

**CITY OF IMPERIAL BEACH
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 21, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard
Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

Present: Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem McKay, Councilmember Seabury,
Councilmember Fisher

Absent: Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez

Staff: City Manager Foltz, Chief Administrative Officer Cortez-Martinez, City
Attorney Lyon, City Clerk Kelly, Fire Chief French, Marine Safety
Sergeant Wraight, Sewer Supervisor Martinez

**The City Council also sits as the Imperial Beach Planning Commission, Public Financing
Authority, and Imperial Beach Redevelopment Agency Successor Agency.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Aguirre called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Kelly took roll.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Marine Safety Sergeant Wraight led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. REIMBURSEMENT DISCLOSURES/REPORTS ON ASSIGNMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Councilmember Fisher

- Announced a Concert in the Park will take place on Friday
- Mike Hess event
- Sun and Sea Festival

Councilmember Seabury

- Ribbon cutting for the Sports Park Bathroom
- Sun and Sea Festival
- Super Moon and Blue Moon occurred on Monday

Mayor Pro Tem McKay

- Spoke to the IB Seniors Club
- CalCities Luncheon meeting
- Ribbon Cutting for the Sports Park Bathroom
- Sun and Sea Festival
- Announced the American Legion is holding a Chili Cook-off this Saturday to benefit the Honor Flight

Mayor Aguirre

- California Coastal Commission meeting
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting
- South County Economic Development Council Bi-National Forum
- Ribbon Cutting for the Sports Park Bathroom
- Spoke on a panel called Community Conversations Regarding the Tijuana River Sewage Crisis
- She announced that the International Boundary and Water Commission finally granted the contract for the design and build of the plant. She noted that it has taken four years to get to this point despite the funding being allocated in 2020. Additionally, it was announced that the contractor will take about twenty months to finalize the design, so construction will not begin before twenty months from now. She further stated that with every single day that passes, it's a day that we lose in our quality of life, in our economy and our health. So, the City will be reaching out to congressional representatives to inform them that twenty months is way too long and this needs to be expedited even faster.
- She reached out to the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency asking for help on funding air purifiers

She announced that Governor Newsom denied the City's request for a State of Emergency Declaration, stating that the situation does not qualify as a state of emergency under the Stafford Act. The City will be sending another letter to the governor asking him to issue an Executive Order because that is something that he can do without having to use the Stafford Act.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY STAFF

CAO Cortez-Martinez announced the next Coffee with the Mayor and Sheriff is on August 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Frink requested an opportunity to give a full presentation to City Council in October on the progress of the Suncoast Market Co-op.

Doug Zilm, General Manager for the Suncoast Co-op, gave a status update on opening the store.

John Becker spoke against rent control.

Susan Kennedy, Susan Schroeder, Barbara Carnahan, Jackie Zoellick, and Stephanie Payan with United Sovereign Americans, expressed concern about the votes cast in the 2022 Election and presented a resolution for City Council to support/consider.

Truth appreciated Councilmember Seabury's comment about lithium fires taking place at recycling facilities and that people should stop throwing their batteries in the trash. She spoke about the

dangers of lithium fires and said people need to oppose battery energy storage sites. She suggested the creation of a nonprofit organization that provides purifiers and filters and to apply for the County of San Diego's Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant. She expressed concern with Nora Vargas attending the Democratic National Convention. She suggested that each agenda item title page include the agenda item number.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.a PRESENTATION ON JUNIOR LIFEGUARD PROGRAM. (0220-40)

Marine Safety Sergeant Wraight gave a PowerPoint presentation.

No public comments.

The Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation for the Marine Safety Department in working creatively to bring forward a successful Junior Lifeguard Program despite the challenges faced by this community.

7.b PRESENTATION ON PUMP STATION 1B REHABILITATION. (0830-10)

Sewer Supervisor Martinez introduced his staff and gave a presentation on the item.

No speaker slips.

The Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation for the Sewer Department's hard work, for doing their job well and fast, and for saving the City money.

7.c PRESENTATION ON IMPERIAL BEACH PIER PRE-FIRE PLAN. (0220-45)

Fire Chief French gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item. He was joined by Assistant Chief of Police Jeff Geary and Capt. Chris Woodward of the Port of San Diego Harbor Police Department. They responded to questions of City Council.

No speaker slips.

Mayor Aguirre agreed with Councilmember Fisher that prevention is the best course of action and grease fires can happen very fast. She encouraged staff to ensure that best practices are followed. To Councilmember Seabury's point raised about the pilings, she suggested contacting the Port about an analysis of the pilings and to find out if they are coated. She also suggested that the plan be put in writing for preparation purposes and institutional continuity.

7.d UPDATE BY SANDAG ON BORDER TO BAYSHORE BIKEWAY PROJECT. (0140-40 & 0680-20)

Andrew Camacho, Interim Project Manager with SANDAG, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item.

Truth expressed concern about issues with SANDAG's Border to Bayshore Bikeway Project including the cost.

Mr. Camacho responded to questions of City Council regarding communicating with residents about construction by use of mailers.

In response to Councilmember Seabury's concern regarding people cutting through an alley located at 13th Street and IB Blvd. to avoid the light, Joe De La Garza, with the design team, stated the right turn is not prohibited. The alley was taken into consideration during the design process and the bend-out makes it slower for drivers when making the turn. He also responded to questions of Councilmember McKay regarding the bike sensors and signalization for the bikes.

Councilmember Seabury requested that the Edge Island Planters be built correctly (dig the reservoir deep enough to collect the water).

Mayor Aguirre commented that the bend-outs are intended to serve as a safety feature by preventing cars from cutting a corner quickly. They protect bike riders and pedestrians. She asked that SANDAG do their due diligence with public outreach. She encouraged the use of mailers, going door to door, and engaging the public early and comprehensively. She also spoke about the importance of this project with regard to cyclists using these bike paths comfortably and safely.

7.e UPDATE BY SANDAG ON OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY. (0140-40 & 0680-85)

Maria Rodriguez Molina, SANDAG Project Development Program Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Truth questioned if pedestrians have to pay a toll to cross and if they would be able to cross faster. She also questioned how SANDAG didn't know ahead of time that they would not be able to collect a toll at a federal entry point and that it would only be collected on one side of the border. She commented that Mexico will receive 50% of the money from tolls yet none of their share will go to fix the treatment plant. She suggested that the toll be held as a sanction against Mexico until they fix the sewage issue on their side of the border.

Mario Orso, CEO for SANDAG, stated in response to the public comment, there are readers on both sides of the border. He also stated that when the Board approved moving forward with the agreement with Mexico, they gave direction to develop a working group with Mexico to look at different environmental issues along the border. They will also come up with strategies to have a continuous sustainable solution for quality of life on both sides of the border.

Councilmember Fisher spoke about the need to push harder to get things done due to the negative health impacts people are experiencing on both sides of the border. He stressed that it is time for all agencies involved to understand our plight and that it is not going to go away unless they take action.

Mayor Aguirre mentioned her frustration with hearing conversations about exponential growth and billions of dollars of trade along the border, while there is the worst sewage crisis in this nation and it continues to get worse. She encouraged SANDAG to be

innovative and to use the powers that the member agencies have in the binational discussions. She was happy to hear that at least there is a first step with the newly created working group.

Mayor Pro Tem McKay implored SANDAG to show up on the right side of history and stressed that this is the biggest opportunity to solve a huge problem. He stated that the downsides to transportation needs to be recognized in this plan and there are ways to mitigate the downsides by using some of the income generated by the tolls to clean up the River Valley and mitigate all the years of neglect and destruction.

Councilmember Seabury expressed concern about SANDAG handling the tolls due to their track history with SR125. She also expressed concern about the pollution trucks and cars from Mexico generates.

Mr. Orso stated that a fee for transboundary mitigation would require a modification to State legislation. That change would need to give SANDAG broader authority to expand the use of those funds.

Mayor Aguirre stated there was a request by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Borders Committee to have the White Paper, on public health impacts from heavy metals, prepared by San Diego State University School of Public Health, and commissioned by Congressman Peters, be presented to the full SANDAG Board. She asked Mr. Orso to investigate why the presentation has not happened.

7.f UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PATHOGEN FORECAST MODEL. (0210-90)

Professor Falk Feddersen, PhD, with UCSD and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, gave a PowerPoint presentation and he responded to questions of City Council regarding the use of the pathogen prediction tool to forecast swimmer illness risk.

No public comments.

Mayor Aguirre commented on the vast improvements made since the first iteration of the SCCOOS Plume tracker to where we are now. She expressed appreciation for Dr. Feddersen's thorough research and investigation, and for helping our community.

Mayor Aguirre called a recess at 9:09 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 9:13 p.m. with all members present.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

No public comments.

Motion by Mayor Aguirre

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem McKay

To approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 8.a through 8.c.

AYES (4): Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem McKay, Councilmember Seabury, and Councilmember Fisher

ABSENT (1): Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez

Motion Carried (4 to 0)

8.a RATIFICATION OF WARRANT REGISTER FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 27, 2024, TO AUGUST 9, 2024. (0300-25)

City Council ratified and filed the Warrant Register Report.

8.b RECEIVE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2024. (0300-90)

City Council received and filed the June 2024 Treasurer's Report.

8.c SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2024-1248 AMENDING TITLE 2 OF THE IMPERIAL BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO TERMS OF OFFICE FOR VARIOUS COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES. (0120-95)

Conducted the second reading and adopted the ordinance.

9. ORDINANCES/INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

None.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

11. REPORTS

11.a PRESENTATION AND FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE YE OLDE PLANK INN SPECIAL EVENT CHANGING OF THE GUARDS SUMMER KICK OFF PARTY (1040-10).

Marty Mattes gave a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the planning, timeline, breakdown, lessons learned and costs for the event. He also mentioned putting on a Summer Sunset Party and Military Appreciation Day.

No public comments.

12. I.B. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

None.

13. ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR (IF ANY)

None.

14. CITY COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

Mayor Pro Tem McKay requested a resolution to add language to State legislation allowing the use of a percentage of the toll collected at the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry for mitigating the environmental impacts from the Tijuana River Valley.

Mayor Aguirre seconded the request and included consideration of sending a letter to State representatives requesting a legislative fix.

15. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Aguirre adjourned the Regular Meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Jacqueline M. Kelly, MMC
City Clerk

Paloma Aguirre
Mayor

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