

**MINUTES
CITY OF INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

The City of Indian Rocks Beach City Commission held a work session at 6:00 p.m. on June 23, 2026, in the Civic Auditorium/Commission Chambers at City Hall, located at 1507 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Commissioner Vaughan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members Present:

- Mayor Commissioner Lan Vaughan
- Vice Mayor Commissioner Janet Wilson
- Commissioner John Bigelow
- Commissioner Hilary King
- Commissioner Kellee Watt

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Clerk Lorin Kornijtschuk, City Manager Ryan Henderson, Public Works Director Dean Scharmen, and Public Information Officer, Mishelle Hargett.

Quorum established.

(To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.)

3. DISCUSSION: City of Indian Rocks Beach Recycling Program

Staff Presentation

Presenters: Ryan Henderson, City Manager; Dean Scharmen, Public Works Director

City Manager Henderson opened the discussion, noting this is the beginning of a series of discussions on recycling, with the current Waste Connections contract expiring December 31, 2026. He acknowledged county representatives present.

Public Works Director Dean Scharmen provided an overview of the City's recycling program, including program history, acceptable and non-acceptable materials, contamination rates, current costs, tonnage data, and options for future delivery service. Options discussed included discontinuing curbside recycling, implementing a hybrid drop-off program, or soliciting proposals through an RFP or piggyback agreement. Staff also reviewed contamination concerns and educational opportunities.

Commission Discussion

Commissioners discussed contamination rates, participation levels, impacts of short-term rentals, education and enforcement measures, potential contractor requirements, and alternative service models. Several Commissioners expressed interest in evaluating hybrid collection options, enhanced education efforts, and soliciting competitive proposals before making final determination.

Public Comment

Diane Daniel, 309 10th Avenue, expressed support for continuing curbside recycling with improved education, enforcement, website accessibility, and contractor accountability.

Kelly Cisarik, 448 Harbor Drive South, supported a hybrid recycling model focused on high-value recyclable materials such as cardboard and aluminum.

John Phanstiehl, 448 Harbor Drive South: questioned whether eliminating curbside recycling would produce the projected cost savings. He also requested independent verification of recycling effectiveness and contractor-reported recycling rates.

Beth McMullen, 481 Harbor Drive South: encouraged the City to explore improvements to the recycling program before considering elimination. She recommended enhanced education and contamination enforcement efforts, including outreach to short-term rental operators and guests.

Maureen Ballock, 436 Harbor Drive North: noted that a majority of residents are complying with recycling requirements. She expressed support for additional education and compliance efforts to further reduce contamination.

Sean Rowland, 1206 Gulf Boulevard: supported continuing curbside recycling, stating that convenience increases participation and aligns with the City's environmental values as a beach community.

Laura Rowland, 1206 Gulf Boulevard: emphasized the importance of convenient curbside recycling for working families and encouraged the City to continue providing the service.

Dave Watt, 431 Harbor Drive South: suggested simplifying the list of accepted recyclable materials to reduce contamination while maintaining some level of curbside service. He also raised questions regarding the contract timeline and the level of participation by short-term rental properties.

Alex Dorman, 126 11th Avenue: encouraged greater contractor involvement in public education, container labeling, and contamination reduction efforts. She also suggested exploring alternative recycling methods and a citywide composting program to reduce waste and offset program costs.

Guest Presentations

Paul Sacco, Director of Solid Waste for Pinellas County, provided an overview of the county's waste-to-energy and recycling operations, discussed contamination benchmarks, landfill capacity, and the potential impacts of reducing recycling services. He offered county assistance with contract review, education, and program development.

Emily Lemay, Pinellas County Recycling Outreach Program Manager, discussed the importance of convenience and accessibility in recycling programs and offered guidance regarding contract provisions, contamination management, and public education efforts.

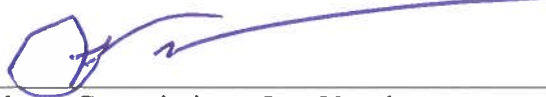
4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Vice Mayor Commissioner Wilson, which was seconded by Commissioner Watt, to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

ATTESTATION

These minutes constitute a true and accurate summary of the proceedings of the City Commission Work Session held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026.

7/14/2026
Date Approved


Mayor Commissioner Lan Vaughan

Lorin A. Kornijtschuk
ATTEST: Lorin A. Kornijtschuk, City Clerk