



**VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN
REGULAR VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2025
6:00 PM**

**15516 SW Osceola Street, Suite C
Indiantown, FL 34956**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: LaRhonda McBride, Village Clerk

PRESENT: Mayor Carmine Dipaolo, Vice Mayor Angelina Perez, Council Member Vernestine Williams Palmer, Council Member Phyllis Waters Brown, and Council Member Karen Onsager.
Staff: Village Manager Taryn Kryzda, Village Attorney Wade C. Vose, Parks & Recreation Director Deborah Resos, Finance Director Michael Florio, Village Clerk LaRhonda McBride, and Administrative Assistant Renae Cherry.

INVOCATION: Pastor Fred Pitts

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Dipaolo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, PULLED ITEMS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS: None

PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation for Women's History Month

Village Clerk McBride read the proclamation in honor of Women's History Month.

Mayor Dipaolo acknowledged the Village Staff, Village Manager Kryzda, and all women residents in the Village of Indiantown.

Vice Mayor Perez and Council Members Waters Brown, Williams Palmer, and Onsager accepted the proclamation.

2. Joint Meeting Presentation on March 7, 2025, on Development in the Village of Indiantown

Village Manager Kryzda presented a summary of the Village of Indiantown's Community and Economic Development presentation given at the Joint Workshop held on March 7, 2025.

Council Member Onsager asked what school district officials think about the ongoing growth of Indiantown.

Discussion ensued regarding the implementation of vocational programs and improvements to vocational improvements to the elementary and middle schools.

Village Manager Kryzda stated that she would continue to bring information to the school district.

Council member Waters Brown requested monthly updates on the matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Nycum requested a status update on the sale of the 5-acre property and a response to concerns that the Village would miss out on sales tax.

Mayor Dipaolo and Village Manager Kryzda stated that the sales tax is not in jeopardy.

Finance Director Florio concurred.

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Waters-Brown announced three upcoming events:

- Music at the marina on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- An Easter Egg Hunt at Big Mound Park on Sunday, April 6, 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- The Strategic Planning Session on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., which community members are encouraged to attend.

Council Member Williams Palmer reported that she had attended the Florida Black Caucus Local Elected Officials Conference. She thanked the Council for allowing her to attend the conference.

Council Member Onsager had no comments.

Vice Mayor Perez had no comments.

Mayor Dipaolo had no comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

COMMENTS BY VILLAGE MANAGER:

Parks & Recreation Director Resos announced that the Village would host several pop-up events during Spring Break:

- Monday, March 17, 2025, at Big Mound Park: The Walter & Hersham Soccer Academy will teach soccer; other available activities will include bubbles and sidewalk chalk.
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at Post Family Park: Treasure Coast Wildlife will bring animals for the children to experience.
- Friday, March 21, 2025, at Booker Park: MC Pal will showcase the boxing ring currently being installed.

Parks & Recreation Director Resos announced that the new boxing program would start at the end of March or the beginning of April. The program will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and is open to children aged 8 to 17. Registration is via a QR code, which was sent to residents on flyers in English, Spanish, and Creole. She stated that the program is free, made possible by the Village's partnership with MC Pal and the Garcia Group.

Mayor Dipaolo added that the boxing ring had been donated by members of the Garcia Group, River Oaks, and PPC Construction.

Council Member Williams Palmer asked how many children the venue would hold.

Parks & Recreation Director Resos replied that this would be determined by the fire marshal and advised that the program time slot would probably expand as the program grows in size.

Village Manager Kryzda stated that representatives of the local marine industry had requested a letter signed by the Mayor on Village letterhead, asking the Boring Company to consider putting a tunnel under the intracoastal waterway rather than the planned drawbridge.

Mayor Dipaolo and Council Members Onsager and Williams Palmer spoke in support of the proposed tunnel.

Motion was made to authorize Mayor Dipaolo to sign the letter on Village of Indiantown letterhead by Council Member Onsager. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Williams Palmer and approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the Agenda by Council Member Waters Brown. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Onsager and approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda by Council Member Williams Palmer. Motion was duly seconded by Council Member Onsager and approved unanimously.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 27, 2025

REGULAR AGENDA: None

FIRST READING ORDINANCES: None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Village Attorney Vose advised that his office was working on establishing a legal infrastructure to regulate the pre-reservation of water and wastewater plant capacity.

Council Member Onsager asked whether it would be possible to set a deadline for capacity to be used after being reserved or purchased.

Village Attorney Vose stated that his office was looking at this option, although it would be challenging in the event of a market downturn.

Mayor Dipaolo suggested regulations that compel developers to hook up to the Village's water and wastewater system.

Village Attorney Vose stated that Florida law does already have regulations to this effect.

Council Member Onsager suggested offering builders a discount on the hook-up fee.

Village Attorney Vose advised that discounts are not permitted under the Village's bond covenants.

Vice Mayor Perez announced that the next Mobile Food Drive would be held at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at Timer Powers Park. She advised any high school students who need service hours to contact her.

Vice Mayor Perez stated that she would be absent from the April 24th Village Council Meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: March 27, 2025

ADJOURNMENT: 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

LaRhonda McBride

LaRhonda McBride
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN, FLORIDA

Carmin Dipaolo

Carmin Dipaolo,
Mayor

03/27/2025

Date



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March 14, 2025

Steve Davis
Chief Executive Officer
The Boring Company

By Email: tunnels@boringcompany.com

Dear Mr. Davis,

As Mayor of the Village of Indiantown, Florida, I would like to invite The Boring Company to consider a tunnel project that would solve multiple transportation infrastructure problems, create an environment for sustainable economic growth, and increase the quality of life in our community. Currently, Federal Government funding is being sought to construct a replacement railroad drawbridge in Stuart, Florida. It is our position that a tunnel provide by The Boring Company would be a favorable long-term solution to all stakeholders in the beautiful City of Stuart (recently named the Best Coastal Small Town in the United States by USA Today), including Indiantown.

Newly incorporated in 2017, the Village of Indiantown has historically been a financially disadvantaged community and numerous government economic development programs have been applied here in our town to promote investment. The HUBzone program, Opportunity Zone program, and the Rural Economic Development Initiative, among others, are all designed to diversify and strengthen the economy here in Western Martin County FL.

Martin County and The Village of Indiantown have both identified the continued development and support of the Marine Industry as a primary and critical sector of its economy. Located on the St. Lucie River about 21 miles upriver of Stuart, Indiantown utilizes the Okeechobee Waterway (OWW) for commercial and residential waterfront access. Known as the "Panama Canal of Florida", the Federally authorized OWW is the only cross-state waterway that allows marine traffic to navigate from Stuart on the Atlantic Ocean to Fort Myers on the Gulf of America. The OWW is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and it provides a unique

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transportation solution for marine traffic whereby commercial and recreational vessels transit safely and efficiently from coast to coast. It also provides Marine Service and Industrial Companies with waterfront commercial property on which to operate their businesses, as well as residential waterfront for boat owners providing them with access to the nearby coastal areas.

The economic impact of the Marine Industry in our region cannot be understated, and it is a business sector target for development by nearly every local municipality. The recreational boating industry in the State of Florida has an annual economic impact of over \$31.3B, and the impact of Marine Industries in Martin County alone is \$76M per year. Currently there are two primary marine service companies in the Village, Indiantown Marina and Indiantown Marine Center, both of which have invested millions of dollars to develop their facilities to meet the expanding needs of the Marine Industry in South Florida. Due to the availability of accessible and affordable waterfront property, there are many other Marine Industry Companies located on the OWW, all of which are members of the Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast (MIATC).

The MIATC is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and growing marine related business and recreational boating in the Treasure Coast. As part of its policies supporting maritime interests, the Association advocates commercial access to waterfront property and unobstructed navigation of waterways, including the OWW. The Florida East Coast Railroad Drawbridge (mile 7.41) in Stuart is an example of just such an obstruction to navigation. The MIATC has been the primary group in contact with the US Coast Guard dealing with this obstruction, which stems from competing modes of transportation (navigation, rail, vehicle, pedestrian), but the bridge operation also has a very large impact on the vehicular traffic due to the many RR Crossings in the greater Stuart area.

The recent commencement of the Brightline high speed passenger rail service in combination with the existing FEC freight trains has created increased demand for drawbridge closures. High demand for drawbridge operations creates obstruction to navigation, deterring vessels from using the marine service facilities on the west side of the bridge. While there is a local ordinance in place that protects from the loss commercial waterfront, there is continued pressure on Marine Industry Companies from increasing property values due to residential development on the east side of the bridge which pushes marine service companies to seek locations upriver on the OWW.

The current solution being touted by the rail companies is to replace the nearly 100-year-old

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single track drawbridge with a new double track drawbridge. The design would provide increased vertical and horizontal clearances therefore allowing a higher percentage of boats to pass without requiring an opening, as well as providing a slightly shorter period for operation of the draw.

The estimated cost for the design, permitting, and construction of the new bridge is \$218M. Contributions from the State, FEC, and the City of Stuart would total \$45M. Federal grants are required to fund the remaining \$172M+. Last year a joint application by the City of Stuart and the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) won a Mega Grant in the amount of \$130M, however, a separate CRISI grant application for the remaining \$42M+ of Federal funds was rejected. Currently, FIND has a grant application in place with the intention to provide the full amount of Federal funds required for the new bridge construction.

The existing FEC Railroad Drawbridge needs to be replaced, and while we are in support of the efforts to raise funds and build a new bridge, we are also concerned that this is not a long-term solution to the conflux of transportation modes that negatively impacts the community. The increased vertical clearance of the new drawbridge does not solve the obstruction to the waterway for the larger vessels that drive the greatest portion of revenue for marine industrial companies and does little to resolve any vehicular traffic delays. Further, fatalities caused by interaction between vehicles and pedestrians with the high-speed train are at an all-time high. Our community needs a safe, reliable, and cost-effective solution that removes hazards and obstructions, increases value to businesses and homeowners, and provides for future sustainable economic growth.

Per your website, "The Boring Company creates safe, fast-to-dig, and low-cost transportation, utility, and freight tunnels", with a mission "to solve traffic, enable rapid point-to-point transportation and transform cities." Whether it's a railroad or roadway tunnel, this appears to be an ideal solution to our transportation problem whereby bridge infrastructure is transformed into tunnel infrastructure, and the result is safer, cleaner, and more productive transportation system. I invite The Boring Company to consider this project to determine if your technology can provide the long-term solution being sought.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.

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Sincerely,

Carmine Dipaolo
Mayor
Village of Indiantown

CC:

Sean Duffy, US Secretary of Transportation

Jared W. Perdue, Florida Department of Transportation

Joseph Walsh, Owner, Indiantown Marine Center

Dan Romence, President, Indiantown Marine Center

Scott Watson, Owner, Indiantown Marina

Kevin Powers, Indiantown Realty

Robert Mac Keen, Executive Director, Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast

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