



Islamorada, Village of Islands

REVISED REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

January 6, 2026 - 5:30 PM
Founders Park Community Center
87000 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Don Horton called the meeting to order at 05:30 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Don Horton, Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney, Council Member Steve Friedman, Council Member Deb Gillis, Council Member Anna Richards,

ABSENT:

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Wischmeier. An invocation was delivered by Tony Hammon..

III. AGENDA: Requests for Deletion / Emergency Additions

Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney added a discussion under Mayor/Council Communications. Mayor Horton added a legislative update by the Village lobbyist under Reports and Presentations and asked for a moment of silence.

IV. REPORTS, PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. FCAA Update on the Plantation Key Transmission Main Replacement Project - Project Manager Aaron Cutler

Project Manager Aaron Cutler provided an update on the status and timeline of the project.

V. CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS & APPOINTMENTS

- A. Legislative Update – Kate DeLoach, The Southern Group

Ms. DeLoach provided an overview of the upcoming legislative session, Florida Keys Day activities, and property tax legislation. Council discussed scheduling weekly public meetings with lobbyists during the legislative session.

- B. Appointment to the Workforce/Affordable Housing Committee for Term Ending December 31, 2027 **TAB 1**

VI. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney thanked the community for turning out for the Toys for Keys Kids and announced the upcoming event to dedicate the dog park at Founders Park in honor of "Mangrove" Mike Forster.

Village Manager Ron Saunders gave updates on the requested RFP/RFQ for Rideshare and the Machado Property.

Council discussed the cottage at Green Turtle Hammock Preserve, noting that they would like to offer use of the property to various 501c3s in addition to Florida Bay Forever, whose lease was expiring in March.

Mayor Don Horton recognized Village staff with January birthdays and noted he would be giving recognition each month.

VII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

A. Discussion of Status Update/After Action Report Expectations

Council consensus was that the report should summarize actions directed by the Council during the meetings.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Don Horton opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Sue Miller

Joe Wischmeier

Jodie Cerra, representing Florida Bay Forever

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Horton closed public comment.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Don Horton opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Henry Rosenthal

Sue Miller

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Horton closed public comment.

Tab 4 was pulled for discussion.

ACTION: Motion to Approve with the removal of Tab 4 item IX. by Deb Gillis second by Sharon Mahoney;
Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- A. December 9, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes **TAB 2** Marne McGrath, Village Clerk
- B. Resolution Approving Work Authorization No. 7 with Conch Tree and Landscape Professionals Inc. for Invasive Plant Management Services **TAB 3** Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager
A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 7 WITH CONCH TREE AND LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS INC., FOR INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AUTHORIZING VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 7; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 7; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
- C. Resolution Approving Amendment 2 to FDOT Public Transit Service Development Grant **TAB 5** Alyssa Panzer, Grants and Environmental Coordinator
A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AMENDMENT 2 TO GRANT AGREEMENT G2M67 BETWEEN THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EXPANSION OF THE FREEBEE PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AMENDMENT; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
- D. Resolution Acknowledging and Accepting FDOT Right-of-Way Encroachments Associated with the SR 5/US-1 Mill and Resurface Roadway Project from West of Venetian Boulevard to North of Executive Bay Club **TAB 6** A.J. Engelmeyer, Public Works Director
A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR OFF-SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE RELATED TO RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SR 5/US-1 MILL AND RESURFACE ROADWAY PROJECT; PROVIDING

FOR AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- E. Resolution for Approval of Amendment to the Village-Owned Parks Special Events Policy and Fee Schedule **TAB 7** Maria Bagiotti, Founders Park Director

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING AMENDMENT TO THE VILLAGE-OWNED PARKS SPECIAL EVENTS POLICY AND FEE SCHEDULE; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

X. **END OF CONSENT AGENDA**

XI. RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Approving Work Authorization No. 1 with CBT Construction Development for Green Turtle Hammock Preserve Classroom Demolition **Consent Agenda item TAB 4** Peter Frezza, Environmental Resources Manager

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, APPROVING WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 1 WITH CBT CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT INC., FOR GREEN TURTLE HAMMOCK PRESERVE CLASSROOM DEMOLITION SERVICES; AUTHORIZING VILLAGE OFFICIALS TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 1; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 1; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Pulled from Consent for discussion of options.

Environmental Resources Manager Pete Frezza clarified that the item was not to demo the house, but for a classroom that has significant mold damage and has no historical significance.

ACTION: Motion to Approve item IX.C. by Anna Richards second by Deb Gillis;

Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- B. Resolution Opposing New Off-Shore Oil and Gas Leasing -
Sponsored by Mayor Don Horton **TAB 8**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF
FLORIDA IN THE FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL
SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM**

Mayor Don Horton noted that he requested the inclusion of this item to highlight the need to protect our waters.

Mayor Don Horton opened public comment.

Speakers included:

Barry Wray,

Sue Miller

Joe Wischmeier

Jodie Cerra, representing Florida Bay Forever

Capt. Ed Davidson

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Horton closed public comment.

ACTION: Motion to Approve item XI.A. by Steve Friedman second by Deb Gillis;

Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

- C. Resolution Establishing a Charter Review Committee **TAB 9** John Quick, Interim Village Attorney

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA,
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A CHARTER
REVIEW COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO
THE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGARDING THE VILLAGE CHARTER;
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Village Attorney John Quick outlined the proposed Charter Review Committee, consisting of seven members—one appointed by each Council Member and two at-large residents. He noted that any Charter amendments must be finalized by May 31, 2026 to be eligible for placement on the ballot. Meetings would be subject to Sunshine Law requirements, include monthly updates to Council, and the committee would sunset after approximately seven months upon completion of a draft.

Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney emphasized the importance of the Charter and its connection to the Village's Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan. She expressed concern about proceeding without professional expertise and supported engaging a qualified consultant through a competitive process prior to appointments.

Council Member Steve Friedman agreed with Vice Mayor Mahoney and suggested adopting the resolution while deferring committee appointments to allow additional public input.

Council Member Deb Gillis opposed outsourcing the Charter review, stating that residents can perform the work. She supported adopting the resolution and delaying appointments until a subsequent meeting, emphasizing the importance of well-publicized meetings and referencing her prior experience on a Charter Review Committee.

Mayor Don Horton described the Charter as a community-driven document and stated that, while the timeline was tight, it was achievable. He supported initiating the review using the Strategic Plan and noted that a knowledgeable facilitator could assist in launching the committee.

Council Member Anna Richards supported a resident-led process with professional review of the committee's work before finalization.

Mayor Don Horton opened public comment.

Speakers included:
Joe Wischmeier
Bernie LaPira

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Horton closed public comment.

ACTION: Motion to Approve creation of the committee with appointments to be made on January 8 and to find a facilitator to moderate the meetings and appoint a staff liaison item XI.B. by Deb Gillis second by Anna Richards;

Motion Passed with a 5:0 vote

AYES: Sharon Mahoney, Don Horton, Steve Friedman, Deb Gillis, Anna Richards

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

XII. MOTIONS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Steve Friedman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm



Marne McGrath, Village Clerk