



**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, 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, February 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Neptune Beach City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mayor Cori Bylund  
 Vice Mayor Nia Livingston  
 Councilor Tim Horvath  
 Councilor Josh Messinger  
 Councilor Brent Rogers

**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  
 City Clerk Catherine Ponson

Call to Order/Roll  
 Call/Pledge

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

Swearing In  
 Ceremony

Mayor Bylund administered the oath of office for police officers to Officer Jared L. Geis and Officer Jason T. Walsh.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes

Made by Livingston, seconded by Messinger.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

**January 6, 2025, Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 21, 2025, Special City Council Meeting**  
**January 21, 2025, Workshop City Council Meeting**  
**January 21, 2025, Town Hall Council Meeting**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5 - Horvath, Messinger, Rogers, Livingston and Bylund.

Noes: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comments

Pat Hazouri, 207 Florida Boulevard, Neptune Beach, spoke thanked Council for answering emails and for the atmosphere of the meetings. She mentioned that she hopes that no ordinances are passed that are not properly planned.

Thomas Brouillette, 333 Sunrise Circle, Neptune Beach, stated he had concerns regarding the DMV conducting driving tests in his neighborhood.

David Wicker, 427 South Street, Neptune Beach, commented on the ballpark in Jarboe Park and asked how it could be more usable. He also asked if there was a standard size for speed bumps throughout the City.

Mayor Bylund reminded everyone there would be a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

### **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

#### **City Manager Report**

City Manager Richard Pike introduced the new part-time Park Ambassador Robert Hustad. Mr. Hustad's hours will be all day, Friday through Sunday. He will oversee the park and be a contact for the City and residents who use the park.

Mr. Pike reported there would be two variances on the Community Development Board meeting on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 p.m. Code discussion regarding boats and RVs would also be held at that meeting.

Mr. Pike announced at the next Council Workshop on February 18, 2025, the Finance Department would be presenting several scenarios for the upcoming millage rate. He also reported budget workshops for department heads would start next month.

The monthly City Manager Reports can be found on the City website at: <https://www.nbfl.gov/city-manager/pages/city-manager-reports>.

### **ORDINANCES**

#### **Ord. No. 2025-01, Beach Fires**

Ordinance No. 2025-01, First Read and Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Amending Chapter 7, Beaches and Waterways by Amending Section 7-36, by Banning Beach Fires, Providing Codification, Conflicts, Severability, and Providing Codification, Conflicts, Severability, and Providing and Effective Date

#### **Public Hearing**

Mayor Bylund opened the public hearing.

Taylor Anderson, 220 Oak Street, Neptune Beach, stated he appreciated what Atlantic Beach has done with their beach fire program which gives accountability while still allowing beach fires.

James Anderson, 218 Oak Street, Neptune Beach, stated a self-contained stove could be used and no residue would be left behind.

David Wicker, 427 South Street, Neptune Beach, pointed out that people may not know you can have a fire on the beach. He would like to see a permitting process like Atlantic Beach.

There being no further comments from the public, Mayor Bylund closed the public hearing.

#### **Council Discussion/ Questions**

Vice Mayor Livingston stated she had requested statistics and information about Atlantic Beach's beach fire regulations. They allow them from November through February and in 2023-2024, they had 600 applications. For this season, they already had 400. She thought this was alarming because of that many applications. She understands it could generate revenue but has concerns about how that would play out and safety issues.

Councilor Horvath commented that Neptune Beach would not have as many applications, and this is a good opportunity to generate revenue if done in a correct manner.



Councilor Messinger remarked that since the current language is ambiguous, he understands the logic in codifying this ordinance for the time being. He does think there is a decent opportunity to have fires. He understands not keeping it ambiguous and supports not allowing fires. He added that Atlantic Beach has a thorough mechanism to allow fires. He would not be opposed to some type of pilot program, such as the City did with the chicken coop ordinance.

Councilor Rogers expressed he is in favor of having an option for people to have fires. He would like to see an opportunity for people to get permission.

Mayor Bylund pointed out that in four different places, the Code bans fires. We will be clarifying that people will not be able to have fires of any kind. She also would like to pass this ordinance and explore another ordinance that safely permitted and contained.

Made by Messinger, seconded by Livingston.

**MOTION:**            **TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01, BANNING BEACH FIRES, AT FIRST READ**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5 - Messinger, Rogers, Horvath, Livingston and Bylund.

Noes: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ord. No. 2025-02,  
Sand Removal or  
Beach Digging

Ordinance No. 2025-02, First Read and Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Amending Chapter 7, Beaches and Waterways by Amending Section 7-27, Relating to Sand Removal or Digging on the Beach; Providing Codification, Conflicts, Severability, And Providing An Effective Date

Public Hearing

Mayor Bylund opened the public hearing. There being no comments from the public, Mayor Bylund closed the public hearing.

Council Discussion

Councilor Messinger recapped that this was brought forward due to a tragedy in South Florida. Our officers and/or lifeguards would have probable cause to approach and talk to people about how deep they are digging a hole. He is in support of language to address what would prevent another tragedy.

Mayor Bylund commented that in the first paragraph, she proposed to delete "or permit to be conducted." She also proposed to add to subsection (1), she would like to add, "to make a hole deeper than 18 inches."

Made by Livingston, seconded by Messinger.

**MOTION:**            **TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02, RELATING TO SAND REMOVAL OR BEACH DIGGING, AT FIRST READ WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGES**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 4 - Horvath, Messinger, Livingston and Bylund

Noes: 1- Rogers

**MOTION CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**City Hall Interior  
Renovation –  
Phase I

City Hall Interior Renovation – Phase I. Mr. Pike reported that City Hall was built in the mid-90s and staff has changed. There are several makeshift offices throughout the building and the location of the council conference room was moved. He would like to move the conference room to its original location, which is adjacent to Council Chambers. This project would relocate IT to where the conference room currently is located and construct a new office for the HR Coordinator.

Mr. Pike answered Councilor Horvath's inquiry that three firms were contacted for prices, and each were given the opportunity to submit quotes. The quote from Earthwise was the lowest.

Vice Mayor Livingston commented that her concern is that it is not necessary to move the conference room if it is just a swap. Council does not normally go into that room during a meeting.

Councilor Rogers commented that he noticed there were a lot of electrical revisions being made and asked how that was evaluated to see if City needed to bring up the electrical panel or breaker. He stated that any commercial construction cost for \$20,000 is a good deal.

Councilor Messinger pointed out that furniture costs have gone up. He requested to make sure we do not buy something that needs replacing in the next year or two.

Made by Rogers, seconded by Messinger.

**MOTION:**        **TO APPROVE THE CITY HALL INTERIOR RENOVATION – PHASE I**

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5 - Horvath, Messinger, Rogers, Livingston, and Bylund.

Noes: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

## Council Comments

Mayor Bylund announced the Community Development Board meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025. This will be a workshop on the City's boat and RV ordinances. This will be an opportunity to be heard.

She also announced on February 18, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., there will be an Open House on the Penman Road project. The traffic engineers will be on hand to answer questions. This will be followed by the Council Workshop and Town Hall Meeting. The Town Hall Meeting will focus on the Penman Road project.

Mayor Bylund advised that the fire suppression issues regarding the smaller Publix green water storage tank have still not completely resolved. There is no current plan or timeline on when that water tower will be removed.

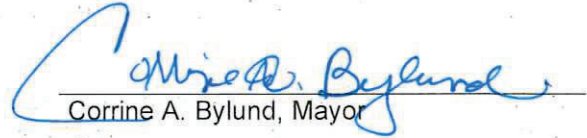
Mayor Bylund commented that she wanted to address misinformation on the speed camera contract. She stated that this is a 19-page contract. No one provision of this contract should be read in a vacuum. There is a provision that states the City will pay \$14,000 per month, but that is not accurate. The payment will be made through forfeitures and there will be no cost per provisions on page 7 of the document.



Police Chief Michael Key confirmed that if the company operates in the red, Neptune Beach will not be financially liable for any costs. If the company continues to operate in the red, there will be no penalty or assessed fee to Neptune Beach.

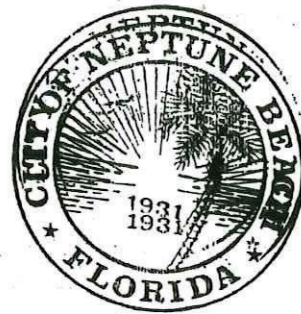
Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Bylund adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

  
Corrine A. Bylund, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Catherine Ponson, CMC  
City Clerk



Approved: 0303-2025

*\*These minutes reflect the actions taken and portions of the discussion during the meeting. To review the entire discussion concerning any agenda item, go to: <https://www.nbfl.gov/minutes-and-agendas>, and click on the video for the meeting in question.*