

Minutes

City Council/Public Financing Authority City of Huntington Beach

Tuesday, July 15, 2025
4:00 PM — Council Chambers
6:00 PM — Council Chambers
Civic Center, 2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, California 92648

A video recording of the 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM portions of this meeting is on file in the Office of the City Clerk, and archived at <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

4:30 PM — COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALLED TO ORDER — 4:30 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
Absent: None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS PERTAINING TO CLOSED SESSION (Received After Agenda Distribution)

Pursuant to the Brown "Open Meetings" Act, City Clerk Lisa Lane Barnes announced supplemental communications received by her office following distribution of the Council Agenda packet which were all uploaded to the City's website and Councilmember iPads: *Closed Session Items #5 (1 e-mail communication), #6 (1 e-mail communication), Item #7 (1 e-mail communication), Item #8 (1 e-mail communication), and Item #9 (1 e-mail communication).*

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CLOSED SESSION (3-Minute Time Limit) — None.

Mayor Burns read titles for Closed Session Item #1 25-571 regarding Conference with Labor Negotiators and Employee Organization: Marine Safety Management Association (MSMA); Item #2 25-572 regarding Conference with Labor Negotiators and Employee Organization: Surf City Lifeguard Employees' Association (SCLEA); and Item #4 25-576 with Real Property Negotiators for 10449 Adams Avenue with Rex & Larry Gilmore, Eric Johnson & Ryan Gilmore and Moon Valley Nurseries regarding price and terms of payment.

A motion was made by Kennedy, with a second by Van Der Mark, to recess to Closed Session.

RECESSED TO CLOSED SESSION — 4:32 PM

CLOSED SESSION

1. 25-571 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code section 54957.6.) Agency designated representatives: Travis Hopkins, City Manager; also in attendance: Marissa Sur, Director of Human Resources; Mike Vigliotta, City Attorney and Robert

Torrez, Interim Chief Financial Officer. Employee Organization: Marine Safety Management Association (MSMA).

2. 25-572 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code section 54957.6.) Agency designated representatives: Travis Hopkins, City Manager; also in attendance: Marissa Sur, Director of Human Resources; Mike Vigliotta, City Attorney and Robert Torrez, Interim Chief Financial Officer. Employee Organization: Surf City Lifeguard Employees' Association (SCLEA).
3. 25-573 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9). Protect HB v. City of Huntington Beach; OCSC Case No.: 30-2025-01470582.
4. 25-576 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code section 54956.8.) Property: 10449 Adams Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 Agency negotiator: Travis Hopkins, City Manager; Kriss Casanova, Economic Development Manager; Steve Holtz, Deputy Director of Community Development; Jennifer Villasenor, Director of Community Development. Negotiating parties: Rex & Larry Gilmore, Eric Johnson & Ryan Gilmore and Moon Valley Nurseries (Not Present). Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
5. 25-583 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9). Frahm (Robert), et al. v. City of Huntington Beach; OCSC Case No.: 30-2023-01319592.
6. 25-584 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9). City of Huntington Beach, Parents 1A-9A v. Gavin Newsom, et al.; USDC Case No: 8:24-cv-02017 CBM (JDEX).
7. 25-585 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9). Torres (Anita M.) v. City of Huntington Beach; OCSC Case No. 30-2023-01350857.
8. 25-586 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9). Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, et al. v. City of Huntington Beach; OCSC Case No. 30-2024-01397379.
9. 25-605 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-LITIGATION (Gov. Code section 54956.9(d)(4).): One (1).

6:00 PM — COUNCIL CHAMBERS

RECONVENED THE CITY COUNCIL/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY MEETING — 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
Absent: None

INVOCATION

In permitting a nonsectarian invocation, the City does not intend to proselytize or advance any faith or belief. Neither the City nor the City Council endorses any particular religious belief or form of invocation.

10. 25-54 Huntington Beach Fire and Police Chaplain Roger Wing

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE — Led by Huntington Beach Chaplain Roger Wing

CLOSED SESSION REPORT BY CITY ATTORNEY — None

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS (2-Minute Time Limit)

Mayor Burns and Council Woman Van Der Mark expressed appreciation for a safe 4th of July. Councilman Kennedy reminded residents how easy it is to get an old and faded street sign replaced. Councilmen McKeon and Twining thanked residents for their patience during the three-day strike of Republic's employees and explained there will soon be a Request for Proposal to engage a third-party trash hauler to stand by in a contingency position to ensure local residents do not again suffer because of a labor strike in another part of the country.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS (Received After Agenda Distribution)

Pursuant to the Brown "Open Meetings" Act, City Clerk Lisa Lane Barnes announced supplemental communications received by her office following distribution of the Council Agenda packet which were all uploaded to the City's website and Councilmember iPads: City Manager's Report #12 (1 e-mail communication); Council Member Items #19 (13 e-mail communications), and #21 (1 e-mail communication).

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-Minute Time Limit) — 12 Speakers

The number [hh:mm:ss] following the speakers' comments indicates their approximate starting time in the archived video located at <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

John Redaelli commented on Councilmember Items #20 (25-604) regarding Transparency for Taxpayers — Public Contracts. (00:12:31)

Jim Banks commented on his experiences with illegal activities on the 4th of July in the Downtown area. (00:15:44)

Unnamed Speaker commented on the recent ICE raids. (00:19:18)

Andrew Einhorn commented on what he described as unprofessional conduct by Mayor Burns and Councilmembers' lack of appropriate action. (00:21:35)

Tim Geddes commented on what he called the inconsistent decision of Mayor Burns regarding the amount of time public speakers have at each meeting. (00:23:14)

Amory Hanson commented on Councilmember Item #18 (25-603) regarding a community garden with Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (MTA). (00:24:40)

Unnamed Speaker commented on the Federal Administrative Procedure Act passed in 1947. (00:25:14)

Russ Neal commented on what he described as the collapse of the Enlightenment Movement. (00:27:36)

Unnamed Speaker commented on the June 4, 2024, City Council affirmation of respect for the Constitution of the United States of America and described some recent Councilmember actions which he believes show lack of respect for the Constitution. (00:29:32)

Jignesh Padhiar commented on Councilmember Item #18 (25-603) regarding a community garden with Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (MTA), and suggested Council consider new ways Huntington Beach could celebrate next year's 4th of July, America's 250th Anniversary. (00:31:10)

Jordan Richard commented on Councilmember Item #19 regarding prohibition of the Sale and Distribution of Kratom. (00:32:04)

Jennifer Thomas reminded Councilmembers that they represent all residents of Huntington Beach, not just the ones that share their values. (00:35:17)

COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Gruel announced his appointment of Ben Goldberg to the Planning Commission.

AB 1234 REPORTING — None

OPENNESS IN NEGOTIATION DISCLOSURES — None

City Manager Travis Hopkins announced Consent Calendar Item #16, regarding Be Well contracted services, was pulled and will be brought back in the future for discussion.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

11. 25-593 Fire Department — American Heart Association Award Presented

City Manager Travis Hopkins introduced Chief Medical Officer Rombod Rahimian and Fire Division Chief Justin Fleming who presented a PowerPoint communication titled *American Heart Association Award*, with slides entitled: *Mission Lifeline EMS, AHA Program, HBFD Participation, Award Achievement, 2025 Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition, and Questions?*

Councilman Twining asked Dr. Rahimian to describe some of the incidents that Emergency Medical Responders addressed on July 4th.

Council Woman Van Der Mark congratulated the Fire Department for receiving this award.

Councilman Kennedy thanked the Fire Department Chief and all Fire Department staff for their excellence.

12. 25-600 Independence Day Celebration Recap

City Manager Travis Hopkins introduced Community & Library Services Manager Molly Uemura who presented a PowerPoint communication titled: *2025 Independence Day Recap*, with slides entitled: *Independence Day Events, City Beach Statistics, HBPD Statistics, HBFD Statistics, HBFD – Marine Safety Division, Thank You, and Questions?*

Mayor Pro Tem McKeon noted that 4th of July celebrations were a huge city-wide effort from amazing staff and volunteers. He noted that planning for the Semiquencentennial has been going on for some time.

Councilman Gruel and Manager Uemura compared numbers reported for this year with previous year numbers.

Councilman Kennedy expressed his appreciation for all the fantastic events over three days and gratitude to the Police Department for their outstanding service.

CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 13 - 17)

Councilmember Kennedy stated he will abstain from voting on Item #14.

City Clerk

13. 25-545 Approved and Adopted Minutes

A motion was made by Burns, second Van Der Mark to approve and adopt the City Council/Public Financing Authority regular meeting minutes of July 1, 2025.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams

NOES: None

Community Development

14. 25-536 Approved and authorized execution of a reimbursement agreement with Socal Holdings, LLC in the amount of \$291,420 to fund the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Palm/Goldenwest Specific Plan Amendment by LSA Associates; approved an increase in the Community Development Department's Professional Services listing authority by \$291,420 and appropriated funds to be fully reimbursed

A motion was made by Burns, second Van Der Mark to approve and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Reimbursement Agreement Between the City of Huntington Beach and Socal Holdings, LLC for Costs Incurred for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Palm/Goldenwest Specific Plan Amendment in the amount of \$291,420 as prepared by the City Attorney (Attachment No. 1); and approve an increase in the Community Development Department's professional service listing authority by \$291,420 for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report for the Palm/Goldenwest Specific Plan Amendment pursuant to Administrative Regulation Number 228, Section 7.1; and appropriate funds as revenues are received in the amount of \$291,420 from the General Fund to the Community Development Department Professional Services Account 10060201.69365 for the Professional Services Contract between the City and LSA Associates, Inc., which is funded by a reimbursement agreement.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams

NOES: None
 ABSTAIN: Kennedy

15. 25-542 Adopted Resolution 2025-50 Confirming Cost Report for Weed Abatement on Private Parcels within the City for the 2025 Season

A motion was made by Burns, second Van Der Mark to adopt Resolution No. 2025-50, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach Confirming the Report of the Public Works Director Regarding the Cost for Weed Abatement on Private Property Within the City for the 2025 Season," and direct that all charges listed thereon be certified to the Orange County 2025/26 Property Tax Roll.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
 NOES: None

Police

16. 25-597 ITEM PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION ~~Approve continued Be Well contracted services using funding within the 2025/26 approved budget~~

Public Works

17. 25-543 Approved and Accepted the Public Improvements, Released the Sureties for and Accepted a Guarantee and Warranty Bond for the HB Walk Project (Tract 19157)

A motion was made by Burns, second Van Der Mark to accept the improvements constructed and dedicated for public use with Tract 19157, and instruct the City Clerk to record the Notice of Acceptance of Public Improvements (Attachment 2) with the Orange County Recorder; and, accept Guarantee and Warranty Bond No. PB30310409024-M (Attachment 3); the surety furnished for guarantee and warranty of public improvements; and instruct the City Clerk to file the bond with the City Treasurer; and, instruct the City Treasurer to release the Faithful Performance Bond No. PB03010409024, Labor and Material Bond No. PB03010409024, and Monument Bond No. PB03010409039; and, instruct the City Clerk to notify the developer, Olson Urban-Huntington Beach 4, LLC, of this action, and the City Treasurer to notify the surety company, Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company, of this action.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
 NOES: None

COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS

18. 25-603 Approved Amended Item Submitted by Gruel, Councilman and Burns, Mayor — Community Garden With Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (MTA)

Councilman Gruel introduced this item by explaining multi-trophic aquaculture includes fish as a natural filter for a closed-loop system. This project will provide biodiversity, sustainability, economic and community opportunities and a better understanding of where food comes from with minimal energy needs. Councilman Gruel noted there has been a very positive public response to this idea.

Mayor Burns stated that as a gardener he supports this item.

Council Woman Van Der Mark and Mayor Pro Tem McKeon stated their support and referenced a previous Huntington Beach High School project which was very similar as proof of the concept.

Councilman Kennedy noted this project will not detract from other Councilmember obligations but can be managed alongside their other priorities for the benefit of the whole City, and stated his support.

A motion was made by Burns, second Gruel to direct staff to explore the feasibility of creating a community garden with an emphasis on utilizing multi-trophic aquaculture (MTA) on City property and report back to Council with findings/results within six months. Based on the outcome of the feasibility study, consider and deliberate the appropriate next steps for project development (site identification, environmental impacts, timeline, and community engagement), **as amended to include Mayor Burns and Councilman Gruel in the exploration process.**

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
NOES: None

19. 25-602 Approved Item Submitted by Gracey Larrea-Van Der Mark, Council Woman; Burns, Mayor; McKeon, Mayor Pro Tem — Prohibition of the Sale and Distribution of Kratom

Council Woman Van Der Mark introduced this item by noting other cities and the Orange County Board of Supervisors have initiated regulations on kratom. She noted that some communities are focusing on the synthetic or chemically altered version which causes hallucinations and injuries. She asked that the different forms of kratom be analyzed and described during this process, rather than lumping all forms together.

Councilman Gruel noted several good points addressed by the public speaker earlier in this meeting who spoke about the harm reduction properties of natural kratom leaves versus the synthetic products which cause damaging results. He added the importance of proper guardrails or regulations to prevent the use of the harmful illicit products.

Mayor Burns noted action is needed especially to protect children from the synthetic products.

Councilman Kennedy shared his support for providing regulations to protect everyone

A motion was made by Van Der Mark, second Burns to direct the City Manager to work with the City Attorney and HBPD to prepare an ordinance prohibiting and/or restricting the sale or distribution of kratom in the City of Huntington Beach.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
NOES: None

20. 25-604 Approved Item Submitted by Kennedy, Councilman; Burns, Mayor; Williams, Councilman — Transparency for Taxpayers — Public Contracts

Councilman Kennedy introduced this item describing it as an effort to manage inefficiencies and enhance efficiencies. He noted the importance of reporting back to residents in an open forum to document the oversight, quality control, metrics and expectations of projects paid for with taxpayer funds.

Councilman Williams noted this is like military end-of-project or after-actions reports to review what went right, what went wrong and provide opportunities to improve.

Mayor Pro Tem McKeon stated his support for implementing best private sector practices and an opportunity to better control project expenses.

A motion was made by McKeon, second Burns to direct staff to evaluate and develop a Contract Completion Reporting Policy, and report back to the City Council with the policy, and twice a year thereafter with contract reports. The Contract Completion Reporting Policy should consider all contracts \$500,000 or more and include project description, total cost, final budget summary (on/below/over budget), project schedule completion summary, and any other applicable information.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Twining, Kennedy, McKeon, Burns, Van Der Mark, Gruel, and Williams
NOES: None

21. 25-606 Accepted Item Submitted by Kennedy, Councilman and Burns, Mayor — Request to Present additional vendor selection information related to the July 1, 2025, City Council Approval of agenda Item #13 (25-396) Professional Services Contracts for On-Call General Civil Engineering and Professional Consulting Services

Councilman Kennedy stated this Item is for informational purposes only, and added he feels that there needs to be more details, for the benefit of the residents, when approving contracts so everyone can better understand what is being approved and how the recommended vendors were determined. Referring to the Public Works Professional Services contracts approved at the last meeting, he reviewed detailed and helpful reports which are produced during the decision-making process, and asked that they be included as attachments for future contract Agenda items. He thanked Public Works Director Chau Vu for providing the detailed reports.

Mayor Burns noted that Councilmembers spend a considerable amount of time researching and reviewing agenda items before the City Council meetings so they can make educated decisions.

Councilman Kennedy reviewed the Recommended Action:

- A detailed explanation of the selection process used to award the contracts
- The total number of vendors that submitted proposals and how many were ultimately selected
- A breakdown of the contract types and associated engineering or professional service disciplines
- A discussion of the anticipated projects and needs these contracts are intended to support

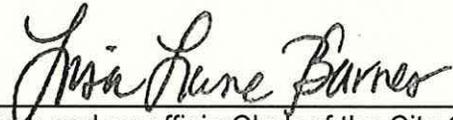
Councilman Kennedy confirmed with City Attorney Michael Vigliotta that no vote was required to implement the Recommended Action for future contracts.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS — None

The Huntington Beach City Council/Public Financing Authority regular meeting of August 5, 2025, was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

ADJOURNMENT — at 7:29 PM a motion was made by Burns, with a second by Twining, to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council/Public Financing Authority on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, in the Civic Center Council Chambers, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, California.

INTERNET ACCESS TO CITY COUNCIL/PUBLIC FINANCING AUTHORITY AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AT <http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov>



City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach and Secretary of the Public Financing Authority of the City of Huntington Beach, California

ATTEST:


City Clerk-Secretary
Mayor-Chair