FINAL MINUTES AND AGENDA
TOWN OF JUPITER
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

Mayor Kuretski called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Mayor Jim Kuretski; Vice-Mayor Ron Delaney; Councilor Phyllis Choy; Councilor Dan Guisinger; Councilor Malise Sundstrom; Town Manager Frank Kitzerow; Town Attorney Thomas J. Baird and Town Clerk Merriane Lahmeur.

PRESENTATION

1. Town-wide Flood Vulnerability Assessment.

Ms. Rebecca Wilder, Assistant Director of Utilities, presented the Town-Wide Flood Vulnerability Assessment presentation, which included background information, explanation of the methodology and approach, overview of the process, key findings, focus areas and maps, previously completed improvements, recently completed projects, projects in progress and future initiatives, and next steps.

Councilor Guisinger inquired whether enhanced modeling or additional data was needed for the areas identified needing future investigation. Ms. Wilder stated enhanced modeling would be beneficial. Councilor Guisinger next asked about the timeframe for further evaluation of those areas. Ms. Wilder stated Staff would first like to conduct a deeper analysis during the Stormwater Master Plan Update. If it was determined that additional projects were needed, Staff would develop conceptual projects and align them with the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for approval by Council. Councilor Guisinger asked whether those projects would be included in the five-year plan, and Ms. Wilder stated inclusion would depend on the severity of the findings.

Councilor Guisinger next asked about the timeframe for enhanced modeling. Ms. Wilder stated Staff were preparing to begin updating the five-year Stormwater Master Water Plan this year, which typically takes a year, and would proceed based on the findings.

Councilor Sundstrom inquired whether during the near-term review they could update policy and standards through the Water Master Plan. Ms. Wilder stated Staff was currently updating the Construction Standards document that is used to guide

development and noted that policy updates related to development would require collaboration with the Building and Planning and Zoning Departments.

Councilor Sundstrom expressed appreciation for the assessment and the options it provides for the Town to enhance stormwater activities and provide more resilience. She also noted that the Town had submitted eight projects for State appropriation funding, four of which were related to drainage and water quality improvements.

Vice-Mayor Delaney asked what area was vulnerable within Area Four (Maplewood Drive Area) of the future focus areas. Ms. Wilder stated that in the modeling efforts, portions of Maplewood Drive have a minimal to moderate flood risk and require additional research.

Councilor Choy inquired about the Town's relationship with Palm Beach County (PBC) when addressing current and future flood mitigation needs. Ms. Wilder stated Staff works strategically with partner agencies and municipal partners and she relayed that they had shared with PBC the flood risk score and the Vulnerability Assessment report for the Center Street roadway improvements.

Mayor Kuretski commended Staff for the thorough report and noted that Stormwater Utilities have focused on flood-prone areas for some time, and many improvements have been completed in those areas. He asked whether the northern portion of Maplewood Drive was the area requiring improvement. Ms. Wilder confirmed that it was. Mayor Kuretski asked whether Staff had evaluated unincorporated areas within the annexation boundary. Ms. Wilder confirmed they had.

Mayor Kuretski inquired whether the salinity barrier structure operates by gravity or pump. Ms. Wilder explained it was an amalgamate and is gravity-operated with a controlled elevation that allows it to open automatically when upstream canal levels rise.

Mayor Kuretski asked whether the primary risk for the barrier was salinity or outflow. Ms. Wilder stated that the structure is a critical asset that relieves upstream flooding, including in the Heights community, and protects the Town's wellfields by preventing saline water from intruding inland. She noted it functions both ways, and what drives the risk is that since Sims Creek is a tidal water body, during sea level rise and storm surge events, it impacts the ability for the barrier to open when there are flooding conditions.

Mayor Kuretski asked whether the risk was of salinity getting upstream or flooding and noted the high priority due to the number of homes dependent on proper outflow. Ms. Wilder stated the primary driver for risk was flooding.

Mayor Kuretski next inquired whether the Riverbend Repump Station serves drainage or water. Ms. Wilder stated it includes a pump station and a ground storage tank serving western communities and houses, a generator, and electrical control center that powers the wellfield. Mayor Kuretski asked whether electrical components and pumps need to be elevated, and Ms. Wilder confirmed they did.

Mayor Kuretski asked for clarification regarding the statement that 80% of roads could be underwater. Ms. Wilder explained that more than 50% of roadway segments could experience up to 80% flooding under one or more modeled scenarios. She noted that the Town considers a road to be severely flooded if there was more than six inches of water on that roadway during the model.

Mayor Kuretski stated he was comfortable that the Town has a roadmap in place for future mitigation efforts.

2. JFRD Update.

Fire Chief Donatto provided an update on Jupiter Fire Rescue Department (JFRD). He stated that JFRD remains on schedule and on budget. He provided an update on the January 14th transition meeting staff held with the Palm Beach County Fire Rescue (PBCFR) leadership team, noting that they established a framework for consistent coordination meetings to ensure a smooth transition of fire services. He also noted that PBCFR and JFRD would conduct a walkthrough of the Abacoa Fire Station on February 20th. Chief Donatto expressed gratitude to Chief Woodside, Chief Rowley and Chief DeRita for their commitment to a smooth transition of services.

He continued his presentation by stating that the construction of the two new fire stations remains on schedule and on budget, and they are both expected to be substantially completed by May 1, 2026.

He next provided an update on the Glance Traffic Preemption system. He noted that the system has been installed and is operational at five intersections on western Indiantown Road.

Fire Chief Donatto next provided an update on the hiring of operational personnel, which began in December 2025. The Town has received over 1,500 applications for the 90 positions. He stated that the selections for the 12 Fire Captains and 12 Lieutenants were expected to be completed within the next few weeks, and interviews were underway for the 66 Driver Engineers and Firefighters, with selections expected by the end of March. Fire Chief Donatto expressed gratitude for the Human Resources Department and all their work in keeping everything on schedule, considering the high volume of quality applicants.

Vice-Mayor Delaney expressed his excitement for the Glance Traffic Preemption system. Fire Chief Donatto Chief noted that PBCFR was currently using the system in Jupiter.

Councilor Sundstrom stated she was glad PBCFR could use the system to benefit residents now. She also asked if any data was available related to response times.

Councilor Guisinger thanked PBCFR for their efforts regarding a smooth transition.

Mayor Kuretski and Chief Donatto discussed the Glance Traffic Preemption system activation and the use of emergency lights.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Heath Wintz, resident of Sioux Street, discussed his concerns regarding the Jones Creek Restoration project, and asked whether the Town had relieved the contractor of its contractual obligations. He also requested additional information regarding the contractor's general terms and conditions.

Mayor Jim Kuretski stated that Staff would follow up with Mr. Wintz.

Mr. Eric Weitze, resident of Ocean Grande, thanked the Fire Chief for his hard work, and expressed his appreciation to the Town for its efforts on maintaining the sea grapes.

MINUTES

3. February 3, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Councilor Guisinger moved to approve February 3, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes, as amended; seconded by Vice-Mayor Delaney; motion passed.

Kuretski	Delaney	Choy	Guisinger	Sundstrom
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed in this portion of the agenda are considered routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilor or citizen so requests; in which event, the item will be removed and considered at the beginning of the regular agenda.

Vice-Mayor Delaney moved to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Councilor Choy; motion passed.

Kuretski	Delaney	Choy	Guisinger	Sundstrom
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC HEARING

4. **Getz Subdivision**– Applications for a 0.36± acre property located on the north side of Center Street, approximately 1500 feet west of North Pennock Lane, to request the following.

A. **Ordinance 4-26, Second Reading,** Voluntary annexation

Title for Ordinance 4-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

B. **Ordinance 5-26, Second Reading,** Small-scale Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment from Palm Beach County (PBC) Low Residential, 1 Unit per Acre (LR-1), to Town of Jupiter (TOJ) Low Density Residential; and

Title for Ordinance 5-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

C. **Ordinance 6-26, Second Reading,** Zoning Map amendment from PBC Single-Family Residential (RS) to TOJ Compact Single-Family Residential (R-1A).

Title for Ordinance 6-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

5. **Police Officers Pension Modifications/Update**

A. **Ordinance 12-26, First Reading,** Amendment of Offset Healthcare Premiums Supplemental Retirement Benefits of the Police Officers Retirement Fund.

Title for Ordinance 12-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

B. **Ordinance 13-26, First Reading,** Amendment of DROP Supplemental Retirement Benefits of the Police Officers Retirement Fund.

Title for Ordinance 13-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

C. **Ordinance 14-26, First Reading,** Correction relating to the Police Officers Retirement Fund Pension Ordinance.

Title for Ordinance 14-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

6. **Planet Kids** – Applications for two parcels totaling 1.4+/- acres located at 6910 174th St N and the corner of 147th St N and 68th Terrace N, to request the following.

A. **Ordinance 17-26, First Reading** - Voluntary Annexation;

Title for Ordinance 17-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

B. **Ordinance 18-26, First Reading** - Future Land Use Map (FLUM) amendment from Palm Beach County (PBC) Medium Residential, 5 units per acre (MR-5) to Town of Jupiter (TOJ) High Density Residential; and

Title for Ordinance 18-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

C. **Ordinance 19-26, First Reading** - Zoning Map amendment from PBC Residential High (RH) to TOJ Residential, Limited Multifamily District (R-3). (Second Reading 3/17/2026)

Title for Ordinance 19-26 was read by Mr. Baird.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

7. Approving Purchase of Furniture and Fixtures from JC White in the amount of $228,009, using a piggyback of the State of Florida Contract.

8. **Resolution 3-26,** Approving a contract to Lawrence Lee Construction Services, Inc.

for Nanofiltration Acid Tank Replacements (W2514) for an amount of $1,976,600, and amendment of the project budget.

9. **Resolution 4-26,** Approving a contract to Grace Roofing & Sheet Metal Enterprise for Nanofiltration Roof Repairs and Replacement (W2529) for an amount of $527,741.

10. **Resolution 24-26,** Approving a contract with R&D Paving, LLC for the Jupiter Park Drive Turn Lane project in the amount of $1,592,710.25.

11. **Resolution 25-26,** Approving an ILA with Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (LRECD) for Jupiter Park Drive Turn Lane.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC BUSINESS

12. **Resolution 40-26,** Approving an Amendment to the Town Attorney Agreement.

Mr. Tom Baird, Town Attorney, provided a brief overview of the proposed amendment to the Town Attorney agreement, which included increasing the hourly administrative rate from $400 to $450 and the litigation rate from $450 to $500. He explained that the last rate adjustment occurred in 2023 and that the current request was due to rising law firm expenses. He stated that the Council could either approve the amendment now or consider it during the upcoming budget planning process. He also noted that the Town had one large pending litigation case and that the attorneys handling the matter were working below market rates.

Vice-Mayor Delaney stated that he believed the increase was fair and expressed his support for the amendment.

Councilor Guisinger moved to approve Resolution 40-26; seconded by Councilor Choy; motion passed.

Kuretski	Delaney	Choy	Guisinger	Sundstrom
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

REPORTS

TOWN ATTORNEY:

- Pending Litigation - Mr. Baird reported on the raw water main break damaged by a contractor, which left significant damage of approximately $1.5 million dollars. Mr. Baird stated the litigation attorneys assigned to the case asked him to let Council know how much they appreciated Amanda Barnes and all the assistance she has given them in respect to the case. They feel confident that, due to Ms. Barnes' assistance, the Town will see a positive decision when it gets to that point.

  Mayor Kuretski asked if there was an estimated schedule for when it would go to court for decision. Mr. Baird responded that another defendant had been added, and it was currently in the beginning stages. He noted that he would not look for the case to be on a trial docket in 2026.

Mayor Kuretski expressed concern about the contractor going out of business. Mr. Baird explained that he believed there was a surety in place, and if the contractor were to go out of business, they would look for the surety to step in.

TOWN MANAGER:

- Florida House and Senate Budgets – Mr. Kitzerow reported that the Florida House and Senate recently released their initial proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year, and several projects that benefit the Town of Jupiter are listed in those budgets, which is an important first step in receiving funding. He thanked the Town's new Lobbyist, Ballard Partners, for working so quickly to hit the ground running in the middle of session, especially Jeff Atwater, who is working directly with the Town.

  Mr. Kitzerow also thanked Representative John Snyder, who championed many of the Town's requested projects this year, as he does every year.

- Local Weather Station – Mr. Kitzerow announced that a grant from the Florida Department of Emergency Management allowed the Town to install a WeatherStem local weather station in Jupiter, which was placed on top of the Community Center. He explained that the weather station will provide real time weather data, wind speed, rainfall and lightning proximity. A link to the weather station will be added to the Town's website.

- Jupiter Police Department Annual Staff Awards – Mr. Kitzerow recognized the following employees, and noted that a formal awards ceremony would take place in March:
  - Rovina Coslay, Records Specialist-JPD Civilian Employee of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter and the Department's Civilian Employee of the Year 2025.
  - Officer Cameron Banegas -Officer of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter 2025.
  - Detective Jared Kenerson - Investigator of the Quarter.
  - Officer Christian Wyatt - 2025 Officer of the Year Award.
  - Officer First Class Luis Rocha-Police Officer First Class of the Year.
  - Agent Brandon Lopez - Investigator of the Year.
  - Sergeant Michael Nicholson - Supervisor of the Year.
  - Beach Unit - Team of the Year.

- Employee Service Anniversaries - Mr. Kitzerow recognized the following employees for their years of service:
  - Brian Kerestes, Utilities Department – 25 Years
  - Police Officer Janine Ercolano– 20 Years
  - Heather Keys and Carol Haber, Engineering & Public Works Department – 20 Years
  - Justin Holihan and Brian Carlton, Engineering & Public Works Department – 10 Years

TOWN COUNCIL – LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS –
VICE-MAYOR DELANEY:

- Loxahatchee River Management Coordination Council – Vice-Mayor Delaney reported that on February 9, 2026, he attended a meeting of the Council and provided an overview of the meeting, the Council, and the Loxahatchee Headwaters Initiative. He also noted that he was aware of drought, but that the water table had dropped about 10 feet. He said he looked forward to attending future meetings.

COUNCILOR CHOY:

- Jupiter Jubilee – Councilor Choy stated the Jupiter Jubilee was a smashing success. She commented on the employees and how they put their heart and soul into this event and how much the residents enjoyed the event. She said it was a great day, and she is looking forward to it every year.
- Vulnerability Report – Councilor Choy thanked the Utilities Department for the vulnerability report. She explained there was a resident meeting just prior to the Council meeting, and although there wasn't a huge turnout, everyone was very participatory.
- Citizen Comments – Councilor Choy thanked those who participated in citizen comments.
- Employee Service Anniversaries – Councilor Choy expressed appreciation for the longevity of Jupiter employees.
- Government Affairs Committee Meeting – Councilor Choy reported that she attended the Government Affairs Committee Meeting with the Chamber. She explained that it is a great collaboration of business minded people. She thanked Mayor Kuretski for the honor of being able to serve on that Committee.

COUNCILOR SUNDSTROM:

- Whole Foods and Total Wine – Councilor Sundstrom noted discussion taking place on social media regarding Whole Foods and Total Wine project. She stated that the project would come before Planning & Zoning potentially at their April meeting. She explained that the project was originally only to be approved administratively and not come before Council, but due to changes to the architecture, it would now go before Planning & Zoning before coming to Council, and there would be opportunities for discussion.
- Jupiter Inlet District– Councilor Sundstrom expressed gratitude to the Jupiter Inlet District, who completed their dredging project. It was very successful, and Councilor Sundstrom appreciated them providing regular updates to the Town and other municipalities that were impacted.
- New Lobbyist and 2026 Mid-Session Report – Councilor Sundstrom agreed with the Town Manager and expressed her pleasure with the new representation from

the new Lobbyist, Ballard Partners. She appreciated receiving the Mid-Session Report and praised how well it was written.

Councilor Sundstrom explained there were thousands of appropriation requests in the House and Senate and to see so many for the Town was wonderful. She also thanked Representative Gossett-Seidman.

- Utilities Department - Councilor Sundstrom praised Utilities and Director Amanda Barnes for their incredible work, including their efforts on the Vulnerability Assessment.

COUNCILOR GUISINGER:

- Vulnerability Assessment- Councilor Guisinger praised the Utilities Department Staff for the Vulnerability Assessment and acknowledged the fact that it was submitted and approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency (FDEP).
- Lobbyist 2026 Mid-Session Report – Councilor Guisinger complimented how thorough the report was, and stated it helped to keep him up to speed with what is going on in Tallahassee as it relates to the Town. He expressed gratitude to Representative Snyder for supporting the Jupiter appropriation requests, and complimented Mr. Atwater on his efforts.

MAYOR KURETSKI

- Jupiter Jubilee – Mayor Kuretski stated he agreed with the compliments already stated and noted he was delighted on how well the new Town green was utilized during the event by the Police Department.
- Lobbyist 2026 Mid-Session Report – Mayor Kuretski was appreciative of the fact that the report seemed very tailored to Jupiter.
- FY 2027 Budget Process – Mayor Kuretski expressed concern that the Council had received emails on several different topics where residents were asking for the Council to fund capital improvements. He explained this is a difficult time to put together a capital budget or respond to residents' requests because of uncertainty. He asked Staff to propose language for Council to use that would clearly convey the uncertainty of capital funds this year when residents inquire.

  Councilor Sundstrom was pleased to have residents providing input on capital projects, but she agreed and thought it would be an appropriate time to educate before anything is proposed.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:13 P.M.

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Merriane Lahmeur, Town Clerk