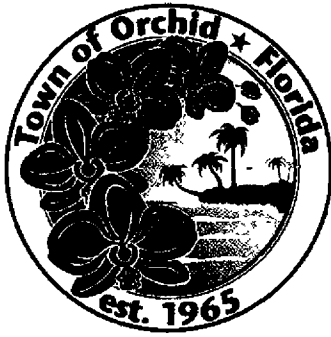




Town of Orchid

Friday, April 17, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Orchid Island Beach Club – 1 Beachside Drive, Orchid, FL 32963

Town Council Minutes

Special Meeting

1. Call to Order

Mayor Gibbons called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present

Mayor Robert Gibbons
Vice-Mayor Paul Knapp
Councilmember John Heanue
Councilmember Daniel McEvoy
Councilmember James Raphalian

Town Staff

Cherry Stowe, Town Manager
Jane Garcia, Town Clerk

3. Preliminary matters; agenda additions, deletions, or modifications

There were none.

4. Public Participation

There was none.

5. Presentation

Indian River County's Beach Preservation Plan 2026 Update

Mayor Gibbons provided some key words and introduced Mr. Quintin Bergman, Coastal Resource Manager for Indian River County, who is vitally involved in the beach projects of the county. Mayor Gibbons asked Mr. Bergman to begin by introducing his colleagues, who were also in attendance.

Mr. Bergman introduced Natural Resources Director Kylie Yanchula, Assistant Director Eric Charest, and Environmental Specialists Johnnie Sabin and Dakota Whelan. He explained that the beaches in Indian River County are important to the County's economy and quality of life. His goal on behalf of the Coastal Engineering Division during this presentation was to review the portions of the draft Beach Preservation Plan focused on Sector 3, in which the Town is located.

He expressed that the goals of the periodic update of the plan, last attended to in 2019, are to evaluate and preserve coastal resources by assessing erosion risks and identifying



additional long-term management strategies. By analyzing wave and wind data, the plan documents how beach and shoreline conditions have evolved from 1988 through 2026 to ensure effective coastal protection. The plan focuses on the 22.4 miles of Indian River County coastline, where 19.3 miles are classified as critically eroded. Specifically, Sector 3, which covers 7.1 miles of shoreline and five public beach accesses, with the Town of Orchid (Range Monuments R34 through R37) at its center, is 100% designated as critically eroded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

He further explained that the process for plan adoption incorporates public outreach to form its final recommendations.

Ultimately, he shared that the draft plan recommends continuing regular beach renourishment to protect the coastal communities as the data showed that this strategy had proven successful.

Currently, Sector 3 remains stable due to frequent sand placement. The 2026 Beach Preservation Plan update, supported by Taylor Engineering's research into permitting and maintenance needs, evaluated ten management strategies. These options range from active intervention, including the installation of Geotubes or trap bags used as dune cores, construction of groins or artificial reefs, and continued renourishment, to the "do-nothing" approach of allowing natural processes to take their course.

Mr. Bergman also described how the County's offshore hardbottom reefs cause significant regulatory hurdles and risks. For that reason, the County has prioritized beach and dune nourishment using non-impacting designs. This approach avoids damaging the natural reef system while maintaining a favorable cost-benefit ratio for coastal protection. New in the 2026 draft for the first time is consideration for the use of impacting designs, which may provide a better investment for longer term protection despite complicating factors.

In conclusion, Mr. Bergman highlighted that proactive management is effectively stabilizing the shoreline despite recent major storms, though he noted that risks are not uniform across the County. The program relies on data-driven monitoring, which includes biannual surveying the dry beach and using boats to map the shoreline up to a quarter mile offshore and 40 feet deep, to guide its primary tools: beach renourishment and the use of dune vegetation to build resilience. Looking ahead, the County must remain adaptable by securing consistent funding, maintaining current projects, and prioritizing regional coordination. Public engagement is essential to this process; residents were encouraged by Mr. Bergman to review the draft plan online and submit their comments before the public comment period closes on May 19.

He then fielded various questions from residents Ms. Laurie McGrath, Mayor Bob Gibbons, Mr. Stuart Waite, Ms. Georgie Hutton, Mr. Frank Shuman, Councilmember Dan McEvoy, Mr. Bruce Morrison, Vice-Mayor Paul Knapp, Mr. Bill Younker, and Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club General Manager Mr. Rob Tench. Several expressed their appreciation for the presentation and the County's commitment to coastal resilience.

Mayor Gibbons thanked Councilmember John Heanue for his service as the Town's representative on the County's Beach and Shores Preservation Advisory Committee. He noted that Councilmember Heanue's active participation and regular updates have kept the Town Council well-informed on regional coastal issues.



6. Confirmation of next meeting date and adjournment

Mayor Gibbons announced the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Council Chambers and asked for a motion to adjourn.

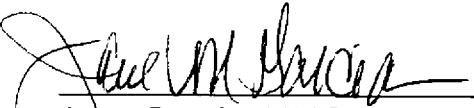
Councilmember McEvoy made a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Heanue seconded the motion.

All Councilmembers were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

These minutes were approved by the Town Council at the regular meeting of May 6, 2026.



Jane Garcia, MMC
Town Clerk

