

City of Rockaway Beach City Council Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 HWY 101 -Civic Facility

CALL TO ORDER – Sue Wilson, Mayor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Mayor - Sue Wilson: Present
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Absent
Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Present
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Present
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Present
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Present

CONSENT AGENDA

Walhood made a motion, seconded by Martine to approve the August 11, 2021 workshop minutes, August 11th, 2021 minutes, September 8th, 2021 minutes, August 2021 check register and the September 2021 check register; motion carried.

Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Motion
Position #2 - Tom Martine: 2nd
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Absent
Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Approve
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jerry and Ron from the Rockaway lions spoke to the council to propose that the Weenie Wagon is placed at the Wayside for the upcoming weekend of October 22nd and 23rd.

Walhood made a motion, seconded by Cheek to add the October 22nd and 23rd dates to the Rockaway Lions application; motion carried.

Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Motion
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: 2nd
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Absent
Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Approve
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

PRESENTATIONS, GUESTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF REPORTS

Undersheriff, Matt Kelly stated the sheriff's department has stayed busy over the last month. Kelly said the Sheriff's department held interviews on Friday to hire more deputies for Rockaway Beach. Kelly mentioned you may see the deputies wearing an undershirt that is Pink or Purple during the month of October for Breast Cancer awareness and Domestic violence awareness.

Fire Chief, Todd Hesse stated the first person in the EMT class has passed the National Written Exam. Hesse said last month the department did pump tests and the 1993 pumper tender passed with no issues but, the new pumper is having some issues with pumping. Hesse mentioned the Fire Department will begin recruiting for an additional staff member. Martine stated he has been very impressed with the new CPR machine the department purchased.

Public Works, Rob Morris Director updated the council on the main pump station project. Morris stated he would be leaving the city at the end of October and thanked the Council for all their support. Morris also thanked City Manager Shepard for his role and giving him everything he needed to succeed and couldn't ask for a better Public Works Department to work with. Morris introduced Lead Plant Operator Dan Emerson, who will be stepping into the lead role for the department during recruitment for the next City Engineer. Emerson introduced himself to the council. Emerson stated the department has been doing several planned repairs and improvements to the water distribution system. Emerson said the department was successful in hauling the accumulated biosolids from the drying bed at the wastewater plant to an approved receiving site for proper disposal. Wilson asked where the city was with respect to the Crescent Lake outfall, Emerson said it depends on the tide and if the department can get equipment to clear the logs out, but as of right now it is in good shape.

City Manager, Luke Shepard thanked Morris for all his work and stated he has left the Public Works Department in a better place than he found it. Shepard stated that while the City looks for a new Public Works Director/ City Engineer, Dan Emerson will be stepping in to supervise the department's daily operations. He explained that Emerson currently runs the City's water and wastewater treatment operations and has been with the City for almost 14 years. Shepard said he had no doubt that Emerson is up to the task. Shepard explained that the owner of the Reimers lot had recently passed away. The City currently leases this lot as a "pocket park" in the downtown area, but the lot will soon be up for sale. He added that the City may begin removing some items from the lot. Shepard said that work to overhaul the City's website will begin soon. He added that the new website will be look and feel more modern, be compatible with mobile devices, and include an interactive calendar. Shepard mentioned the city is closer to receiving new entrance and wayfinding signs, as the signs have been designed and are now out for pricing. Shepard finished by thanking Fire Chief Hesse and all the awesome volunteer Fire Fighters and EMTs for getting Rockaway through the busiest year he has ever seen.

OLD BUSINESS

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON JULY 4th HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Wilson read the following: At the Work Session held on August 11, City discussed the ever-increasing number of visitors to Rockaway; and that Rockaway Beach can no longer meet the staff, resource and emergency service demands now required to safely host a parade. Feasible alternatives were discussed, including July 4th and shoulder season events, including improvements to the Wiener Dog International Races. City Manager will further summarize the work session in more detail and continue the discussion.

Shepard stated that he hoped he and City staff had made it clear that the increase in the amount of visitors since 2019 has been much larger than most people realize and that it is just no longer possible to safely hold the parade. Shepard said the purpose of the August workshop was to discuss alternatives that would keep the spirit of the holiday alive. Shepard mentioned he met with Eli Newell and his crew who put on the Wiener Dog Races. They are very interested in improving their event. Shepard stated they discussed six different areas to help improve the event. Cheek stated she thinks it is a great idea and liked the discussion about having the parade on the high school track. Wilson agreed and thought the City should move forward. Martine stated he has an idea to place garbage cans up and down the beach, Shepard said he would investigate.

DISCUSSION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The state of Oregon is now authorized to collect Transient Lodging Tax on behalf of local governments. An IGA is one of the requirements to participation in this program. City Manager to review this IGA and other program requirements with City Council.

Shepard went over the IGA and the draft ordinance with the City Council. He explained that the City is moving to join a program to allow the Department of Revenue to collect transient room tax on rentals within the City of Rockaway Beach. He mentioned that this topic has been discussed at various City Council meeting throughout the year as more program details became available, that final documents were now drafted, and that the next step in the process is for the council to adopt the drafted Transient Room Tax Ordinance and approve the IGA. These documents will be on the agenda at the City Council meeting. Walhood stated she went to a meeting and the county TLT taxes have increased in just the first quarter by one hundred and fifty percent. Walhood said it's a good idea. Martine said it will probably pay for itself.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilson read the following: The city received applications for the position #4 vacancy. Planning Commission position #4 is vacant due to Commissioner McGinnis' appointment

to the City Council on August 11th. A vacancy in the Council shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the Council. In this matter the mayor is not considered to have a vote. Applications received for the open position have been included in your Council Packets for review.

Walhood made a motion, seconded by McGinnis to move that the Rockaway Beach City Council appoint Sandra Johnson to position 4 of the Rockaway Beach Planning Commission; motion carried.

[Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Motion](#)
[Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: 2nd](#)
[Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Absent](#)
[Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Approve](#)
[Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve](#)
[Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve](#)
[Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve](#)

Cheek hoped to see the other applicant apply again in the future, McGinnis agreed.

DISCUSSION ON ACTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEDICATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TERRI MICHEL

Longtime employee and former City Manager Terri Michel passed away on September 3rd. She dedicated 22 years of her life in service to the City of Rockaway Beach. The City wishes to take action to acknowledge her service and accomplishments.

Shepard stated the City will host a celebration of life; the date has not yet been decided. Shepard said the Boardwalk was very special to Michel and suggested the City install a plaque near the tree along the Boardwalk, renaming or dedicating the Boardwalk to her memory. McGinnis said she would like to dedicate something to her. Mayor and Council asked for more time. Shepard asked that the City Councilors contact him with their ideas and that he would incorporate them into a finalized proposal for the next City Council meeting.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

McGinnis thanked Rob Morris for all his work and welcomed Sandra Johnson to the Planning Commission. Walhood thanked Morris and thanked the Undersheriff for supporting Domestic Violence awareness. Martine thanked the Sheriff's department for their presents in the Lake Lytle area.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Wilson thanked Morris for his dedication to the city and wished him the best. Wilson stated she believes purchasing the Reimers lot would be beneficial to the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 10th
DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021



Mayor, Sue Wilson



City Manager, Luke Shepard

