



MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024, 6:00 P.M.
NEPTUNE BEACH CITY HALL
116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA 32266

Pursuant to proper notice, a Regular City Council Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Neptune Beach City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Elaine Brown
Vice Mayor Kerry Chin
Councilor Lauren Key
Councilor Nia Livingston
Councilor Josh Messinger

STAFF:

City Manager Richard Pike
City Attorney Paul Waters
Chief of Police Michael Key
Chief Financial Officer Jaime Hernandez
Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun
Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore
HR Coordinator Jillian McCann
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

Call to Order/Roll
Call/Pledge

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Councilor Key led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes

Made by Messinger, seconded by Chin.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

November 4, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting
November 18, 2024, Special City Council Meeting
November 18, 2024, Workshop City Council Meeting

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5-Key, Livingston, Messinger, Chin, and Brown
Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager
Report

City Manager Richard Pike announced that the next day, December 3, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., a dedication for the completion of Jarboe Park Phase I would be held. A plaque has been designed and the ceremony will take place near Neptune House located in Jarboe Park.

Mr. Pike also reported that \$10,000 would be donated with Council's approval to the Neptune Beach Elementary Track Improvements. The money would come from Better Jacksonville Plan Funds. Mayor Brown thanked Councilor Key and Vice Mayor Chin bringing this project to Council's attention.

NEW BUSINESS

Well 5, Mechanical & Electrical Well 5 Mechanical and Electrical Construction Award. Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun thanked the Council for their support since he has been at Neptune Beach.

Mr. Calhoun stated that this request is for the completion of the mechanical and electrical components related to the installation of Well #5, which was awarded and approved to Partridge Well Drilling on November 4, 2024. This item is an award to Gruhn-May. They will be using Limbaugh Electrical as a subcontractor for the electrical work. He added that this is a budgeted item under Improvements- Not Buildings fund for FY25. There was \$1.5 million budgeted for Well #5 and it is under the budgeted amount.

Made by Chin, seconded by Key, Messenger.

MOTION: **TO AWARD/APPROVE TO GRUHN-MAY THE MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION OF WELL#5 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$514,961.00.**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5- Livingston, Messenger, Key, Chin, and Brown

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

SPECIAL AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

Employee Recognition

Mayor Brown recognized the following employees for their years of service:

Public Works:

Michael Johnson – 45 years

Bobby Jones – 41 years

Jack Russell – 35 years

City Hall:

Piper Turner – 33 years

Rosemary Marrero – 30 years

Richard Pike – 40 years

Councilor Lauren Key

Mayor Brown read a proclamation and presented Councilor Key with an engraved crystal vase. Councilor Key was appointed to the Community Development Board in 2018 and reappointed in 2019. She was elected unopposed to City Council in 2020. As Councilmember, she chaired the Finance Committee and has demonstrated invaluable commitment to the City during her time on Council.

Vice Mayor Kerry Chin

Mayor Brown read a proclamation and presented Vice Mayor Chin with a plaque honoring his years of service to the City. He has served the City in some capacity for 23 years. He addressed many issues facing Neptune Beach while ensuring the well-being of citizens.

Mayor Elaine
Brown

Mayor Brown read a speech stating she was filled with mixed emotions, gratitude, nostalgia, and hope. She thanked her fellow Councilmembers and staff for all their efforts during her term as mayor. She thanked the citizens for the pleasure of serving as mayor.

City Clerk Catherine Ponson read a poem honoring Mayor Brown's hard work as Neptune Beach's mayor. Mayor Brown was presented with an engraved crystal gavel and her official mayoral photo was unveiled. The framed photo will join the other 12 mayors' photos who have served the City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Chin thanked Mayor Brown for her kind words directed to everyone. It points out that the time on Council is fleeting. They serve on Council for brief moments but the backbone of the City is the strength of the staff. He thanked staff for doing their jobs under difficult circumstances and doing the best they can to make Neptune Beach as good as it can be. The importance of public service is acting as stewards but also creating an atmosphere where staff can operate to the best of their ability.

Vice Mayor Chin requested the incoming Council take care of staff because they will take care of the City and Council. He added he does not think that he will stop being a part of the community and giving back. He is going to donate the remaining balance of his campaign account will be donated to the Neptune Beach Elementary Track improvement project.

Councilor Key commented that it has been an honor and privilege to serve the residents of Neptune Beach. At times it has been difficult and tested her to limits she did not know existed. She would do it all over again and make every decision the same. She believes we have a wonderful City with great staff. She looks forward to all the things that the future holds. She hopes and prays and holds it dear to her heart that the community can move forward in a positive manner. She hopes that great things are accomplished together and stop the division, the vitriol, and the toxicity that occurs.

Councilor Key pointed out that at the end of the day, we are all neighbors. Three generations of her family live here and two of her children were born here. She is raising her children here and she wants nothing more than for them to grow up and experience the wonderful Neptune Beach that she knows that it is. She thanked all the families of Council as it is a sacrifice to be in the public eye. She thanked the staff and is happy to have been a part of this experience.

Councilor Livingston remarked that her involvement in the community started with Mayor Brown campaigning at her house. Mayor Brown inspired her to do something for her community, her neighbors, and the future. She has gotten to know Council and it has been empowering.

Councilor Messinger commented that all of Council has done a lot for the community and will continue to do that. The amount of insight Mayor Brown bestowed upon him over the years has been invaluable. He met Vice Mayor Chin and his wife at a council meeting in 2013. It is amazing how everyone being neighbors and how involvement in the community can shape who you are and who you become. He added that the groundwork had been laid for the upcoming council members and the work will continue. He thanked Mayor Brown, Vice Mayor Chin and Councilor Key and it expressed that it has been an honor working with them.

Mayor Brown expressed she appreciated how Council worked together and had Neptune Beach at the forefront of every decision. There are great things to come, and it has been an honor to serve.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.


Corrine A. Bylund, Mayor

ATTEST:



Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk



Approved: 0106/2025