

# City of Rockaway Beach

## City Council Workshop Minutes

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**Date:** Wednesday, August 11, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 P.M. – 5:33 P.M.  
**Location:** Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 HWY 101 -Civic Facility

**CALL TO ORDER** – Sue Wilson, Mayor

### **ROLL CALL**

[Mayor - Sue Wilson: Present](#)  
[Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Present](#)  
[Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Present](#)  
[Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Present](#)  
[Position #2 - Tom Martine: Present](#)

### **INTRODUCTION TO WORK SESSIONS**

City Manager briefed Mayor and Council on typical work session purpose and guidelines.

### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> DEBRIEFING**

Fire Chief Todd Hesse stated he received feedback on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but the ability and resources of the fire department has been maxed out, and Hesse said the 4<sup>th</sup> needs to be reimaged and refocused to make the town safer during the holiday.

City Manager Luke Shepard stated his concerns with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and went over the statistics from past 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. He explained that the number of visitors to Rockaway and highway traffic has increased dramatically even compared to just several years ago, and that the increases are even more than most people realize. He explained the severe shortage of county and city resources available to safely host the parade and respond to fire, medical and criminal emergencies. He reminded those present that the city has a responsibility for the safety and welfare of its residents, visitors, and employees, and reiterated that the city does not have the resources to meet that responsibility and simultaneously host a parade on highway 101. He expressed his recommendation that the city focus on alternative events that do not require the shutdown or routing of highway 101 traffic through narrow city streets, as this was the main source of the problems. He recommended improving the wiener dog races, a roundtable discussion on new traditions and/or more shoulder season events. He added that the sooner these conversations can begin, the more time the city will have to plan for next year.

## **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION – FUTURE YEARS**

Martine stated in past years the fire department would have to stop the parade and go to emergency calls. Hayes said we are at capacity and should look at the resources we have for future 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. Council discussed the possibility of digital light displays, drone shows instead and/or in addition to fireworks. Mayor Wilson is concerned about the liability factor of the parade. Council discussed the possibility of moving the parade and having a committee put it on rather than City staff, adding bleachers at the park for the wiener dog races, beach cleanup event with prizes, utilizing the high school track and field area for a smaller non-motorized parade, additional events on the shoulder seasons.

Shepard thanked the City Council for their ideas and said they would be summarized in the minutes of the meeting. He added that this was just an initial work session on the topic and that the discussion would be revisited at regular City Council meetings where the public would have an opportunity to add their input, and everyone had time to think about the subject more.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Martine made a motion, seconded by Walhood to adjourn the meeting at 5:33pm; motion carried.

Position #2 - Tom Martine: Motion

Position #4 - Terry Walhood: 2nd

Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Approve

Position #4 - Terry Walhood: Approve

Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve

Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

MINUTES APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF OCTOBER 2021

  
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Mayor, Sue Wilson

  
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City Manager, Luke Shepard