



City of Rockaway Beach

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Location: Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 Hwy 101 - Civic Facility

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McNeilly called the meeting to order at: 6:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Start time: 6:05 p.m.

Mayor - Charles McNeilly: Present
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Present
Position #4 - Alesia Franken: Present
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Present
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Present
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Present

Staff Present: Luke Shepard, City Manager; Melissa Thompson, City Recorder; Dan Emerson, Public Works Superintendent; Todd Hesse, Fire Chief; and Kevin Grogan, Sheriff's Deputy.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Start time: 6:06 p.m.

- a. Approval of October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of October 11, 2023 Workshop Minutes
- c. Review of October 2023 Check Register

Cheek made a **motion**, seconded by McGinnis, to adopt the Consent Agenda.

The **motion carried** by the following vote:

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

5. PRESENTATIONS, GUESTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Presentation – Streets Capital Improvements Plan Projects - Matt Del Moro, HBH Engineering

Start time: 6:07 p.m.

Matt Del Moro, HBH Consulting Engineers, gave a presentation on the preliminary street capital improvements project list, explaining the categories and review criteria for the projects. He explained that the City was seeking public input on the list, as well as suggestions for additional streets that should be added to the list.

b. Presentation – High-Ground Disaster Resiliency and Response Project – Thomas (TJ) Fiorelli, Fiorelli Consulting

Start time: 6:17 p.m.

Thomas (TJ) Fiorelli, Fiorelli Consulting, introduced himself and gave a presentation on the High-Ground Disaster Resiliency & Response Project, providing an overview of the project and proposed consulting services and deliverables. He answered a clarifying question for the Council. McGinnis shared that Fiorelli also gave his presentation at that evening's Council Workshop and the public could view the recording to hear the discussion that occurred at the Workshop.

6. STAFF REPORTS

c. Fire Department

Start time: 6:33 p.m.

Hesse presented his staff report on the activities and operations of the Rockaway Beach Fire Rescue department for the month of October 2023. Hesse added that when Lumen Technologies (Century Link) landlines are down, dispatch can't receive 911 calls. He shared that when landlines are down, the Fire Department is notified, and the Fire Station will be staffed so that the public can go to the Fire Station if they need assistance. Hesse answered clarifying questions for the Council and confirmed that the information he shared would be publicized. McGinnis thanked the Fire Department for their emergency management training and noted that the meetings occur on the first Wednesday of month at 6:00 p.m. Mayor McNeilly and Hesse shared actions they were taking to address the cellphone tower generator issue.

d. Sheriff's Office

Start time: 6:47 p.m.

Deputy Kevin Grogan summarized the Sheriff's Office report for October 2023. Grogan noted that there had been several recent accidents on Highway 101, and asked that the public inspect their vehicles and ensure that they are prepared for cold weather. He added that the Sheriff's Department had one Deputy in the Academy, and another Deputy going to the Academy next week.

c. Public Works

Start time: 6:49 p.m.

Emerson presented his report on operations within the Public Works department for October 2023. McGinnis commented that she was glad to hear that a cleaning service would be providing assistance with maintaining public bathrooms on weekends and holidays.

d. City Manager

Start time: 6:53 p.m.

Shepard shared a presentation providing background information on the business items on the agenda. He shared updates on the City email list, the Destination Management meeting on December 4, 2023, and the façade improvement grant application deadline on December 15, 2023. Shepard recognized employees Caleb Smith, who received his Water Treatment Level 1 certification, and Melissa Thompson, who received an OAMR President’s Award of Distinction. Shepard updated the Council on other City activities, and answered a clarifying question for Hayes regarding the Pacific Street project.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Streets Preliminary Capital Improvement Plan Projects

Start time: 7:02 p.m.

McNeilly opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m. There being no audience members who wished to comment, McNeilly closed the public hearing at 7:03 p.m.

8. CITIZEN INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Start time: 7:03 p.m.

Don Riddle commented on activities and events sponsored by the Rockaway Beach Chamber of Commerce. Riddle shared his experiences volunteering in the Chamber of Commerce Caboose. He recommended that people visit the Caboose, and said that they are always looking for volunteers to serve a four-hour shift.

9. OLD BUSINESS – None Scheduled

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of Resolution 23-1009 Approving Anchor Street Playground & Amenities

Start time: 7:05 p.m.

McNeilly explained that this resolution approves a proposal for Playground Equipment and Amenities for the Anchor Street project. It delegates concurrent contracting power to the City

Manager for the acquisition, and authorizes the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement and administer the project in accordance with the project specifications.

No audience members wished to comment.

Cheek made a **motion**, seconded by Martine, to approve Resolution 23-1009 Approving Anchor Street Playground & Amenities.

Cheek commented that the Resolution speaks for itself and it's a playground where visitors and children can enjoy themselves. McGinnis commented that it was an example of one of the things that the city has done to move the process through the community. She noted that it was mentioned in the long-range transportation plan, went through the Planning Commission, and had many opportunities for public comment.

The **motion carried** by the following vote:

Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Motion
Position #2 - Tom Martine: 2nd
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Deny
Position #4 - Alesia Franken: Approve
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

b. Consideration of Resolution 23-1011 Approving an Additional Award for the 2023 Community Grant Program

Start time: 7:08 p.m.

McNeilly explained that this resolution approves an additional award to an applicant for the 2023 Community Grant Program that provides funding to non-profit entities and other organizations that serve the Rockaway Beach Community. The city appropriated \$60,000 for the Community Grant Program as part of its 2023-2024 Budget. Over \$20,000 was awarded in September, and additional funds remain available. McNeilly said the Council requested additional information from the Rockaway Beach Writers Rendezvous applicant at the Workshop that evening and may now consider granting them an award of \$5,000.

No audience members wished to comment.

Hayes made a **motion**, seconded by Franken, to approve Resolution 23-1011 Approving an Additional Award for the 2023 Community Grant Program.

Hayes commented that it was a good project, and she was excited about the additional information the applicant shared about providing an anthology of student stories.

The **motion carried** by the following vote:

Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Motion

Position #4 - Alesia Franken: 2nd
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Approve
Position #4 - Alesia Franken: Approve
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

c. **Consideration of Resolution 23-1012 Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Fiorelli Consulting for the High-Ground Project**

Start time: 7:10 p.m.

McNeilly said that this resolution approves a contract with Fiorelli Consulting for consulting services related to the High-Ground Disaster Resiliency and Response Project and authorizes the City Manager to execute the contract.

Jessica Hooker commented on her past involvement in disaster resilience and preparedness, noting that she values those goals. She shared concerns regarding rare-type forested wetland and two perennial streams on the high-ground property site, and advocated for clear wetland delineation. She shared neighbors' concerns regarding the project's necessity, costs, and community impacts. She asked the Council to vote no on the Resolution and instead facilitate a master plan for the process.

McGinnis made a **motion**, seconded by Cheek, to approve Resolution 23-1012 Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Fiorelli Consulting for the High-Ground Project.

McGinnis thanked Hooker for her comments and explained that she had shared her concerns over the past several years since she first discussed the issue as a member of the Planning Commission. McGinnis explained that approving the contract was a positive step because Fiorelli Consulting would address all the concerns Hooker shared, including public engagement and creating a vision.

Franken commented that wetlands delineation would be performed by a certified professional.

Hayes commented that she felt conflicted and would prefer to consider action at the next Council meeting to allow more time to process the information and discuss it with the public. She explained that she liked the consulting firm, but would like to have the wetlands delineation and a public meeting about the resolution.

Cheek recalled holding a public meeting during the four-year process, and commented that the Council was voting on a resolution to make it happen.

McNeilly commented that the action being considered was to hire a consultant to help the City do work including the wetlands delineation, public meetings and community engagement. He explained that the Council wasn't making a decision about what the City was going to do, but was making a decision in order to find out what the City would do.

McGinnis noted that both she and Council President Cheek were on the Planning Commission when the process began and there were numerous public hearings. She added that since it had been a four-year process people may have forgotten the work that had been done, and hiring the consultant would help bring the past work together and help the City move forward.

The **motion carried** by the following vote:

Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Motion
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: 2nd
Position #3 - Kristine Hayes: Deny
Position #4 - Alesia Franken: Approve
Position #1 - Mary McGinnis: Approve
Position #5 - Penelope Cheek: Approve
Position #2 - Tom Martine: Approve

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None Removed

12. COUNCIL CONCERNS

Start time: 7:22 p.m.

Cheek commented that she was sorry she missed some meetings due to travel in order to be with a sick family member who was now well. She expressed a desire to bring back the tsunami siren and asked that it be discussed in a workshop. She thanked the City and City Manager for sending her to the League of Oregon Cities conference, noting that it was very educational. Cheek mentioned that she would like to see the Chamber of Commerce and Merchant's Association get together and discuss what they can do to make the city better instead of ripping it apart. She commented that she thought the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony should have only one Santa Claus.

Franken thanked the Sheriff's office for the added attention to domestic violence awareness. She shared that she was happy to see the participation in the Great Shakeout. She expressed a desire to have additional ways to communicate with the public during emergencies and drills. Franken shared that she appreciated that the City was doing work toward repairing roads. She thanked City staff, Public Works and emergency service teams for their work.

Hayes said she was glad that the City was moving forward with fireworks. She shared that she liked the new email listserv system and time stamps in minutes. Hayes shared that she voted no on the Anchor Street Playground Project because no citizens told her that they wanted a playground, and some were upset about it. She added that she didn't think a playground should be near emergency services vehicles. Hayes shared that Visit Tillamook Coast would be holding grant writing workshops on November 9, 2023. She reported on a middle school student work party that helped clean the beach. She said she would like to bring back the Beautification Committee and Waterways & Wetlands Committee, and have more committees for volunteers to participate.

Martine shared that the City hosted a recent League of Oregon Cities meeting and he was impressed by how it worked out.

McGinnis shared that there were many positive things going on in the City. She thanked all who were involved with Halloween decorations. She commended the coordination that occurred to host the League of Oregon Cities meeting, and thanked all who were involved. McGinnis reported that she attended the League of Oregon Cities Conference. She shared that a grant writing workshop would be held on December 9, 2023. McGinnis commented on issues that she anticipated working on, including Short-Term Rentals, and a Comprehensive Plan update. She noted that City staff performed the work on these issues, and it takes time, and the City was making progress.

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

Start time: 7:37 p.m.

McNeilly shared comments he heard from the owner of Beach Beagle Print Shop about how much he enjoyed working with Office Manager Becca Harth and City Hall staff. McNeilly thanked city staff for their work hosting the League of Oregon Cities meeting, as well as the Chamber, Chamber members and Tillamook Coast Visitors Association for providing the swag. McNeilly reported that the Coffee with Manager and Mayor meetings were held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 and Saturday, October 21, 2023, and summaries were included in the agenda packet. He noted that the next Coffee with Manager and Mayor meeting would be held November 16, 2023 and there would not be a meeting in December. McNeilly shared that Rockaway Beach was currently recruiting volunteers to build a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and encouraged community members to sign up. He also shared that the next Community and Destination Management Planning workshop would be held on December 4, 2023.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Start time: 7:47 p.m.

Hayes made a **motion**, seconded by Martine, to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

The **motion carried** by the following vote:

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

MINUTES APPROVED THIS
13TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023


Charles McNeilly, Mayor

ATTEST



Melissa Thompson, City Recorder