

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Held on February 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 09:31 AM in the Town Council Chambers.

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

Staff Present: Kirk Blouin, Carolyn Stone, Bob Miracle, Paul Brazil, and Kelly Churney

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Clerk Churney delivered the invocation, and Council President Lindsay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Town Clerk Churney asked to remove Resolution 9-2026 for discussion. Council Member Araskog asked to remove Resolution 18-2026 for discussion.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

1. Minutes of the January 5, 2026, Special Town Council Meeting
2. Minutes of the January 13, 2026, Town Council Meeting
3. Minutes of the January 14, 2026, Local Planning Agency Meeting
4. Minutes of the January 14, 2026, Town Council Development Review Meeting
5. Minutes of the January 18, 2026, Architectural Commission Meeting

6. Approval of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Action Regarding a Landmark Adjustment
8. **10-2026** A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approving a purchase order to Zoll Medical Corporation for Zenix Monitor/Defibrillator, EMS/Fire Configuration Units and Accessories in the amount of \$388,020.46.
9. **12-2026** A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approving ITN No. 2026-009, awarding a pre-qualification pool of firms to provide installation and configuration services for camera projects Town-wide to Broadcast Systems, Care Security Systems, Inc. and Prosegur Security LLC for a five-year period based on satisfactory performance.
10. **14-2026** A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Supervisor of Elections for the March 2026 Municipal Election(s) Vote Processing Equipment Use and Election Services.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

COMMENTS

12. MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Moore read a proclamation recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Police and Fire Foundation. Mayor Moore announced the following February milestones: 10 years of service for Benjamin Alma (PD) and Kelly Churney (TCO); 15 years of service for Anthony Chateauvert (REC) and 20 years of service for Patricia Gayle-Gordon (TCO).

Mayor Moore reminded everyone that the 2026 Parking Permit Portal is now open and that 2025 white parking permit stickers remain valid through February 28, 2026. Mayor Moore expressed appreciation for Town staff and highlighted the Mayor's General Employee Appreciation Fund, which continues to support recognition of employee contributions across departments. She announced that Presidents' Day impacts include no construction or landscaping on February 16, 2026, and administrative offices will be closed. Mayor Moore noted that the Palm Beach Police and Fire Foundation's Citizens' Academy will take place on February 18, 25, and March 4 and 11, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and encouraged residents and business owners to register. She reminded residents about the next "Bring Your Own Device" technology open house on February 24, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., to assist with public meeting-related items and Town communications. Finally, she announced that March Town Council meetings would be held on March 3 and 4, 2026, to accommodate Election Day on March 10, 2026.

Council Member Araskog thanked the Police and Fire Foundation for their generosity and partnership. She asked residents for patience with the traffic conditions in the Town, especially when one of the main roads is closed. Council Member Araskog discussed the reason that the

parking permits required residents to submit a driver's license and insurance information. She concluded that she was saddened to see a political PAC backing one of the candidates.

Mayor Moore discussed the calls she had received; she stated that people were surprised by how well traffic was in the town. Mayor Moore thought there were two PACs in the town.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton requested that the Town Manager and Police Chief review traffic data from last year and this year and provide a comparison at next month's meeting. He thought the traffic had improved this season. Council President Pro Tem Crampton stated that there were no new updates from the FAA. He asked Mr. Brazil about the new noise monitor. Director of Public Works Paul Brazil discussed his meeting and provided locations in the town. He said staff had shown the noise monitor professionals where the storm and sanitary pump stations are located for placement, since those areas have power and typically have an antenna. The airport staff will discuss those locations and let staff know what works best for them. Council President Pro Tem Crampton discussed his conversations with the Palm Beach Citizens Association about the conditions and expansion of A1A. He asked Mr. Brazil to hold an informational meeting for residents at the South Fire Station. Mr. Brazil said yes and that FDOT would be glad to participate.

Council Member Moran stated that the residents and landscapers had done a nice job of not littering the streets with debris in the north end. She thanked the Police and Fire Foundation for their generosity and partnership. Council Member Moran understood Council Member Araskog's concerns about requiring citizens to submit private information for parking permits, but noted that Palm Beach was not the only township requiring such information. Council Member Moran thought that traffic mitigation measures were working. Council Member Moran wondered whether there was an appetite to reduce the size of boards and commissions. There was no expressed interest, and Ms. Moran noted that residents had asked her to bring it up at the public meeting.

Council President Lindsay thanked the Police and Fire Foundation for their partnership. She spoke about the tools and services that public safety can offer thanks to the foundation's generosity.

Mr. Blouin stated he would present a traffic update at next month's meeting. He acknowledged the residents' frustration while outlining the efforts staff continue to make to improve traffic conditions. He thanked the Police and Fire Foundation and noted how that organization had helped strengthen community relationships.

Council Member Araskog asked about the locations where Mr. Brazil was looking at the noise monitor. Mr. Brazil responded between Southern and Midtown. Everglades Island seems central, and there is currently a noise monitor in that area. Council Member Moran asked whether they had been checked to ensure they were functioning, and Mr. Brazil said yes and that they were owned and maintained by the airport. Council President Lindsay asked whether the plan would be to revert to the previous air traffic pattern once the President is no longer in office.

Mr. Blouin stated that the town is seeking access and that citizens are also filing complaints through several channels. He said there is a united front addressing air traffic noise. He stated that Congresswoman Frankel had met with the FAA and is advocating for the residents of Palm Beach. She is representing the Town of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, and Palm Beach County.

Council Member Araskog asked whether an additional alert could be sent to residents about where to submit noise complaints to the FAA.

13. PUBLIC - 3 MINUTE LIMIT

Diane Buehler, Friends of Palm Beach, announced a Valentine's Day beach cleanup on Saturday at the North Shore Beach Club starting at 8:30 a.m. She encouraged Race of Hope 5K participants to join and noted recent coverage about oil and plastics in the ocean, expressing optimism about collaboration with WHOI (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution). She praised the Shore Protection Board for its expertise and engagement, acknowledged funds raised for derelict vessel removal, and thanked donors for supporting Friends of Palm Beach. Council President Pro Tem Crampton asked Ms. Buehler if they expected an influx of sargassum. Ms. Buehler reported that NOAA and the University of South Florida were using NASA satellites to forecast Sargassum, currently with a two-day lead time. A significant influx is expected this year, with early signs already appearing despite the season typically starting in April.

Maria Drelick, 215 Onondaga Avenue, expressed frustration over receiving multiple traffic citations despite a previously clean driving record. She cited narrow streets and heavy North End traffic as contributing factors and described the citations as unfair and stressful. She requested that the most recent ticket be dismissed. Council President Lindsay advised Ms. Drelick to contact the Police Department, noting the Town Council could not intervene.

Rick Salvadore, Co-Chair of the Citizens Association of Palm Beach, previewed the February 26 annual meeting and outlined priorities for South End residents. These include shoreline resilience and dune restoration, zoning reform under Chapter 134, infrastructure and traffic improvements along A1A with FDOT coordination, and enhancements to landscaping and benches to create resident-friendly spaces. He emphasized nonpartisan civic governance with an educational Town Council candidate forum and highlighted a new strategic communication initiative, Citizens Direct, to improve resident engagement.

Anita Seltzer, 44 Cocoanut Row, criticized last month's decision approving new uses, questioning reliance on a judge's report that referenced flawed traffic data and a county letter based on inaccurate information. She thought that such approvals would worsen congestion, require parking beyond available spaces, and create cumulative impacts, including issues with the upcoming synagogue project and frequent bridge malfunctions. Ms. Seltzer urged the Council to review its decision, stating it failed to comply with the comprehensive plan and code, and warned of potentially irreparable consequences for the town.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. Recognition of Martin Klein for his Service on the Code Enforcement Board from January 2021 to December 2025

Mayor Moore recognized Martin Klein for his service on the Code Enforcement Board.

15. Palm Beach Island Cats Annual Report

David Leavitt, of Palm Beach Island Cats, thanked the Council for its support of the cat management program, noting its success in reducing the homeless cat population by 50% during COVID and the loss of 25% of feeding stations. He emphasized the ongoing challenges, including replacing volunteers and managing tomcats that spread disease, while stressing the importance of rabies vaccinations. Mr. Leavitt highlighted the organization's commitment to keeping cats safe and acknowledged the community's financial support, which allows the program to continue despite future staffing concerns.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton commended the Palm Beach Island Cats organization for the work they have done to benefit the Town.

Council Member Moran echoed Council President Pro Tem Crampton's sentiments.

Council Member Araskog asked about the increase in the cat population since 2023. Mr. Leavitt responded that during COVID, people dropped off cats on the island rather than in the truck lot in West Palm Beach. He said that caused the increase in the cat population.

Mr. Blouin asked Mr. Leavitt if he had any information on who was bringing the cats onto the island. Mr. Leavitt had no information about who was dropping cats off on the island; however, he thought they were being dropped off by organized groups who believed the cats would have a better chance of survival if dropped off in the Town.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Cooney to accept the Annual Report of Palm Beach Island Cats as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

At this time, Council President Lindsay asked to hear the Annual Report of the Shore Protection Board.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Cooney to modify the agenda to move the Annual Report of the Shore Protection Board to be heard before the Appointments to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

18. Annual Report of the Shore Protection Board

Sara Westfall, Coastal Coordinator, introduced the newly elected Chair of the Shore Protection Board, Ronald Matzner.

Mr. Matzner provided an overview of the Shore Protection Board activities and coastal projects. He noted plans to double the number of board meetings in 2026. He highlighted successful dune restoration in Reach 8, including the delivery of 28,000 cubic yards of sand and the securing of a long-awaited permit for beach renourishment. He commended staff and consultants for these achievements and outlined upcoming projects, including a 500,000-cubic-yard renourishment in Midtown. Mr. Matzner also discussed challenges, including mitigation requirements for artificial reefs, easement issues in Midtown, and ongoing concerns in Reach 2. He emphasized the need to focus on lakefront protection going forward and thanked residents and staff for their

collaboration.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton was interested in the monitoring of sea level rise. Mr. Matzner and Ms. Westfall responded with the expected estimated rate of sea level rise. Ms. Westfall said information is available on their website, demonstrating that elevations are being monitored in real time. She said both NOAA and the Army Corps of Engineers have their own projections. She offered to get those numbers and report them to the Town Council.

Council Member Araskog wondered whether the Town Council should revisit the areas that staff initially planned to handle. Mr. Brazil clarified that the Town Council wanted to be involved in the decisions rather than having an advisory board. He said the council deliberately narrowed the Shore Protection Board's role. Mr. Brazil suggested allowing time for staff to work with the Shore Protection Board to help them better understand their decision points. He said it would come down to whether the program would be maintained and whether the Town would continue to provide funding.

Council President Lindsay asked if the monitor had been installed near the inlet. Patricia Strayer, Town Engineer, informed the Town Council that the port and others were working on a grant with NOAA to install the monitor. Mr. Blouin said there is a lot more to it than the installation. He reiterated that it is in the grant process. Ms. Strayer said there were two in the budget: one at the marina and one at the bridge of Ibis Isle.

Mayor Moore stated she offered to share data with the Mayor of Lake Worth Beach. She asked staff to be open-minded in sharing information if asked.

Mr. Matzner suggested to Mayor Resch that she or any staff member attend Shore Protection Board meetings. Mayor Moore encouraged them to attend but not participate.

A motion was made by Council President Pro Tem Crampton and seconded by Council Member Moran to accept the Shore Protection Annual Report as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

16. Appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Town Clerk Churney announced that Matthew Ailey could not attend the meeting and read a statement from him. Martin Klein presented his application and qualifications for the Planning and Zoning Commission openings and answered all questions.

The Town Council voted, and the results were announced.

A motion was made by Council Member Cooney and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to appoint Martin Klein as a regular member to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

**Note: A short break was taken at 11:09 a.m., and the meeting resumed at 11:16 a.m.*

17. Appointments to the Landmarks Preservation Commission

The following residents presented their application and qualifications for the Landmarks Preservation Commission openings and answered all questions: Catherine Brooker, Daniel Clavijo, Scott Collison, Julie Herzig-Desnick, Nelo Freijomel, Tony Ittleson, Kristin Kellogg, Caleb Laux, and Patrick Segraves.

The Town Council voted, and the results were announced.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Cooney to appoint Catherine Brooker, Julie Herzig-Desnick, and Patrick Segraves as regular members, and Kristin Kellogg as the non-resident expert, with the understanding that she has a special expertise in historic landmarks and preservation. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

A motion was made by Council Member Cooney and seconded by Council Member Araskog to appoint Henry Ittleson and Katherine Bryan as alternate members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

**Note: The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m. and resumed at 1:36 p.m.*

19. Authorization for 940 North Lake Way – Use of Right-of-way During Season

Patricia Strayer presented a recommendation to relocate four Royal Palm trees from 940 N. Lake Way, where construction is planned, to vacant spots along Sanford Avenue. The relocation would preserve the trees rather than remove them, and the property owner will cover the cost. The process will use a flatbed truck, not a crane, and is expected to take less than a day, scheduled midweek and outside peak traffic hours.

Mayor Moore asked about the location of 940 N. Lake Way, to which Council Member Cooney responded that it is next to the country club.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Moran and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the use of the right-of-way during the season at 940 N. Lake Way, as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

20. Budget Calendar for FY27 Budget Process

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

A motion was made by Council Member Cooney and seconded by Council Member Moran to approve the FY27 Budget Calendar as presented. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

21. MATTERS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

- 7. 9-2026** A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approving a purchase order to Chen Moore and Associates in the amount of \$321,170.56, approving a contingency in the amount of \$48,176 and

approving a project budget in the amount of \$369,346.56 for the Par 3 design of the maintenance shop expansion

Julie Parham, Deputy Town Engineer, was present to answer any questions about the Par 3 Building Maintenance Design.

Mayor Moore felt this project was long overdue. Mr. Brazil agreed and stated that this work is in the budget, and the site will be improved by doing the work. He said that Town staff and Par 3 staff have done a good job developing alternatives and minimizing costs.

Council Member Cooney asked about screening elements of the golf course that may be unsightly.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton asked whether additional parking spaces would be created. Ms. Parham said there are plans to improve parking opportunities.

Mark Bresnehan, Director of Recreation, said approximately \$2.5 million was included through the enterprise and reserve funds. He said staff wanted to ensure there were funds to address options, particularly for the parking expansion. He noted that the existing retaining wall would be replaced and that approximately 10 new parking spaces would be added.

Council Member Moran wondered if tandem parking could be considered. Mr. Bresnehan stated that double parking would be preferred. Mr. Blouin stated that the ultimate goal would be to optimize the space, which would depend on reviews from the design team and traffic engineers. He also noted that the screening would be part of the project. Mr. Brazil noted that the project details would be presented to the Town Council.

Mayor Moore asked about the seawall and wondered if it was worth raising. Mr. Brazil said that the seawall is very old, and there is a living wall in front of it. He did not think it would be worth the cost to modify the existing wall. Mayor Moore asked if the poor soil conditions would lead to pilings. Mr. Brazil said staff would be looking into floating a one-story slab. Mayor Moore supported doing everything possible, within a reasonable budget, to improve the property.

Council Member Araskog asked whether a pop-up could be used for a break room. Mr. Brazil did not think it would be beneficial, noting the work was needed inside the building. Council Member Araskog asked about the drainage and wondered whether Mr. Brazil was planning for more than 2 inches. He said he believed that would be possible and would be a matter of grading it to a green area rather than an outfall.

Council President 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. 009-2026. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

11. **18-2026** A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town Of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approving the selection committee recommendation for award of RFP No. 2026-007, Sea Turtle Nesting Monitoring to DB Ecological Services, Inc. for a five-year award in the amount of \$1,439,488.88, approving a contingency in the amount of \$50,000 and approving a project budget in the amount of \$1,489,488.88 based on satisfactory performance and budget authorization.

Council Member Araskog requested an explanation of the project due to the high cost.

Sara Westfall, Coastal Coordinator, stated this item was a five-year contract for sea turtle monitoring, a requirement of the beach management agreement.

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. 018-2026. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

22. Vessel Enforcement Update

Chief Nicholas Caristo reported progress on enforcement in the Lake Worth Lagoon. The number of vessels has decreased from about 165 to 110, with over 40 leaving voluntarily. Since December, numerous citations have been issued for illegal moorings and registrations, 34 violation notices have been posted, and 10 vessels have been towed, with more planned. One abandoned 80-foot steel vessel poses a major challenge due to fuel and structural issues; removal will require cutting it apart with assistance from Fish and Wildlife. Chief Caristo also noted an ongoing investigation into illegal mooring rentals by an individual, with cease-and-desist notices issued. Drone images will be used to document improvements, and enforcement will continue alongside efforts to encourage voluntary compliance.

Council Member Araskog asked about the next steps regarding the person with illegal moorings. Chief Caristo stated that there is an active case and that options will be evaluated.

Council Member Moran asked about the citations, as she thought everyone would have been notified by now. Chief Caristo said the process includes various reasons why vessels could not be removed. He explained that some of the illegal moorings have been cut and the vessels towed.

Council President Lindsay commended Chief Caristo on a job well done. She was pleased with the process and stated that addressing the issues would decrease pollution.

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

The Town Council reached consensus that Chief Caristo return to the next Town Council meeting with another update.

23. Town-Wide Undergrounding Project

Patricia Strayer, Engineer, presented the resolution for consideration and identified areas where AT&T was installing fiber and transitioning customers from copper service. She encouraged residents in those areas to contact AT&T to convert promptly, noting this would facilitate the removal of equipment from utility poles and allow for pole removal.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton asked about the paving schedule and how much paving would be done by the beginning of next season. Ms. Strayer responded.

23.1 19-2026 A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, approving a change order to Phase 6 South Undergrounding in the amount of \$400,000 to Burkhardt Construction, Inc., for a new project budget in the amount of \$10,812,604.84

A motion was made by Council Member Moran and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve Resolution 019-2026. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0. (Please note: Council Member Cooney was not present during the vote and returned at 3:57 p.m.)

NEW BUSINESS

24. Phipps Ocean Park - Master Signage Plan TIME CERTAIN: 11:00 AM

Deputy Town Manager Carolyn Stone introduced the master signage plan for Phipps Ocean Park.

Danielle Del Sol, President and CEO of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, presented the signage, noting that Amy Siegel of C&G Partners would present.

Amy Siegel of C&G Partners provided detailed information on the master signage plan for Phipps Ocean Park.

Council Member Araskog was not in favor of the large sundial that was impermeable and interrupted the grass. She was not in favor of placing dollar amounts on the donor signage. She expressed concern about the signage regarding rules and regulations and wondered whether people would read it. Mr. Brazil had no concern about the rules and regulations signage as long as the message was consistent.

Council Member Moran asked about the donor signage. Katie Jacobs of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach spoke about the size of the boulders and said it was based on the gift-giving. Council Member Moran liked the idea of the signage on the stones, but felt the signs were too large.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton supported the signage. He thought the sundial was a nice touch. He also asked about the size of the lettering. Council President Pro Tem Crampton said he liked the boulders in the front of the park. He felt it was subtle and distinctive.

Council Member Cooney thought the plan was nice and restrained.

Council President Lindsay liked the boulder signage; she liked their natural look.

Council Member Araskog thought the signage boulders needed to be reviewed.

Mayor Moore favored the signage package. She thought that donors should be recognized for their partnership.

Council Member Araskog expressed concern about the font size of the rules and regulations signage. Ms. Strayer stated that coordination had been held with Paul Colby, who works with the lifeguards, regarding beach signage, and confirmed that all public signage requirements were being met.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council President Pro Tem Crampton to approve the Phipps Ocean Park Master Signage Plan. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

25. Conceptual Approval for Proposed Donation for Restoration of the Landscaping at the Memorial Fountain Reflection Pool

TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM

Gerard Beekman of Madison Worth Architecture, Inc., stated that resident Sam Lehrman was accompanying him. He stated that his office had worked with Mr. Lehrman on several beautification projects in the area. He presented an overview of the landscaping changes. Dustin Mizell of Environment Design Group presented the plans for the hardscape around Memorial Fountain.

Mr. Lehrman, 355 Hibiscus Ave., and the donor thanked the Town Council for allowing him to work on and present this project for consideration. He felt the project would be a nice addition to the Town and would be appreciated by park users.

Mr. Brazil asked for direction on the plan, which was being presented conceptually. The next step would be consideration by the Landmarks Preservation Commission and subsequently returned to the Town Council.

Mayor Moore spoke about her meeting with Mr. Lehrman. She noted that the new design would represent a change in philosophy, removing the podocarpus. She felt that initially, this project was supposed to be an oasis away from traffic. She asked why the crosswalks were not installed. Mr. Brazil said there was a mid-block crosswalk that FDOT refused to approve due to safety concerns.

Council Member Cooney expressed concern that the proposed plan may be too open. He heard from Mr. Sanchez, who had designed the last iteration, and he had some maintenance suggestions for the space. Council Member Cooney remembered the intent to create a buffer between the road, more accommodating to human experience.

Council Member Moran stated that she received a letter of objection from Jorge Sanchez. She supported the request for a flag.

Council Member Araskog favored the screening from the street. She liked the topiaries and thought they broke up the garden design. She supported the request for a flag.

Council President Lindsay also spoke about the call she received from Jorge Sanchez. She liked

the park's existing conditions.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton liked the proposed plan. He thought there might be room for compromise, with a taller vegetative hedge.

Mayor Moore wondered whether the staff had considered hiring a gardener; she wondered whether it would save on costs. Mr. Brazil spoke about the business plan to incrementally pull landscape services back into Public Works. He said he was working on a justification for adding a gardener to the staff.

Council Member Araskog was concerned about sending the plan to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. She felt that what existed was better because it was more of a protective sanctuary.

Council President Lindsay discussed the town's position on chemical fertilizers. She did not want any plans that would require chemical maintenance.

Council Member Araskog asked about the pesticide usage in the existing park versus what the proposed vegetation would require. Mr. Brazil said that there are areas that are challenging to maintain.

Mr. Mizell spoke about the history of the space and explained how the proposed design was decided.

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Cooney to deny the donation and stated that the project would not be sent to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. The motion was carried 3-2, with Council Member Moran and Council President Pro Tem Crampton dissenting.

**Note: A short break was taken at 2:52 p.m., and the meeting resumed at 2:58 p.m.*

**26. Town-Wide Master Tree Plan Initial Presentation 4:14:34
TIME CERTAIN: 2:30 PM**

Jason Debrinct, Deputy Director of Public Works, stated that the Town Council had asked that Public Works assemble a Townwide Master Tree Plan to align with the strategic plan for environmental stewardship, culture, character, and the community. A team of architects, engineers, and landscape architects has been formed to develop an initial introduction of what a master plan for trees would look like. This is not currently funded, but it is an opportunity to develop a plan and include it in the long-term budget process.

M. Mark Marsh of Bridges and Marsh Architects, along with Dustin Mizell and Kimley-Horn, presented research identifying potentially abandoned sites in Town that could be redeveloped into more attractive uses.

Dustin Mizell of Environment Design Group stated the study began with a review of the Garden Club's 1929 plan to evaluate the Town's original vision as it approaches its Centennial. He noted that the plan emphasized pedestrian safety, shade, tree canopy, separation from automobiles, wider sidewalks, roadway plantings, and improved traffic circulation.

Mr. Mizell explained that the Town was divided into five study zones, which included the North District, Local Streets, Greenway Quarter, Commercial District, and South District, to develop conceptual case studies. He emphasized that the concepts were not final designs but potential models requiring future public engagement and public-private partnerships.

In the North District, the focus included the Lake Trail and select roadway termini. He presented opportunities to enhance shade and aesthetics, particularly at dead-end streets along the Intracoastal, by adding trees to create focal points while preserving water views. He also identified opportunities along North County Road to gradually introduce medium-sized trees to enhance the canopy and pedestrian experience.

Near Tangier Avenue on North County Road, he identified an opportunity to introduce medium-sized shade trees within the right-of-way. He explained that smaller trees could initially coexist with existing coconut palms and, over time, become the dominant canopy as palms aged or were removed.

In the Local Streets zone, Seaview Avenue and Seminole Avenue were evaluated. For Seaview Avenue, Option A proposed small cutouts for palms, reducing sidewalk width at select points but retaining parking. Option B proposed bump-outs that would reduce some parking, allow for larger shade trees, and preserve sidewalk width. For Seminole Avenue, one option introduced bump-outs with limited parking impacts, while a second option reduced lane widths to create a continuous planting strip without eliminating parking, improving shade and pedestrian experience.

In the Greenway Quarter, Barton Avenue and South Ocean Boulevard were studied. The presenter proposed reclaiming excess asphalt along Barton Avenue to create a greenway corridor with shade trees and designated parking, improving traffic organization and pedestrian connectivity while maintaining visibility and access.

In the Commercial District, Peruvian Avenue was evaluated. One option introduced bump-outs with minor parking reductions to add shade trees. A second option reduced lane width to expand sidewalks and incorporate continuous planters without affecting parking, enhancing pedestrian circulation and canopy coverage.

In the South District near Harbor House, he proposed planting large shade trees outside the FDOT clear zone to improve pedestrian comfort along the heavily traveled corridor.

He concluded by noting that the Town's public tree inventory consisted of approximately 3,800 trees and palms, with only about 2% classified as shade trees. He emphasized the environmental, aesthetic, and pedestrian benefits of increasing tree canopy and stated a comprehensive Town-wide Master Tree Plan would focus on expanding tree coverage, subject to Council direction and further study.

Please note: Council Member Cooney left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Mr. Brazil stated that the plan was very preliminary and asked whether the direction was the Town Council's intent.

Council Member Araskog asked about the trees' roots and was concerned about the cost of the plan.

Mayor Moore liked the idea of the master plan but had some concerns, especially about how much drainage would be disrupted. She thought the plan should be developed, but she had some concerns about the cost of implementing the plan. However, she would like to see more information.

Council President Pro Tem Crampton thought the master tree plan should be developed in small incremental changes. He suggested prioritizing walkable areas, including the Lake Trail and the South End sidewalk corridor, and emphasized increasing the number of deciduous shade trees rather than palms. Council President Pro Tem Crampton also advocated for collaboration with community organizations, including the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, Citizens Association of Palm Beach, and the Garden Club of Palm Beach, to help identify priority locations and support implementation efforts.

Council Member Moran supported establishing broad Master Tree Plan guidelines to implement tree plantings during roadway or sidewalk projects. She favored enhancing roadway termini as focal points but opposed any reduction in on-street parking. She recommended using low-maintenance, indigenous, slow-growing species rather than large trees that could damage infrastructure.

Mr. Brazil confirmed that the Town Council was not in favor of removing any parking spaces. He also asked if, where possible, the Council would generally be okay with reducing the width of travel lanes.

Council President Lindsay stated that more shade is needed. She identified key thoughts from the Council of increasing shade and taking an opportunistic, site-specific approach rather than adopting a rigid Town-wide plan. She supported enhancing sidewalks during capital projects with appropriate shade trees and noted the Garden Club's shift toward planting shade trees over ornamental palms. She emphasized selecting practical species that avoid large, invasive root systems and reducing reliance on chemicals, citing potential lessons from the Phipps Ocean Park. She cautioned against a one-size-fits-all strategy, noting that different areas of Town have distinct character and require tailored solutions. She stated that she was not ready to approve a master plan at this time. She asked that the Town Council get a copy of the proposed plan.

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

There was consensus among the Town Council that the staff will return next month with a proposed roadmap for developing a master plan, including the steps involved and estimated costs for developing the plan (not for implementation). Consultants will be asked to provide a cost estimate based on defined assumptions, and staff will present these details for Council's review before moving forward.

27. Discussion on Rental of Town Facilities for Campaign Events

Town Manager Blouin requested direction from the Mayor and Town Council regarding the use of public areas and buildings for local campaign events. It was noted that, under state statute, such uses are not prohibited, except for the solicitation or acceptance of political contributions.

Ms. O'Connor, Attorney, advised that candidates are generally prohibited from using government-owned facilities unless the facility is publicly available for rent and is rented for the specific purpose of a campaign fundraiser, in which case the use is permitted.

Mr. Blouin noted that the Town has no existing policies that would govern these types of activities in city facilities. He requested direction from the Town Council.

Attorney O'Connor explained that the Town has rentable facilities, including the South Fire Station meeting room, which has been used by candidates, civic organizations, and the Police and Fire Foundation.

She noted that public facilities fall into three legal categories: nonpublic forums, traditional public forums, and limited public forums. Because the Town makes certain spaces available for rent, those facilities may be considered limited public forums, meaning the Town cannot engage in viewpoint discrimination and must provide equal access to similarly situated groups. Political speech and solicitation are strongly protected under the First Amendment.

Attorney O'Connor advised that the Town may impose neutral, uniformly applied restrictions—such as limiting rentals to Town residents or Town-serving organizations—but cautioned that limiting use based on group type (e.g., only nonprofits) would require careful legal consideration to avoid constitutional concerns.

The Town Council agreed to establish a policy limiting use of the South Fire Station meeting space to town-sponsored or co-sponsored events to prevent excessive use and maintain public safety operations. Staff will draft guidelines incorporating this approach, along with potential disclaimers clarifying the Town's neutral stance on political or controversial topics. The policy will also prioritize town needs and may include time, place, and manner restrictions to avoid scheduling conflicts. The staff will return with a more detailed proposal for Council review.

28. Town Manager - 2026 Performance Evaluation

A motion was made by Council Member Araskog and seconded by Council Member Cooney to renew the Town Manager's contract for one year per the charter requirement. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

28.1 An Ordinance Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, Amending Chapter 82 Of The Town Code Of Ordinances Relating To Personnel, At Article II, Employee Benefits, Division 2, Retirement System; Amending Subdivision IV, Police Officers, By Amending Section 82-119, Deferred Retirement Option Program For Police Officers To Extend The Participation Of Any Member Appointed Town Manager While Participating In The Drop; Providing For Severability; Providing For Repeal Of Ordinances In Conflict; Providing For Codification; Providing An Effective Date.

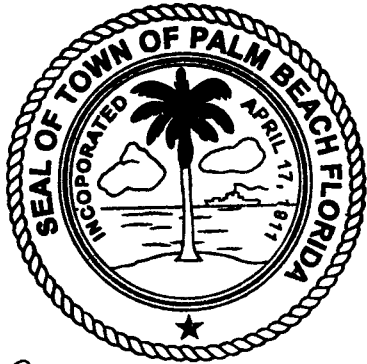
A motion was made by Council Member Moran and seconded by Council Member Araskog to approve Ordinance 005-2026 on first reading. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Moran and seconded by Council Member Araskog to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM. The motion was carried unanimously, 5-0.



APPROVED:

Kelly Churney
Kelly Churney, CMC, Town Clerk
Date: 4/14/26

APPROVED:

Bobbie D. Lindsay
Bobbie D. Lindsay, Town Council President