

City of Rockaway Beach

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes



Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Location: Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 Hwy 101 - Civic Facility

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McNeilly called the meeting to order at: 6:12 p.m.

- McNeilly announced a change to the order of business, to move the Executive Session to the end of the agenda, as there would be no decision made after the Executive Session.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Mayor Charles McNeilly; Councilors Penny Cheek, Mary McGinnis, Tom Martine, Kiley Konruff, and Pat Ryan

Staff Present: Luke Shepard, City Manager; Melissa Thompson, City Recorder; Mary Mertz, Public Works Director; Todd Hesse, Fire Chief; Lark Reifensahl, Administrative Assistant; Matt Kelly, Undersheriff; Kevin Grogan, Sheriff's Deputy; and Mark Weir, Sheriff's Deputy

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Start time: 6:13 p.m.

- a. Approval of August 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of August 20, 2025 Workshop Minutes
- c. Review of Financial Reports

Motion by Martine, seconded by Cheek, to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 (Cheek, McGinnis, Martine, Konruff, Ryan)

No: 0

5. PRESENTATIONS, GUESTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Start time: 6:14 p.m.

a. Introduction of New Sheriff's Deputy

- Undersheriff Matt Kelly announced that Rockaway Beach patrol was now fully staffed, with a fourth Deputy, Mark Weir, now assigned to Rockaway Beach.

- Deputy Mark Weir was introduced.

6. STAFF REPORTS

a. Fire Department

Start time: 6:15 p.m.

- Hesse presented a staff report on the activities and operations of the Rockaway Beach Fire Rescue department for the month of August 2025.
- Hesse shared slides of the new ladder truck and commented on their training process.
- Seasonal staff working through October 31 or when hour requirement is spent. Hesse expects at least one to stay.
- Council members advocated for the need for an additional full-time Fire Department staff member.
- Councilor commented on friendly and welcoming Fire Department staff.

b. Sheriff's Office

Start time: 6:32 p.m.

- Grogan shared a desire to ride along on the new Fire Department ladder truck.
- Grogan summarized the Sheriff's Office report for August 2025.
- Council members expressed appreciation for the Sheriff's Department for more visible presence in the community, noted that four Deputies was a step up from previous staffing when the City had its own Police Department.
- Council members welcomed Deputy Weir.
- Public encouraged to use the non-emergency Sheriff's Office dispatch number.

c. Public Works

Start time: 6:38 p.m.

- Mertz shared slides presenting highlights of operations within the Public Works department for August 2025, cedar boardwalk repairs, leak detection, project updates, and sewer rate study update.
- Councilor advocated for lights inside Phyllis Baker Park restroom, and upgraded electrical power for Wayside events.

d. City Manager

Start time: 6:51 p.m.

- Shepard shared a presentation including an overview of the business item on the agenda, project updates, update on the September 9th Council decision on the Remand 25-1 reversing the Planning Commission's July 18, 2024 decision and denying application

#PUD-24-1, new David's Chair delivery, increase in Fire Department call volume, new ladder truck push-in ceremony and public meeting dates in September and October.

- Shepard invited Bill Hassell to share about the delivery of the new track chair and a user's first experience in the chair. Hassell announced the chair was open the following weekend.

7. PUBLIC HEARING – None Scheduled

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

- Nancy Lanyon, resident, supported ideas for a birding event and guest services training presented by Nan Devlin of Tillamook County Visitors Association (TCVA) at the Council workshop. Lanyon expressed concerns about the decline in songbirds and shared that she would be distributing free cat collar bells at the post office and library and encouraged cat owners to use them.
- Lydia Hess, resident, praised Devlin's workshop presentation and marketing efforts. Hess commented on the City Hall reader board sign and offered suggestions for posting events on the sign.

9. OLD BUSINESS – None Scheduled

10. NEW BUSINESS – None Scheduled

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – None removed

12. COUNCIL CONCERNS

Start time: 7:07 p.m.

- Cheek shared she was thrilled about David's Chair and had witnessed its first use earlier that day with Hassell. Cheek shared that she has a great-grandchild who is eagerly anticipating a visit and will benefit greatly from the chair.
- Cheek expressed appreciation for the new fire engine acquired by the Fire Department and welcomed Deputy Weir.
- Konruff shared she was pleased about Deputy presence in the community and having a fourth full-time Deputy. Konruff expressed excitement for the new ladder truck and push-in ceremony, SeeClickFix, and opening of new businesses.

- Martine shared that two retired firefighters were lost in past month, Phil Fletcher and Al Johnson, and offered prayers for their families.
- McGinnis commented on successful Movies in the Park events and acknowledged volunteers Jen and Victor Troxell, Corrine Rupp and Don Allgeier, who helped with setup. McGinnis commented on visible improvements funded by façade grants. McGinnis appreciated the Coffee with Mayor & Manager meeting notes included in the packet and encouraged the public to attend. McGinnis shared community members' requests for speed bumps, and praise for the Fire Department. McGinnis reported she received a scholarship from the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to attend the National Accessibility Annual Conference that will be held in Sunriver, noting that Rockaway Beach was selected to represent the coast.
- Ryan expressed appreciation for David's Chair and thanked all involved for their efforts. Ryan acknowledged the Sheriff's and Fire Department's increase in call response and expressed appreciation that staffing needs are being considered to ensure maintaining current safety levels in the community.

13. MAYOR'S REPORT

Start time: 7:15 p.m.

- McNeilly announced the July Coffee with Mayor & Manager August 28th meeting notes were included in the agenda packet, and the next Coffee with Mayor & Manager meeting would be held on September 25th and encouraged all to attend.
- McNeilly commented on negativity spread by a small cadre of people in the community. McNeilly shared about a sample of people who believe in Rockaway Beach and are working to move the community forward: Jason and Julie Maxfield, Nancy Lanyon, and Deb Weissenfluh.
- McNeilly invited the public to email him regarding any questions or concerns about the City.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:19 p.m., McNeilly announced that the Council would recess into Executive Session with the following statement:

EXECUTIVE SESSION Pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(f) to Consider Information or Records that are Exempt by Law from Public Inspection Related to Potential Franchise Agreement

Executive sessions are closed to the public. Representatives of the news media and designated staff may attend the Executive Session. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to record or report any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No Council decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, the meeting will return to open session.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

McNeilly reconvened the regular session at 7:46 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Start time: 7:46 p.m.

Motion by Martine, seconded by Cheek to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 (McGinnis, Martine, Cheek, Konruff, Ryan)

No: 0

MINUTES APPROVED THE
12TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2025


Charles McNeilly, Mayor

ATTEST


Melissa Thompson, City Recorder