



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

HARBOR COMMISSION

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Room B7, Lower Level
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

WILLIAM LARKIN, Chair
MICHAEL VAN VOORHIS, Vice Chair
ALFRED BALITZER, Board Member
RENEE HUNTER, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
JOHN OCHS, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member

STAFF

ERIK PETERSON, Councilmember Liaison
LYN SEMETA Councilmember Liaison
CHRIS SLAMA, Community Services Director
CARRIE GONZALES, Administrative Assistant

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: To address the legislative body on items of interest not scheduled for public hearing, *Request to Speak* forms will be made available at the meeting and are collected by the staff or Sergeant at Arms. Some legislative bodies may provide different *Request to Speak* forms for public hearing items.

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CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Larkin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Milligan

ROLL CALL

Present: Larkin, Milligan, Schauppner, Van Voorhis

Absent: Balitzer, Hunter, Ochs

Staff Present: Oliver Chi, Robert Handy, Chris Slama, Tom Herbel, Carrie Gonzales, Codi Tennessen, Greg Crow

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Wagner – Thanked the commission for having this special meeting today.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM**Consider the issuance of a Temporary Permit for Wagner Charters to conduct Harbor Tours**

Slama introduced Chi, City Manager, who gave the Commissioners a background on the existing temporary permits issued for use of the harbor. He stated that there currently exists one public dock in Huntington Harbour (Dock), located adjacent to the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club (HHYC). Historically, the City has never had a formal and comprehensive process for the issuance of permits to allow for private commercial business use of the Dock. The City has previously issued one permit to Prince Charters for use of the Dock for operation of their private charter tour boat business.

Staff made the decision to temporarily cease the issuance of any new permits so as to provide the City and the Harbor Commission the time needed to research and review options related to access of the Dock moving ahead. In September of 2019, the Harbor Commission formed a sub-committee to determine a long term use of the dock and will bring forward a recommendation for the full Harbor Commission to consider.

The City has received a request by Wagner Charters to issue a temporary permit to allow them to operate during the holiday season for holiday tours.

Given the fact that the City had previously issued Prince Charters a permit to use the Dock, coupled with the additional request by Wagner Charters, it was clear that the City lacked a formal defined process regarding permit issuance practices and requirements for commercial use of the Dock.

After receiving direction from the Harbor Commission, if necessary, staff will forward the recommended action to the full City Council for review at the City Council meeting on December 16, 2019.

Slama added that if the Commission approves this recommendation, it does put the City in a position to issue future requests. We would be looking for support from the Commission to say no more until a long term decision has been made.

Discussion ensued. Schauppner asked that the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic, Prince Charters and Wagner Charters provide a report of what and what did not work and if they had any recommendations that they could provide to the Commission during this temporary process. Chief Handy asked if alcohol consumption is included as part of the permitting process, and if so, that an ABC License is required as part of the permit process.

Chair Larkin asked for a vote. Chi asked that until the sub-committee has a recommendation, that this is the last permit that will be issued.

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Van Voorhis, to approve recommended action number two.

“The Harbor Commission recommends that the City Council issue a temporary Dock access permit to Wagner Charters for the operation of holiday harbor tours through January 31, 2020, so long as they are able to meet the City’s insurance requirements and ensure their use of the Dock will not negatively impact any currently scheduled activities (including events at the Huntington Harbor Yacht Club and the Harbor Cruise of Lights event). Additionally, should another private commercial entity request a Dock access permit prior to a final decision by the City Council on this matter, the Harbor Commission supports the staff recommendation that no other private commercial Dock access permits should be issued until a final permitting process is adopted by the City Council. This action has been identified as a reasonable approach to any future situations, given that the proposed permanent Dock access permitting process should be finalized in Q1-2020.”

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Schauppner, Van Voorhis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Schauppner was contacted by Cottie Petrie-Norris’ office and they stated that they are requesting an endorsement by City Council that they would like to pursue an item similar to Assembly Bill 630 rental revenue from State Lands Commission back to the Huntington Harbour for betterment of the harbor. Slama asked that Schauppner send him more information of the request. Schauppner asked that this item be added to the January 23rd Harbor Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Larkin called for adjournment at 5:10 PM with Schauppner seconding the motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbor Commission is on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 5:00 PM in meeting room B-7, lower lever of the Civic Center, Huntington Beach, California.