



**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026, 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, January 5, 2026, 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
Public Works Director Deryle Calhoun
Community Development Director Heather Whitmore
Senior Accountant Michael Owens
Parks and Sustainability Director Colin Moore
Project Manager Blake West
City Clerk Catherine Ponson

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Peace Pole Presentation

Rosemary Takacs, Partnering for Peace-Rotary/Peace Corps Alliance Board, presented information on a Peace Pole that would be installed in Basil Park. A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of peace. The message on the pole is "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in various languages. The Peace Pole will be dedicated on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes

Made by Horvath , seconded by Livingston.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

December 1, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 5 – Horvath, Livingston, Messinger, Rogers and Bylund
Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments Jack Sminkey, 59 Oak Knoll Court, St. Augustine, Florida, 32092, spoke regarding a recent records request to the Neptune Beach Police Department.

Rachel Crismond, 310 Pablo Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082, stated she has been the owner of Kyds Children’s Boutique in the Beaches Town Center for ten years. She commented that since the implementation of the paid parking increase, data shows that there has been a 49% decrease in new customers and a 37% decrease in returning customers. She is requesting the real-world impact on small businesses be carefully considered as policies are evaluated.

Colleen MacGregor, 1000 3rd Street, Neptune Beach, Florida 32266, stated she works at a local restaurant in the Beaches Town Center. She works on the weekend to supplement her income to live at the beach. She reported there has been a huge drop in returning customers since the parking rate increase.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Report City Manager Richard Pike stated that if any Councilmember or member of the public would like to review his report, he would be glad to arrange a meeting.

City Manager reports can be located on the City of Neptune Beach website at: <https://www.nbfl.gov/city-manager/pages/city-manager-reports>.

ORDINANCES

Ord. No. 2025-19, BES Agreement (Deferred) Ordinance No. 2025-19, First Read and Public Hearing. Mayor Bylund announced that this item would be deferred.

Ord. No. 2025-20, Certified Recovery Residences Ordinance No. 2025-20, Second Reading and Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, Amending the Code of Ordinances, Division 8 – Variances, Article III– Administrative and Enforcement Procedures, to Enact Section 27-145.1, titled “Certified Recovery Residences”; Providing for Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances and Resolutions; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.

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

Made by Messinger, seconded by Livingston.

MOTION: **TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2025-20 AT SECOND READ**

Roll Call Vote:
 Ayes: 5 – Livingston, Messinger, Rogers, Horvath and Bylund
 Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

5th Street
Stormwater
Outfall-Bay and
Davis

5th Street Stormwater Outfall Ditch – Bay and Davis Culvert Improvements. Public Works Director Derlye Calhoun reported Bay Street and Davis Street were two choke points identified in the Stormwater Strategic Plan developed after receiving input from residents. Jones Edmunds created a city-wide stormwater model that will be used to properly size the subject culverts. Both project designs were included in the FY26 Adopted Budget at \$125,000 each. Construction costs will be budgeted in FY27 or beyond.

Made by Messinger, seconded by Livingston.

MOTION: TO AWARD TO JONES EDMUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$225,104.00

Roll Call Vote:

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

Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Paid Parking
Program

Paid Parking Program Update. Discussion included employee parking options, the Merchants Association, the Interlocal Agreement status with Atlantic Beach and the parking rate.

Mayor Bylund stated that the parking rate was originally \$2.00 per hour at the program's inception in 2019. On November 20, 2025, the rate was increased \$5.00 per hour for the set hours with the new program. In early December 2025, the rate was changed to \$2.50 per hour from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and \$5.00 per hour from 5:00 p.m. -12:00 a.m. The current rate was one of the options in a study provided by the Merchants Association.

Mayor Bylund pointed out that the Neptune Beach Code states that the City Manager sets the parking rate. The City Manager asks the Council to give direction on the parking rate as they are the elected body.

Mr. Pike expressed that staff and Council are dedicated to the success of the Beaches Town Center (BTC). He added that all of the money spent, including maintenance, Christmas lights and landscaping, comes from the paid parking program.

Mr. Pike requested that Council leave the \$2.50 during the day and reduce the \$5.00 per hour in the evening to \$3.50 per hour. This can be adjusted as needed. He expressed that everyone would work together to come up with a solution that works for the employees and merchants.

Discussion included data for changing the rate, continuing conversations with the BTC and Merchants Association, when to re-evaluate the rate, having a clear project list for the BTC and having more objective data.

Made by Livingston, seconded by Rogers.

MOTION: TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ADJUST THE PARKING RATE TO \$2.50 PER HOUR

AMENDED MOTION: TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO ADJUST THE PARKING RATE TO \$2.50 PER HOUR FOR THE ENFORCED HOURS AS WELL AS SET THE MAXIMUM DAILY RATE AT \$32.50

Roll Call Vote:
 Ayes: 5-Rogers, Horvath, Livingston, Messinger and Bylund
 Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Florida Boulevard
 Pump Station
 Junction Manhole
 Lining

Florida Boulevard Pump Station Junction Manhole Lining. Mr. Calhoun explained that during coring of the subject junction manhole for installation of new sewer pipe, it was discovered that concrete wall thickness has significantly degraded since the manhole was installed approximately 25 years ago. Hydro-Klean, LLC has provided a quote and the Purchasing Cooperative of America contract to piggyback, and the City Attorney has approved its use.

Made by Horvath, seconded by Messinger.

MOTION: **TO AWARD TO HYDRO-KLEAN, LLC, DBA SOLUTIONS GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,630.00 AND AUTHORIZE STAFF A 15% CONTINGENCY FOR UNKNOWNNS**

Roll Call Vote:
 Ayes: 5 – Horvath, Livingston, Messinger, Rogers and Bylund
 Noes: 0

MOTION CARRIED

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Livingston requested the Peace Pole presented earlier not be placed in the middle of Basil Park.

Councilor Messinger requested seeing what materials are being used and the design of the Peace Pole as we are taking greater care of our parks.

Mayor Bylund announced Legislative Action Days coming up in Tallahassee. There is a lot of legislation being proposed. She reported that one of the major items is property tax reform. She added that there are many iterations. School board taxes would remain and police departments would be protected. Municipalities would fund the police departments. If this iteration were to pass, sales tax would increase 43%. She is stating this early and publicly, so everyone can start reaching out to their legislators.

Vice Mayor Livingston stated that if it goes to a referendum, the messaging wording is important.

Councilor Horvath reported his committee at the Florida League of Cities discussed making sure municipalities keep control of Accessory Dwelling Units.

The next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Bylund adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.


Corrine A. Bylund, Mayor

ATTEST:


Catherine Ponson, CMC
City Clerk



Approved: 02-02-2024

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