



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **HARBOUR COMMISSION**

**Thursday, October 28, 2021  
Room B8, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

WILLIAM LARKIN, Chair  
MICHAEL VANVOORHIS, Vice Chair  
BRIAN GRILEY, Board Member  
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member  
CHRIS NIELSEN, Board Member  
JOHN OCHS, Board Member  
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

ERIK PETERSON, Councilmember Liaison  
DAN KALMICK, Councilmember Liaison

### **STAFF**

SCOTT HABERLE, Fire Chief  
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Battalion Chief  
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Administrative Analyst

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

Larkin called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Milligan

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner, VanVoorhis  
Commissioners Absent: Griley, Nielsen

Staff Present: Scott Haberle, Eric McCoy, Kevin Justen, Terry Tintle, Jimmy Hoang, Kenny Waldecker, Thoby Archer, Jim Merid, Ashley Wysocki

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2021

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Milligan, seconded by Schauppner, to approve meeting minutes dated September 23, 2021.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner, VanVoorhis

NOES: None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A) Oil Spill Update, *Scott Haberle, Fire Chief and Eric McCoy, Fire Division Chief*

Haberle and McCoy provided an update and detailed overview of the recent oil spill and the City's response. Several target hazards, including the Warner Bridge, were identified early and booms deployed. Larkin asked if staff knows how many feet of boom was deployed and McCoy said over 2,000 feet. He added that the boom and accompanying trailer were recently purchased with grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He complimented staff and Merid for their efforts in deploying the boom quickly and effectively. Schauppner asked if the media were informed about the boom deployment and Haberle said the Mayor referenced it. He also said the Mayor quickly and effectively communicated comprehensive information on the spill and the Admiral of the Coast Guard complimented her on getting important information out so quickly. VanVoorhis asked if the Navy has booms for this type of emergency and McCoy confirmed that they do. He added that they did deploy them in response to the oil spill. VanVoorhis asked if lobster traps in the area were pulled and Haberle said that they were since the fishery in the affected area was closed. Larkin complimented staff on their response to the emergency, adding that he was involved in a large fishing tournament at the time and many residents in Huntington Harbor and Long Beach provided their docks to assist tournament boaters who couldn't return to their residences. He also said that the public information campaign was very well done. Larkin suggested that staff consider obtaining contact information for various homeowner associations for future distribution of important information during emergencies. Haberle said staff is researching the best type of booms that can be used for future spills, including the best way to secure them. Larkin asked if all impacted vessels have been cleaned and McCoy said he would investigate and report back on this.

- B) Harbor Report

Justen highlighted Harbour Commission web page changes since last meeting and reviewed features to be added in the future. He noted that since the Information Systems Department provided direct web access staff has been able to quickly make changes to the site. This was very useful during the recent oil spill when valuable information for the public was quickly uploaded. He also said that the City's Historical Resources Board is reviewing the history of Huntington Harbour and will be providing input on it in the future. He showed the Commission the recent website changes, including oil spill information, the announcement of Commission vacancies and accompanying ideal candidate profile and an historical aerial view of the Harbour in the 1960's.

Justen provided an overview of the process for appointment of new Harbour Commissioners. This will be the last meeting for Commissioners Griley and Ochs and the application process

closes on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. After that applications will be provided to the two City Council Liaisons to the Commission and their recommendations for appointments are tentatively scheduled for approval at the December 7, 2021 City Council meeting. VanVoorhis asked about the number of applicants and Justen said there have been four. He added that in reviewing them they seem to meet the *ideal candidate profile* that the Commission requested be posted with the vacancy notice.

C) Public Works Update

Tintle provided a status report on the pumpout station. He said it is currently inoperable. He explained that in some cases the media was not accurate in their portrayal of the recent pumpout station spill. They stated that Huntington Harbor was closed, which was incorrect. The spill resulted while a commercial pump out vendor was emptying his tank. The tank holds up to 250 gallons and he immediately shut the unit down when he realized there was a leak. The failure was on the inlet side of the pump and the Orange County Health Care Agency was notified immediately. They did subsequent tests for water quality, which did not show contamination. Following this authorization to replace the pump was secured and a purchase order has been issued for the new Kiko pump, with installation anticipated during November. A service agreement with Kiko will also be entered into for maintaining the pump. VanVoorhis asked if staff will talk to other users of this type of pump to determine the most common problems and break downs and stock surplus parts. Tintle said he has already done this and plans to have replacement parts available. He will also be assigning a key staff person to monitor and maintain the pump and will continue to pursue grant funding for an additional unit. Larkin asked if the station will have a phone number on it for the public in case there are problems and Tintle said he would provide a number, including one that can be used after hours.

Merid also provided a report on the mobi-mat that will be installed at Seabridge Park. He explained the construction and usage and said it will be moved during maintenance. It provides better beach access, which was identified by the Coastal Commission as a need. VanVoorhis asked about the location at Seabridge and Merid showed everyone in a PowerPoint slide. He also explained that it was mostly funded through a Coastal Commission fee for dock permits.

D) Harbour Commission Strategic Plan - Projects Update

Haberle provided an update on the Harbour Commission Strategic Plan. He said that a majority of the projects have been accomplished and a consultant has been obtained to perform the Harbour jurisdiction evaluation. It is proceeding and will be completed by the end of the year, with the results presented at the January 2022 meeting. He also said that a status report on strategic plan projects will be provided at the January meeting. Following this, a meeting can be scheduled to determine Harbour Commission projects for 2022. He also requested direction on scheduling for Commission meetings in November and December. The Commission directed that staff attempt to schedule a meeting for December 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. Haberle said Justen would send out potential dates for Commissioners to consider.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Haberle thanked Commissioner Ochs for his service, time and effort, complimenting him on his great communication and collaboration with staff. Ochs said he saw a very positive change in the Commission once it was assigned to the Fire Department and gave staff much credit for getting things done and making the Harbour safer. Ochs also said he provided a photo of the

offshore anchorage of 177 container ships and requested that it be provided to Commission members. He went on to explain how these ships will be staged further offshore, reducing congestion, air pollution and visual blight. It will also reduce the potential for another incident involving damage to the offshore pipeline. Hoang said he will work with Justen to provide the homeowners association contact information. Archer said that there has been an increase in homeless people camping near the Warner Fire Station and that Police Department staff will be doing increased enforcement in this area to address the problem.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Larkin also recognized and thanked Commissioner Ochs for his service. VanVoorhis said that a review of the stand-up paddleboard and kayak rental companies authorized by the City is due in January and asked if it would be good to invite them to the Harbour Commission meeting. Wysocki and Haberle said that staff would review them individually and report back to the Commission. VanVoorhis suggested that the vendors who were not awarded contracts also be contacted so additional input can be obtained. Larkin referenced recent thefts in the Harbour area and asked if Commissioners could be better informed regarding related law enforcement activity so they are better able to answer questions. He said that this could ultimately lead to improved public safety. Haberle said he will request that the Sheriff's representative attend future Harbour Commission meetings. He will also work with Archer and the Sheriff's Department to provide this information to the Commission. Milligan said she spoke to the commodore of the Yacht Club about holding Harbour Commission meetings at their facility. She reported that they are very welcoming and all identified concerns, including facility availability, public access, parking, etc. have been addressed and this can be pursued in 2022. She also noted that Thursday nights are usually available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by VanVoorhis and seconded by Ochs at 6:20 p.m. to adjourn to the December 2021 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner, VanVoorhis

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be scheduled for December and will be held at 5:00 PM in a meeting room to be determined at the Huntington Beach Civic Center.