



**HARBOUR COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 5, 2024  
Administration Conference Room #2  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

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

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

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

**STAFF**

SCOTT HABERLE, Fire Chief  
MARTY ORTIZ, Deputy Fire Chief  
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Milligan called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Larkin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

Staff Present: Justen, Ortiz

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was one public comment from Mel Williams, who said he believes that the spelling *Harbour*

*Commission* should be *Harbor Commission*. He provided a handout with four arguments for the *Harbor* spelling.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2024

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Vu to approve the October 24, 2024, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

NOES: None

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. *Harbour Commission Review of Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44*

A staff report was provided by Justen regarding the Harbour Commission's review of Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44 of the Municipal Code. Schauppner said that the Policy Ad Hoc Committee has not reviewed the listing of proposed changes included in the report and in light of the public comments by Mr. Williams the Commission should consider the change recommended by him. The Commission agreed that the item will be returned with this item and Justen confirmed that it will be included on the January 23, 2025 agenda. Schauppner also asked that the related sections of the Newport Beach Municipal Code be provided to Commissioners beforehand. He said that he would provide Justen the specific references and Justen will distribute them. VanVoorhis said that since the Commission does not know what the City Council will decide about duffy, paddleboard and kayak rental companies in the Harbour, making recommendations on Municipal Code changes might be premature. Schauppner said that the subject sections of the Code do not conflict with the permitting issues.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee*

There was no committee report.

2. *Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee*

Commissioners thanked Burns for setting up a tour of the Orange County Sanitation facility in Fountain Valley. Nielsen reported on the community meeting regarding the Davenport lift station held on December 4, 2024.

3. *Policy Ad Hoc Committee*

There was no committee report.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Ortiz said that McCoy will be attending the January Harbour Commission meeting. Vu asked who the Council liaisons to the Harbour will be and Ortiz said that it has not been determined. Justen said that the

Commission vacancy will be posted on December 11, 2024, in accordance with Maddy Act requirements. It will be posted on the Council Chambers bulletin board, at all City libraries and on the City website. It will close on January 2, 2025 and applications will be provided to the Council Liaisons. They can interview candidates if they wish, although this is not required. Their recommended candidate will be presented to the City Council for consideration in February, so there will be a vacancy at the January and possibly the February meetings. He also reported on the memorandum report from the City Manager's office on sponsoring legislation to establish a fund for Huntington Harbour from rental revenue collected by the State Land Commission from Harbour homeowners and businesses. Justen said that the report will be provided at the January meeting.

## MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioners wished Haberle well in his retirement and provided the following comments:

- **Wood:** She said that he has been great to work with and the Commission appreciated his integrity, support and commitment. She also said that she is sorry to see VanVoorhis leave the Commission, that he has given a lot to the City. Finally, she expressed appreciation for Burns organizing the tour of the Orange County Sanitation facility.
- **Larkin:** He thanked Haberle for his leadership and stepping in to take responsibility for a newly formed Commission and said that he was a pleasure to work with. He also complimented him on his organizational skills and ability to lead the group.
- **Vu:** He said that he greatly enjoyed working with VanVoorhis and that he learned a lot of things from working with Haberle. He wished him the best in his retirement.
- **Nielsen:** He said that Haberle explained well how government processes work and the strategic planning process he led was excellent. He also complimented VanVoorhis, noting that he was one of the original Harbour Commissioners.
- **Schauppner:** He said on a personal level he appreciated Haberle's great respect and patience. He also noted his great communication skill. He said that it has been an honor and pleasure working with VanVoorhis and that he learned a lot from him.
- **Milligan:** She said that Haberle elevated the Commission to a new level and she is very proud of all the work that has been done. She added that he is an excellent Fire Chief, great person, and she wishes him the best in his retirement. She also thanked VanVoorhis for his service, adding that it was enjoyable working with him.
- **VanVoorhis:** He said that there has been an ownership change for Peter's Landing, although he does not know specifics regarding any changes that will occur. He echoed comments by other Commissioners regarding Haberle and added that things got done in a hurry once he became responsible for the Commission. He also said that he learned a lot from him. He provided some history on the terms set for the original Commission appointments, noting that they were structured so everyone would not term out at the same time. He said that he enjoyed his time on the Commission and appreciated the friendships he formed with fellow Commissioners.

Milligan presented a certificate of appreciation to VanVoorhis, which was signed by the Mayor, City Manager and Fire Chief.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Milligan, seconded by Schauppner, at 5:35 p.m. to adjourn to the January 23, 2025, meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

NOES:           None

The next regularly meeting of the Harbour Commission will be scheduled for January 23, 2025, at a time and location to be announced.