

MINUTES
CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING
Holiday Inn -- Pelican Sandpiper Room
401 2nd Street, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida 33785
Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Commissioner Hilary King
- Commissioner John Bigelow
- Commissioner Jude Bond (phoned in)
- Vice Mayor-Commissioner Janet Wilson
- Mayor-Commissioner Denise Houseberg

Also present: Acting City Manager/ Finance Director Dan Carpenter, City Clerk Lorin Kornijtschuk, and City Attorney Matthew Maggard

For continuity, items are listed in agenda order, although not necessarily discussed in that order.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg opened public comments. No members of the public were present. Public comments closed.

2. FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03 -- PUBLIC HEARING / SECOND READING

Adopting the final levying of ad valorem taxes for the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Pinellas County, Florida, Fiscal Year 2025/2026; providing for notification of requisite government authorities; and providing for an effective date.

City Attorney Maggard read Ordinance No. 2025-03 by title and noted for the record:

- The proposed millage rate of 1.7300 will produce a total estimated tax collection of \$3,574,070 based on a 97% collection rate
- The millage rate of 1.7300 is 2.80% higher than the rollback rate of 1.6829
- The proposed millage rate of 1.7300 remains one of the lowest in Pinellas County, which ranges from 0.5345 to 6.5

Public Hearing opened: Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg opened the public hearing. No public comments were received. Public hearing closed.

Motion: Vice Mayor-Commissioner Wilson motioned to accept Ordinance No. 2025-03, the second reading of the ad valorem tax rate.

Second: Commissioner King seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bigelow, Bond, King, Wilson, Houseberg

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

B. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04 -- PUBLIC HEARING / SECOND READING

Adopting a budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026; making appropriations and operating expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025/2026; providing for notification of requisite government authorities; and providing for an effective date.

City Attorney Maggard read Ordinance No. 2025-04 by title.

Public Hearing opened: Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg opened the public hearing. No public comments were received. Public hearing closed.

Motion: Vice Mayor-Commissioner Wilson motioned to accept Ordinance No. 2025-04, the second reading of the budget for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Second: Commissioner Bigelow seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bigelow, Bond, King, Wilson, Houseberg

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

3. OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A resolution of the City of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida, enumerating the different types of residential and commercial solid waste collection methods and setting the schedule of fees for the collection and disposal of garbage, trash and solid waste in the City of Indian Rocks Beach, pursuant to chapter 50 Solid Waste, Article II Collection and Disposal, Division 3 Fees and Charges, Section 50-91 Fee schedule, and providing for an effective date.

City Attorney Maggard read Resolution No. 2025-11 by title.

Commission Discussion: Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg inquired about notification procedures for residents and commercial customers regarding the solid waste fee changes, particularly for properties still uninhabitable due to hurricane damage.

Acting City Manager Response: Acting City Manager Carpenter explained:

- Solid waste fees do not require the same formal notification requirements as water and sewer rates
- The city bills for solid waste collection service on properties regardless of occupancy status, consistent with the city's historical approach for a transient community with snowbirds and second homes
- Properties must be officially declared demolished through county certification to be removed from billing
- The ordinance is structured with a base fee for service availability rather than usage-based billing
- Rate increase represents approximately \$1.75 per month for residential properties (from \$38.62 to \$40.55 monthly)
- Effective date is October 1st, with transitional billing to accommodate monthly billing cycles
- Some residents who lost homes in the hurricane have been removed from billing upon receiving demolition certificates, but occupied or occupiable properties continue to be billed under the existing ordinance structure

Public Hearing opened: Mayor-Commissioner Houseberg opened the public hearing. No public comments were received. Public hearing closed.

Motion: Vice Mayor-Commissioner Wilson motioned to accept Resolution No. 2025-11 with regards to waste collection and disposal for both commercial and residential properties within Indian Rocks Beach.

Second: Commissioner King seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bigelow, Bond, King, Wilson, Houseberg

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIED 5-0

4. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion: Vice Mayor-Commissioner Wilson motioned for adjournment.

Second: Commissioner King seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.