

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting Held on September 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM in the Town Council Chambers.

Members Present: Bridget Moran, Lewis Crampton, Bobbie Lindsay, Danielle Moore, Julie Araskog

Members Absent: Ted Cooney

Staff Present: Kirk Blouin, Bob Miracle, Kelly Churney, and Town Attorney Joanne O'Connor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Lindsay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

COMMENTS

1. MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments were heard at this time.

2. PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

No comments were heard at this time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council President Lindsay announced the public hearing was being held to adopt the fiscal year 2026 mileage rate, general fund debt service fund, and other fund budgets.

She asked Town Clerk Churney to confirm that the public hearing had been publicly advertised and announced to commence at 5:01 p.m. Town Clerk Churney provided the proof of publication.

Council President Lindsay stated that at the September 8, 2025, Public Hearing, the Mayor and Town Council tentatively approved the proposed millage rate for the General Fund Operating Millage of 2.6110 mills. The Town of Palm Beach Fiscal Year 2026 General Fund proposed an operating millage rate of 2.6110 mills, representing a 7.4% increase from the "rolled-back millage rate" of 2.4310 mills. Council President Lindsay asked Town Manager Blouin to identify why the ad valorem taxes were being increased from the rolled-back rate.

Mr. Blouin provided a summary of the September 8, 2025, meeting. He stated that keeping the millage rate at 2.6110 required a supermajority vote of the Town Council, which passed 4-1. Further, he noted that to pass the fiscal year 2026 budget today would also require another supermajority vote, 4-0, noting that the voting structure was different. Mr. Blouin explained the Town Council's options for setting the millage rate. Adopting the same rate approved on September 8 (2.6110) would require a 4-0 vote. Choosing the lower workshop rate of 2.5311 would need a 3-1 vote, but would reduce revenue by \$2.6 million. If no agreement is reached, the state law defaults to the rollback rate of 2.4310, which would result in a \$6.3 million revenue loss.

Council Member Araskog inquired about the options if there was no agreement. Would it be possible to convene another meeting in the next two weeks? Town Attorney O'Connor stated that the Town Council had limited options to reschedule and urged them to make a decision to avoid default. She stated that if a decision could not be reached, it could return to the rolled back rate of 2.4310 mills.

Town Manager Blouin explained that the FY2026 General Fund budget increased by \$8,151,345 or 6.84% from the FY2025 budget. The increase is mostly the result of higher salaries, benefits, and contractual costs. Salaries and benefits increased primarily due to new positions, which included four police officers for safety and traffic needs, two Police Service Aides, and three and a half full-time equivalent positions in Recreation and Police for the Phipps Park project with the Preservation Foundation. The positions for the Phipps Park project are budgeted for the last two months of FY2026. Rising healthcare and pharmaceutical costs required the town to increase the funding by \$2.5 million for the Healthcare Fund. In addition to inflationary causes, contractual costs increased due to operational and technological upgrades, training, legal and security services, and utility expenses.

Council President Lindsay called for public comment. No one indicated a desire to speak.

GENERAL BUSINESS

3. **116-2025** A Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida Adopting The Final Millage Rate And Levying Ad Valorem Taxes For The Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, And Ending September 30, 2026; Setting Forth Certain Information Regarding The Rolled-Back Millage Rate; Directing The Town Manager Or The Deputy Town Manager, Finance And Administration To

Adjust The Adopted Millage Rate In The Event Of Changes In The Assessment Roll
And Taxable Value; Providing An Effective Date.

Town Manager Blouin read Resolution No. 116-2025 by title only.

Council President Lindsay called for public comment. No one indicated a desire to speak.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton stated he had received encouragement from town residents over the points he made at the last meeting. He wanted to offer an opportunity to his colleagues to change their minds. Therefore, he made the following motion.

A motion was made by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the amended Resolution No. 116-2025 with the lower millage rate of 2.5311. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Council Member Araskog thanked Council President Pro Tem Crampton for his comments and understood his position. She stated that if Council Member Cooney were present, she believed that the budget would pass with the millage rate of 2.6110 with a supermajority. Therefore, she made the following motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Moran to approve Resolution No. 116-2025. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton supported the motion because he believed the lower millage rate 2.4310 would harm the budget.

4. **117-2025** A Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, Adopting A Final Budget And Appropriating Funds For The Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2025, And Ending September 30, 2026; Providing For An Effective Date.

Town Manager Blouin read Resolution No. 117-2025 by title only.

Council President Lindsay called for public comment. No one indicated a desire to speak.

A motion was made by Council President Pro Tem Crampton and seconded by Council Member Moran to approve Resolution No. 117-2025. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

**Note: A short break was taken at 5:19 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 5:24 p.m.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5. **118-2025** A Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Palm Beach, Florida, Authorizing Participation In A Lawsuit Seeking, Among Other Things, To Declare That Senate Bill 180's Imposition Of A Blanket Statewide Prohibition On The Exercise Of Home Rule Authority Over Land Use And Zoning Regulations, Is Unconstitutional And Should Be Enjoined, And Retaining Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, PL To Prosecute The Lawsuit; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Town Attorney Joanne O'Connor read Resolution No. 118-2025 by title only. Ms. O'Connor explained that the law firm Weiss Serota Heifman Cole + Bierman represents about 20 municipalities and two counties in challenging the constitutionality of SB 180. The cost to the Town would be a \$10,000 flat fee for trial court representation, with caps of \$5,000 each for appeals to the district court and the Florida Supreme Court. She noted the firm had previously succeeded in obtaining injunctive relief for the Town and others on the Form 6 issue. She added that, based on prior Council consensus, the resolution reflects a desire to participate in the lawsuit and encourages other local governments to join and coordinate efforts.

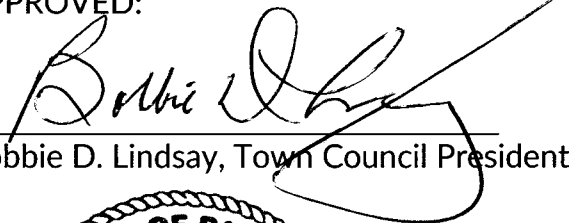
Council President Lindsay called for public comment. No one indicated a desire to speak.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve Resolution No. 118-2025. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

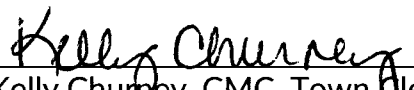
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Moran to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 PM. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

APPROVED:


Bobbie D. Lindsay, Town Council President

APPROVED:


Kelly Churney, CMC, Town Clerk
Date: 10/14/25

