

## Minutes

### City Council/Public Financing Authority City of Huntington Beach

Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
6:00 PM — Council Chambers  
Civic Center, 2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, California 92648

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

#### 6:00 PM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### CALL TO ORDER — 6:00 PM

#### ROLL CALL

Present: Moser, Bolton, Burns, Van Der Mark, Strickland, McKeon and Kalmick  
Absent: None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** — Led by Information Services Technician Brian Bran

#### 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.

#### 1. 24-783 Pastor Joe Pedick, Calvary Chapel of the Harbour

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS** (Received After Agenda Distribution)

Pursuant to the Brown "Open Meetings" Act, City Clerk Robin Estanislau 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: Agenda Item #1 — (1 email communication); and Administrative Item #6 — (Exhibit A for Resolution 2024-59).

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Mayor Van Der Mark announced a 1-Minute Time Limit for this Ceremonial Meeting) — 24 Speakers

*The number [hh:mm:ss] following the speakers' comments indicates their approximate starting time in the archived video located at <http://www.surfcity-hb.org/government/agendas>.*

Steve Barnes was called to speak and congratulated his wife Lisa Lane Barnes and all of the other newly elected officials and expressed his appreciation for everyone who voted. (00:06:50)

Katie Swailes, daughter of Robin Estanislau, was called to speak and acknowledged Robin's 26 years of public service by sharing statements from her City Clerk team and co-workers describing her integrity and work ethic. (00:08:06)

Ryan, owner of Sugar the surfing dog, was called to speak and announced that Sugar will be inducted into the Surfing Hall of Fame on December 5 in front of Huntington Surf and Sport. Ryan thanked Councilmembers for this acknowledgement. (00:09:18)

Laszlo Lak was called to speak and expressed his appreciation for the City Council and the newly elected Councilmembers. (00:10:15)

Pat Goodman was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser for the way they came prepared for Council meetings and appreciation for their experience as educated professionals during the last four years. Ms. Goodman also welcomed the newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams, City Clerk Lisa Barnes and re-elected City Treasurer Alisa Backstrom. (00:11:08)

Amory Hanson was called to speak and thanked Mayor Van Der Mark for her service and perseverance. Mr. Hanson stated his support for Mayor Pro Tem Burns as the 87th Mayor of Huntington Beach, nominating Councilmember McKeon as Mayor Pro Tem, and congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers. (00:12:21)

Thelma England was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser for their service, and encouraged the newly elected Councilmembers to support the whole community, not just their neighborhoods. (00:13:09)

Ken Inouye was called to speak and noted the unprecedented financial challenges facing this new City Council which must be addressed in a responsible and timely manner and requested a semi-annual report on how payments against debt will be made. (00:14:13)

Kanan Durham, representing Pride at the Pier, was called to speak and addressed his comments to newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams by sharing the concerns of the LGBTQ+ community as a result of some of their campaign statements. (00:15:14)

Rick Brown was called to speak and congratulated newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and City Clerk Lisa Barnes, noted their work ethic and love for Huntington Beach as demonstrated during their campaigns. (00:15:58)

Renee Dotti, a resident of Huntington Beach since 2003, was called to speak and encouraged all Councilmembers to keep Huntington Beach a fair city where all residents are heard. (00:17:11)

Unnamed Speaker was called to speak and congratulated newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and as a resident of Huntington Beach, shared his pride for the election results. (00:18:32)

David Rynerson was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser as well as retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for their service and doing their best to put the needs of Huntington Beach first. He challenged the newly elected Councilmembers to remember they represent all Huntington Beach residents, not just those who voted for them. (00:19:43)

Cathey Ryder, a Huntington Beach homeowner and voter since 1985, was called to speak shared her best wishes to the newly elected Councilmembers and thanked the outgoing Councilmembers for their efforts to make Huntington Beach inclusive for all who live, work and play here. (00:20:40)

Christopher Rini, native Huntington Beach resident, was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser for their service and shared his perspective of past appropriate and inappropriate Councilmember behaviors. (00:21:26)

Perry Clitheroe was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser as well as retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for their service. He also welcomed newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and asked that they especially focus on the budget deficit. (00:22:27)

Urson Russell was called to speak and congratulated newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and City Clerk Lisa Barnes, all of whom he expects to bring back common-sense local government. (00:23:07)

Chris Byrne was called to speak and thanked Mayor Van Der Mark for her service with class, dignity and style, and thanked City Attorney Michael Gates for his support for each of the seven soon-to-be serving Councilmembers. (00:23:54)

Unnamed Speaker was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser, as well as retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for their steadfast professionalism, and shared her expectation that incoming Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams will continue to challenge, critique and consider modifying issues before just voting in lockstep with their fellow Councilmembers. (00:24:47)

Justine Madoff, Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center Free Reign Foundation representative, was called to speak and thanked all Councilmembers for their service. She also announced the upcoming Free Reign Foundation free family event to celebrate the Day of the Horse on Saturday, December 7, from 11 AM – 2 PM at the Equestrian Center. (00:25:57)

Melvyn Sterling, who moved to Huntington Beach 50 years ago, was called to speak and shared his family's appreciation for Huntington Beach and especially the services of the Public Library. (00:27:11)

Ellen Riley was called to speak and shared her support for the world-renown Huntington Beach Public Library and encouraged the new Councilmembers to focus on kindness and accuracy when referring to Library employees. (00:28:27)

Tim Geddes was called to speak and shared his warning and dire prediction for newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams. He encouraged them to seek interaction with the greater community, not just those who voted for them, by being constructive in order to make progress in solving the City's problems, addressing the needs and building the future. He thanked retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for her service. (00:30:16)

Tory Johnson, Huntington Beach Black Lives Matter Founder, was called to speak and thanked outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser, as well as retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for their sacrifice, love and compassionate service. He shared his expectation that the new City Council will focus on a beautiful and safe Huntington Beach for all residents. (00:31:14)

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS — None**

**AB 1234 REPORTING — None**

**OPENNESS IN NEGOTIATION DISCLOSURES — None**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT — None**

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**2. 24-801 Mayor Van Der Mark presented the Mayor's HB Excellence Award**

Mayor Van Der Mark presented the Mayor's HB Excellence Award to Police Chief Eric Parra to acknowledge his exceptional service, especially during his time as Interim City Manager. She described his unmatched professionalism and grace while working with a City Council composed of very strong and diverse personalities. Mayor Van Der Mark was able to keep this acknowledgement a secret, and Chief Parra was speechless.

**3. 24-802 City 2024 Retrospect (or Comments) by Outgoing Mayor Van Der Mark**

Mayor Van Der Mark expressed her appreciation to the residents who supported her effort to get involved in local politics to make a difference.

**4. 24-851 Presentation of Gifts by Mayor Van Der Mark to Colleagues**

Mayor Van Der Mark presented a bouquet of flowers to City Council Assistant Administrator Cathy Fikes; a framed plaque to re-elected City Treasurer Alisa Backstrom, retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau, City Attorney Michael Gates and each of her fellow Councilmembers, and thanked them for their support during her term as Mayor.

**5. 24-804 Special/Ceremonial Public Comments, including Presentations by Community Members to Outgoing and Newly Elected Officials — None**

**COMMENTS BY CURRENT AND OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS (5-Minute Time Limit)**

Councilmember Kalmick expressed his appreciation for Huntington Beach residents who supported his service for the last two decades and the sacrifices made by his family during his service. He saluted the folks who just show up and do the work as volunteers that needs to be done to improve life for everyone. He shared a quote from Former President Eisenhower's Farewell Address for residents and serving Councilmembers to ruminate on moving ahead. Councilmember Kalmick thanked staff members who made his job easier, and retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for her service to Huntington Beach. He closed by sharing his vision for the future of Huntington Beach and described some of the community issues that he believes still need to be addressed.

Councilmember Bolton shared three quotes that have guided her actions and decisions since her first day of service and stated her gratitude for the opportunity to make a difference in dealing with matters large and small. She thanked staff from every department for their dedication and professionalism. Councilmember Bolton shared what she believes will be major challenges for Huntington Beach moving forward and encouraged everyone to move ahead with love rather than partisanship.

Councilmember Moser stated she is filled with gratitude, reflection and a deep sense of responsibility for the future of Huntington Beach. She expressed her appreciation for everyone who made her service possible, including the voters, her colleagues Bolton and Kalmick, City staff, her appointees, and her family. She also thanked her mentors, Shirley Dettloff and Ralph Bauer who both embodied serving with humility, grace and vision. Councilmember Moser closed by sharing she steps away from this position with both hope and concern and encouraged Councilmembers to move forward with integrity, humility and a sense of responsibility to all residents.

City Clerk Robin Estanislau shared her profound appreciation for the abundant accolades and flowers the public shared at the November 19, 2024, City Council meeting for her service to Huntington Beach.

She expressed her good wishes for newly elected City Clerk Lisa Barnes and thanked her dedicated and ethical City Clerk staff for their excellent service.

City Attorney Michael Gates commended retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau for always being professional. He added that in their private interactions she never uttered a cross word or disagreement as she carried out her duties in service to the residents.

Councilmember Strickland stated his best wishes for outgoing Councilmembers Bolton, Kalmick and Moser and thanked them for their service. He added that he never doubted that any one of them were always doing what they thought was best for Huntington Beach residents. He added that he believes every Councilmember is trying to make Huntington Beach better and noted each Councilmember has different experiences and approaches for making decisions. Councilmember Strickland congratulated newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and stated he looks forward to serving with them. He closed his remarks by confirming that the best decisions for Huntington Beach are made locally by the Councilmembers rather than by bureaucracy in Sacramento.

Mayor Pro Tem Burns thanked the volunteers and voters who participated in the recent election. He also invited everyone to the Thursday, December 5, 2024, induction of Sugar the surfing dog into the Surfing Hall of Fame and the American Flag Ceremony honoring Vietnam War Veteran John Baca at Baca Park on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

#### CITY CLERK'S REPORT

#### 6. 24-805 Adopted Resolution No. 2024-59 Reciting the Facts of the General Municipal Election of November 5, 2024, and Declaring Results

City Clerk Robin Estanislau presented a PowerPoint communication titled *General Municipal Election November 5, 2024* with slides entitled: *November 5, 2024 Results — City Council; November 5, 2024 Results — City Clerk; November 5, 2024 Results — City Treasurer; November 5, 2024 Results — Ballot Measures; and Recommended Action.*

A motion was made by Van Der Mark, second Burns to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-59, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach, California, Reciting the Facts of the General Municipal Election held on November 5, 2024, Declaring the Results and Such Other Matters as Provided by Law," including Exhibit "A," Certificate of Registrar of Voters to Result of the Canvass of the General Election Returns, **as amended by Supplemental Communication, Exhibit "A"**.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Moser, Bolton, Burns, Van Der Mark, Strickland, McKeon, and Kalmick  
NOES: None

#### ADMINISTERED OATHS OF OFFICE

#### 7. 24-806 Senator Janet Nguyen administered Oath of Office to the three Newly Elected Members of the City Council

Councilmember Chad Williams  
Councilmember Butch Twining  
Councilmember Don Kennedy

8. **24-807 Retiring City Clerk Robin Estanislau administered Oath of Office to Re-Elected City Treasurer Alisa Backstrom**
9. **24-808 Councilmember Strickland administered Oath of Office to Newly Elected City Clerk Lisa Barnes**

**NEW CITY CLERK AND COUNCILMEMBERS PRESIDED**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**CONDUCTED ELECTION OF MAYOR / MAYOR PRO TEM**

10. **24-809 City Clerk called for motion to elect new Mayor**

A motion was made by Van Der Mark, second Strickland to elect Mayor Pro Tem Pat Barnes as new Mayor.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Mayor Van Der Mark administered Oath of Office to new Mayor Burns.**

**Presentation of gavel by outgoing Mayor Van Der Mark to new Mayor Burns.**

**Mayor Burns presented gifts to Former Mayor Van Der Mark.**

**New Mayor presided**

11. **24-810 New Mayor Burns called for motion to elect new Mayor Pro Tempore**

A motion was made by Burns, second Strickland to elect Councilmember McKeon as new Mayor Pro Tempore.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**Former Mayor Van Der Mark administered Oath of Office to new Mayor Pro Tempore McKeon.**

**COMMENTS BY NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR, MAYOR PRO TEM AND COUNCILMEMBERS**  
(5-Minute Time Limit)

Newly elected City Clerk Lisa Barnes shared her gratitude for the voters who supported her, including City Council members, and her family. She encouraged Huntington Beach residents to continue to participate and communicate with their elected officials.

City Attorney Michael Gates congratulated newly elected Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and City Clerk Lisa Barnes. He noted that in Huntington Beach incumbents usually get re-elected regardless of their political affiliation and added that trend did not hold for this election where 80 percent of registered voters engaged. He continued by describing actions and decisions by former Councilmembers since 2020 which 2024 voters could no longer support and noted that 2024 voters demand that Huntington Beach leaders put Charter City Huntington Beach first regardless of the policies and demands of the State.

Councilmember Kennedy stated he believes the best days ever are coming to Huntington Beach and he is humbled to be part of a team that will bring solutions that benefit everyone. He stated that as a Christian believer he will pray for God's favor on Huntington Beach. He shared his gratitude for the hard work of his family and the many volunteers who poured their hearts and souls into the campaign. He closed by thanking Former Mayors Strickland and Van Der Mark for setting the bar high.

Councilmember Twining stated he is also a man of faith and expressed his gratitude for the support of his family and many, many volunteers throughout the campaign. He stated his focus as a Councilmember will be to fight for conservative principles and values, creating more unity within Huntington Beach and fighting against Sacramento mandates.

Councilmember Williams stated that as someone who was born and raised in Huntington Beach, served as a Navy Seal, and is a man of faith, he is deeply honored, humbled and blessed to be an elected Councilmember. He thanked his wife and children for their unwavering support. He acknowledged the campaign teamwork of Council Candidates Kennedy and Twining, in addition to the support of City Attorney Michael Gates and sitting Councilmembers Burns, McKeon, Strickland and Van Der Mark. He expressed gratitude for the wholehearted support of many volunteers throughout the campaign. He stated the priorities of the current City leadership team are to put Huntington Beach residents first by balancing the budget, increasing revenue responsibly, reducing homelessness, and maintaining local autonomy as a Charter City in the State of California.

Councilmember Strickland congratulated Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams and stated that as a God-loving individual he is proud to be a part of this leadership team for the best City in all of California. He thanked the many residents who supported the campaigns of the current leadership team and for their part in making a difference for the future of Huntington Beach.

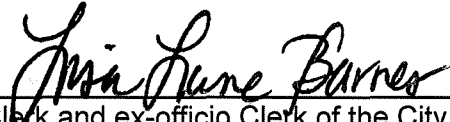
Councilmember Van Der Mark thanked the supporters who elected her in 2022 and elected like-minded candidates in 2024 who will fight all enemies whether foreign or domestic. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve with like-minded team members who will be the tip of the spear and an example for other cities.

Mayor Pro Tem McKeon congratulated his newly elected colleagues Councilmembers Kennedy, Twining and Williams, as well as City Clerk Barnes and City Treasurer Backstrom. He stated that serving Huntington Beach is the honor of a lifetime and thanked Councilmembers for electing him as Mayor Pro Tem. He believes the United States and Huntington Beach are headed to a golden age of prosperity and is proud of being part of that effort locally to increase the quality of life for all residents. Mayor Pro Tem McKeon thanked his parents, his wife and siblings for their unwavering support, and noted that his newborn son is a 4th generation resident of Huntington Beach.

Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated Huntington Beach will be his first priority moving forward as Councilmembers focus on doing what is right to be fiscally responsible while providing short-term and long-term solutions. He expressed his appreciation for the residents who worked tirelessly through two elections to reach this point.

**ADJOURNMENT** — at 8:22 PM a motion was made by Strickland, with a second by Van Der Mark, to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach City Council/Public Financing Authority on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 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