAKER

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

PROCLAMATION FOR BUILDING SAFETY MONTH – MAY 2025

PRESENTATION OF \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO TEN ROYAL PALM BEACH GRADUATING SENIORS: JADA ESMERALDA CASTRO (ROYAL PALM BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); ELOISE GASPARD (SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); RACHEL HUNTER (SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); OGOCHUKWU IKEM (ROYAL PALM BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); JAYLA MIDGET (SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); ROHAN PERSAUD (ROYAL PALM BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); JAMI ROSS (ROYAL PALM BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); BROOKE SCHOFIELD (SEMINOLE RIDGE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL); GABRIELLA SERNA (PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL); CAMERON SHELBY (WELLINGTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL)

Mayor Hmara welcomed the scholarship winners and their families and friends stating the pride with which the Village of Royal Palm Beach gives these scholarships to some of the most successful students living in the Village. Mayor Hmara recognized the Education Advisory Board for their diligent work throughout the selection process. Vice Mayor Valuntas announced, and

members of the Education Advisory Board acknowledged, each of the students and Mayor Hmara presented the checks on behalf of the Village Council.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Sharps attended the Black Elected Officials Scholarship luncheon where \$27,000 in scholarships were given away with a goal of \$54,000 next year. She attended Cultural Diversity Day at Veterans Park and the Palm Beach County League of Cities meeting. She also announced her birthday is tomorrow.

Vice Mayor Valuntas reported on the Royal Palm Beach High School graduation.

Councilman Miller attended Cultural Diversity Day, wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day, and he too reported on the Royal Palm Beach High School graduation. He provided information on Notebook LM by Google, which is a note-taking tool for your documents and has the ability to create a podcast.

Councilwoman Rodusky reported on the Recreation Advisory Board meeting where it was noted that co-ed youth basketball K – 8 finished their season with 200 participants, 24 teams, co-ed volleyball for 10 -14 year olds have five junior teams and seven senior teams and 108 participants. She reported that the youth baseball, softball, soccer and travel basketball leagues are in full swing. She noted that all summer camps are to capacity. She reported on all other sports and activities that available as well as their enrollment numbers. She met with a leader in the Youth Council of Wellington who was instrumental in forming the youth council and recruiting students. He offered his assist in the development of a youth council for the Village. There is a concert and food truck event Friday night at Commons Park featuring 56 Ace and Saturday will be the last Green Market for the season. She invited everyone to attend the Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 26th at Veterans Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. In addition, Councilwoman Rodusky invited everyone to celebrate the unveiling of the Village Hall's new artwork "Rooted" at 4:30 p.m. on June 30th where there will be a presentation and refreshments.

Mayor Hmara too attended the Royal Palm Beach High School graduation and thanked the Principal for another successful year. He reported on the Education Advisory Board meeting and noted a lot of interest in the school initiatives. Mayor Hmara referred to the Countywide Transportation Master Plan noting contract negotiations are underway and that a consultant has been selected. He encouraged everyone to attend the next Community Band Concert scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on June 24th at the Cultural Center.

The Village Attorney commented that a Legislative Memo draft has been published by his office and sent to the Village Manager's office for distribution.

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 Regular Meeting of April 17, 2025. (Village Clerk)**
2. **Approval of bid award and authorization for the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder in the amount of \$827,125.00 for Debris Removal Services. (Director of Public Works)**
3. **Approval of a special event permit for Mission BBQ Company to hold an “Armed Forces Day Celebration” honoring our military; active and retired at a Mission BBQ Restaurant located at 11929 Southern Boulevard. The event will take place during business hours on May 17, 2025. (Director of P & Z)**
4. **Approval and authorization for the Village Manager to enter into a Professional Services Agreement for Surveying Services with BGE, Inc. for various projects in the Village of Royal Palm Beach. (Village Engineer)**

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. **Public hearing to consider Variance Application No. 24-089 (VAR), the applicant, Urban Design Studio, on behalf of WPB Ops Land LLC, is requesting variances from Code Sec. 26-92(4)(d) in order to allow for three (3) 75-foot tall silos where Village Code limits the maximum building height to 32 feet, a variance of 43 feet, and to allow for asphalt piles not to exceed 78-feet where Village Code limits the height to 32 feet, a variance of 46 feet, for a property located at 606 95th Avenue North. * (Director of P & Z)**

This was quasi-judicial and the Village Attorney (Mitty Barnard) swore in all who will speak on this item as well as items no. 2 and 3, and asked for ex-parte disclosures. The Director of P & Z reviewed the location of the industrial site, reviewed the criteria for granting a variance, and reviewed the variance request. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended denial.

Lentzy Jean-Louis of Urban Design Studio requested approval and made a presentation that included showing the site location, gave a history of the site, and recapped previous approvals. He reported this is located in an IL zoning district, and noted the property is a 20.28 acres site. It includes three 78’ tall silos, 4,183 square foot quality control testing lab, a 1,262 square foot accessory office, two open-air shipping containers roof and sufficient striped parking. He showed the typical detail of the silo and access for the trucks

while reviewing the requested variances in order to make this site more efficient. He did note there would be no additional traffic. He reviewed the original development agreement, showed views from the surrounding roadways, Coral Sky Plaza, the car dealership employee parking lot and the 95th Avenue buffer. He asked for consideration to change and revise the current Conditions of Approval specifically under Section 2. Site Specific Conditions, D and E and explained the reasoning.

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 the Variance with the requested revised conditions of approval; seconded by Councilwoman Sharps. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

The applicant's attorney Brian Seymour, Esq. asked for clarification on the conditions of approval. The Village Attorney (Mitty Barnard) confirmed the conditions of approval do not apply to the variance request but the motion and second included the revised conditions of approval.

2. Public hearing to consider Application No. 24-125 (SE) an Application by Urban Design Studio, on behalf of WPB Ops Land, LLC, and adoption of Resolution No. 24-42 confirming Council action. The applicant is requesting Special Exception Use approval to allow for an expansion of the existing "asphalt or concrete plant" use in order to permit the addition of three (3) 75-foot silos, within the Industrial Limited (IL) zoning district, for a property located 606 95th Avenue North. * (Director of P & Z)

The Director of P & Z reviewed the special exception request noting it is consistent with the comprehensive plan and complies with all development regulations. He stated the special exception does not have adverse environmental impacts, vehicle or pedestrian traffic impacts, impacts on public facilities, impacts on adjacent properties, property values, is not deterrent to the improvement or development of the adjacent property and will not reduce the quality or quantity of light or air to adjacent properties. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended approval contingent on the approval of the Variance.

The Village Attorney (Mitty Barnard) asked for ex-parte disclosures and noted the site-specific changes to the Conditions of Approval, Section 2. C and D requested by the applicant needs to be reflected in the motion if desired.

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 with the revised conditions of approved requested by the applicant; seconded by Vice Mayor Valuntas. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

3. **Public hearing to consider Application No. 24-088 (SPM,AAR), an application by Urban Design Studio, and adoption of Resolution No. 24-41 confirming Council action. The applicant is seeking Site Plan Modification and Architectural Approval to construct three (3) 75-foot tall silos to be used in conjunction with the existing asphalt production facility, stripe and pave an existing employee space to be ADA accessible, and update the site plan to reflect existing conditions, for a property located at 606 95th Avenue North. * (Director of P & Z)**

The Director of P & Z reviewed the proposed site plan and noted this meets the requirements of the Industrial Limited zoning district as it pertains to parcel size, parcel width, setbacks, pervious area and parking requirements. The site landscaping layout remains unchanged from the initial approval as well as the access from 95th Avenue North. The Planning and Zoning Commission and staff recommended approval.

The Village Attorney (Mitty Barnard) asked for ex-parte disclosures and noted the site-specific changes to the Conditions of Approval, Section 2. C and D requested by the applicant needs to be reflected in the motion if desired.

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

Councilwoman Sharps made a motion to approve with the revised conditions of approval requested by the applicant; seconded by Vice Mayor Valuntas. Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

4. **Appointment of one Alternate member to the Education Advisory Board. (Council Liaison)**

Mayor Hmara, Council Liaison, made a recommendation to appoint Tanya R. Small to the alternate seat with a term expiring 2026.

Vice Mayor Valuntas moved to appoint Tanya R. Small to the alternate seat with a term expiring 2026; seconded by Councilman Miller. Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

5. **Annual review, evaluation and merit pay determination for Village Manager. (Village Attorney)**

Mayor Hmara stated that in accordance with Village Code Section 2-2(b) and the Village Manager's contract, the Council shall review and evaluate the performance of the Manager at least once annually. Mayor Hmara identified six criteria and noted the Council may grant a merit pay for one year from 0% – 5%.

The Village Attorney (Keith Davis) further explained that the Village Manager is in the second year of his contract and the merit increase is only added to his

base in year one. The Village Manager's contract for years 2 - 5, the merit is provided as a lump sum payment that does not affect the base pay.

Councilwoman Rodusky commented on all six criteria of the evaluation standards that included Employee Relations, Image, Long Range Planning, Financial Management, Communications and Completion and direction of capital projects. She stated her score was 4.8 and stated her appreciation for his leadership, care and concern for the residents, government and our team.

Councilman Miller shared his comments personally with the Village Manager, thanked him for his leadership and rated him at the highest level.

Vice Mayor Valuntas reviewed the salary history of his employment as Village Manager and agreed with Councilwoman Rodusky on the 4.8% rating.

Councilwoman Sharps gave her review and thanked the Village Manager with a recommendation of a 5% merit.

Mayor Hmara gave his review on the Village Manager's employee relations and image, noting he is meticulous and appreciated his willingness to participate, specifically with the Countywide Transportation Master Planning program. Mayor Hmara commented on his long range planning citing the Citizen Summit as a success. He too evaluated him on the completion and direction on capital projects and communications. Mayor Hmara supported the 4.8 – 4.9% merit increase and asked for a recommendation from Council. Councilwoman Rodusky added her score was an assessment of the criteria and recommended a 5% merit pay.

Councilwoman Sharps made a motion to approve a 5% merit pay; seconded by Councilman Miller. Mayor Hmara put the motion to a vote and it passed unanimously.

The Village Manager thanked the Council.

Mayor Hmara referred to the recent school workshop meeting held and the comments made regarding a survey to reach out to the principals on what their needs are to rise to an "A" rated school. He provided a rough draft of a principal survey and asked for support to send it out to the principals after all Councilmembers have provided modifications. A discussion ensued and it was the consensus to review and provide input to the Village Manager, making sure the questions have guardrails around the initiatives previously discussed that include no cost services. A discussion ensued on how to structure the questions without offering examples. It was the consensus to place this as a regular agenda item for discussion at the Council Regular meeting of July 17, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Jeff Hmara

Diane DiSanto, Village Clerk

