



HARBOUR COMMISSION MINUTES

**Thursday, July 23, 2026
Meeting Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

CHRIS NIELSEN, Chair
VAN VU, Vice Chair
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member
MEL WILLIAMS, Board Member
DIANE WOOD, Board Member

COUNCIL LIAISONS

PAT BURNS, Councilmember Liaison
GRACEY VAN DER MARK, Councilwoman Liaison

STAFF

ERIC MCCOY, Fire Chief
TREVOR MCDONALD, Marine Safety Division Chief
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst

CALLED TO ORDER

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams

Commissioner Absent: Milligan, Vu, Wood

Staff Present: Justen, McDonald, Villa, Woodroof

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one public comment: Amory Hanson reiterated his support for the Harbour Commission's proposed revisions to *Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44* as currently written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2026

MOTION: A motion was made by Larkin, seconded by Wood, to approve the June 25, 2026, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams

NOES: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Rotation of Harbour Commission Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Williams, to approve Commissioner Vu as Chair and Commissioner Wood as Vice Chair.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams

NOES: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee

Williams reported that the committee is continuing research on a standardized program for dock permits in the Harbour. A discussion ensued regarding various issues related to dock permitting.

2. Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee

Larkin asked about boats intruding into the channel creating potential navigational hazards in more narrow channels. He asked about enforcement standards for this. Justen said that this could be a violation of the municipal code and suggested that any potential violations could be submitted to City Code Enforcement, which would be followed by an investigation and possible citation. Schauppner asked about the Murchinson lawsuit in Newport Beach regarding the use of public beaches by vendors and Justen said that it is schedule for trial in October.

3. Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee

Schauppner announced that he has worked with City staff regarding publicizing the Oyster Palooza event on August 29, 2026 at the Sunset Beach Community Center. Justen thanked Schauppner for his help on this and said that the article in the City newsletter is ready and requested pictures to accompany it. Williams said that the Orange County Health Care Agency posted a bacteria warning regarding at Mother's Beach in the Harbour. Schauppner explained about water quality postings, which are included at OCBeachInfo.com.

STAFF COMMENTS

McDonald reported that the Marine Safety Division has been very busy lately and completed 550 water rescues during the last seven (7) days. He added that the Junior Lifeguard Program has been a very positive experience for close to 1,000 area youth. He also said that he interacted with Commissioner Nielsen at a recent callout for an oil sheen on the water, which was monitored and burned off in a number of hours. The following morning it was not present. He also said that the RFP process for refurbishment of two (2) of the City's three (3) rescue boats is currently being conducted and three (3) vendors have submitted questions. The refurbishment will include a top to bottom renovation of the boats. Larkin asked about the timeframe and if the boats will have diesel engines. McDonald said it will take 6-10 months to complete both boats and the cost should be between one and one and a quarter million dollars. He added that the boat engines are not diesel but use regular fuel. Villa said that the Sheriffs Department recently assisted the Navy SEALs with weeklong training exercises that will include activities on the offshore oil platforms. Justen announced that the August Harbour Commission meeting will include presentations by the City Engineer on the Humbolt Island Bridge Replacement Project and Principal Civil Engineer regarding the Davenport Sewer lift Station.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Larkin said that the City's Junior Lifeguard Program provides outstanding opportunities for area youth and encouraged Commissioners to promote it among people they know. McDonald described the program, which is open for children from 7-17 years old. He said after the program, which provides great ocean safety training, Junior Lifeguards often assist with rescues. Justen pointed out that the program is also a *feeder farm* for hiring future Marine Safety summer Lifeguards. Larkin asked if records exist on the rescues of kayakers and paddleboards in the Harbour. McDonald said that these records exist and Justen said that he would provide the information to Commissioners. McDonald invited Commissioners to the Junior Lifeguard Pancake Breakfast on August 1, 2026 at Lake Park and Justen said that he would send the flyer for the event to Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Schauppner, at 5:37 p.m. to adjourn to the regular meeting on August 27, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote, 4-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Williams

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be on August 27, 2026, at a time and location to be announced.