

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

**March 5, 2025, 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
825 Imperial Beach Boulevard  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932**

Present: Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem Seabury, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez, Councilmember McKay

Staff: City Manager Foltz, Chief Administrative Officer Cortez-Martinez, City Attorney Lyon, City Clerk Kelly, Community Development Director Openshaw

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

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**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**

Fire Marshal Tom Santos led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. REIMBURSEMENT DISCLOSURES/REPORTS ON ASSIGNMENTS AND COMMITTEES**

Councilmember McKay

- Celebration of Life for Virginia Syverson
- SANDAG Board of Directors meeting
- He thanked Mayor Duncan and the Coronado City Council for declaring a state of emergency that is in alignment with Imperial Beach and other municipalities (on the Tijuana sewage crisis).

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez

- Displayed a slide showing MTS ridership
- 5th Annual District 4 Cleanup
- SANDAG Board of Directors Meeting
- IB Little League Opening Day

Councilmember Fisher

- He thanked Councilmember McKay for attending the SANDAG Board of Directors meeting
- IB Little League Opening Day

Mayor Pro Tem Seabury

- 5th Annual District 4 Cleanup
- Celebration of Life for Virginia Syverson
- IB Chamber of Commerce meeting
- IB Little League Opening Day
- SCEDC Meeting

Mayor Aguirre

- IB Little League Opening Day
- San Diego Community Power Board of Director's Meeting
- SCEDC meeting
- She announced there will be a City Council Workshop on water quality and the Tijuana River sewage issue on March 26

**5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY STAFF**

City Manager Foltz announced there will be a temporary traffic lane reconfiguration at 13th Street and Imperial Beach Blvd.

City Clerk Kelly announced the County of San Diego will be holding a Special Election on April 8, 2025, to fill the First Supervisor District Seat. Go to [SDVote.com](http://SDVote.com) for more information.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Written comments were submitted by Shirley and Stan Soth and Eric Syverson and they were provided as Last Minute Agenda Information.

Truth supported the City of Coronado's declaration of a state of emergency regarding the sewage issue. Regarding SB 10, she raised concerns about the lack of specific funding details, and she stressed the need for SB 10 to be expedited before a deal is made with Mexico that would give them 50% of the profits. She also spoke about how SANDAG and Caltrans are not complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Leon Benham, who is on the IBWC Citizen's Forum and the President of the Citizens for Coastal Conservancy, provided reasons for needing an update to the Crisis Mediation Action Plan.

**7. PRESENTATIONS**

**7.a PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH. (0410-30)**

**Motion by** Mayor Pro Tem Seabury  
**Seconded by** Councilmember McKay

That the City Council approve the Proclamation.

AYES (5): Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem Seabury, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez, and Councilmember McKay

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

Councilmember Seabury read the Proclamation.

A written comment was submitted by Sandra Brillhart and provided as Last Minute Agenda Information.

The Proclamation was presented to Tom Bevilacqua and Randa Hinojosa from South Bay Union School District.

**7.b PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH. (0410-30)**

**Motion by** Councilmember Fisher  
**Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Seabury

That the City Council approve the Proclamation.

AYES (5): Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem Seabury, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez, and Councilmember McKay

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

Mayor Aguirre read the Proclamation.

A written comment was submitted by Sandra Brillhart and provided as Last Minute Agenda Information.

Truth critiqued the proclamation, and she emphasized that women are deserving of more understanding and patience, recognizing the challenges they face.

The Proclamation was presented to the IB Woman's Club.

**8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item 8.e: Truth expressed appreciation for the details of the trip but noted that the name of the hotel was not listed.

Item 8.a: Truth was opposed to the City paying for a writer to write Mayor Aguirre's speech.

Item 8.c: Leon Benham suggested revisiting the local emergency proclamation related to cross-border sewage impacts. He emphasized that the goal is a clean ocean, clean river, and no transboundary sewage flows.

**Motion by** Councilmember Fisher  
**Seconded by** Councilmember McKay

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

AYES (5): Mayor Aguirre, Mayor Pro Tem Seabury, Councilmember Fisher, Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez, and Councilmember McKay

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)**

**8.a RATIFICATION OF WARRANT REGISTER FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2025 TO FEBRUARY 21, 2025. (0300-25)**

City Council ratified and filed the Warrant Register Report.

**8.b RECEIVE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025. (0300-90)**

City Council received and filed the January 2025 Treasurer's Report.

**8.c RESOLUTION 2025-009 CONTINUING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO IMPACTS FROM CROSS-BORDER POLLUTION IN THE TIJUANA RIVER (0150-40 & 0210-26).**

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-009 to maintain a state of local emergency related to the cross-border pollution impacts from the Tijuana River and authorize the City Manager, Mayor, and Council members to work with local, State, Federal, and Mexican authorities to advance binational projects to improve conditions in the Tijuana River.

**8.d 2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT. (0660-10)**

City Council received the 2024 Annual Progress Report (APR) and authorize submission of the APR to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) and the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

**8.e NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL: COUNCILMEMBER MCKAY WILL ATTEND THE CAL CITIES CITY LEADERS SUMMIT IN SACRAMENTO APRIL 23-25, 2025. (0410-60)**

City Council approved the attendance of Councilmember McKay at the Cal Cities Annual Leaders Summit April 23-25, 2025, and authorized necessary funds to attend the training.

**9. ORDINANCES/INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING**

None.

**10. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## 11. REPORTS

### 11.a PICKLEBALL UPDATE. (1020-10)

City Manager Foltz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item.

Dorian Edge supported building pickleball courts at Sports Park instead of Veterans Park and she suggested holding tournaments to raise funds off the courts.

Robert Douthit said that he is okay with either location but preferred the Sports Park location due to its proximity to parking and restrooms. He also said that the location offers family and community experience, with activities like skateboarding, basketball, and playgrounds that complement the pickleball courts.

Katy Turner stated either location would be great, and she wanted to show her support for the item.

Sandi Crosby stated that although it could be expensive, building courts at both locations can be an option. She further stated that she is in support of a fee system to reserve courts.

A written comment was submitted by Shirley and Stan Soth and provided as Last Minute Agenda Information.

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez spoke in support of the item and favored the Sports Park location.

Councilmember McKay recommended reaching out to a previous public speaker who proposed fundraising to help cover the costs. He expressed his support for the Sports Park location.

Mayor Pro Tem Seabury had no preference regarding the location.

Councilmember Fisher expressed a preference for the Sports Park location and proposed using a color scheme that reflects Imperial Beach.

Mayor Aguirre favored the Sports Park location, supported using colors that represent Imperial Beach, and recommended a community meeting to inform residents about potential noise impacts.

Consensus of City Council to move forward with a concept of pickle ball courts at Sports Park and to engage in a fiscal impact discussion at a future date.

### 11.b UPDATES ON CITY PROJECTS: BAYSHORE BIKEWAY RESILIENCY PROJECT, IMPERIAL BEACH COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN, CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PHASE 1, PALM AVENUE MASTER PLAN, AND THE 13TH STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. (0600-20)

Councilmember Seabury announced she had a potential conflict of interest.

City Manager Foltz requested that Councilmember Seabury remain present while Community Development Director Openshaw outlines and explains the project, after which Councilmember Seabury could step out.

Community Development Director Openshaw provided background on the project.

Councilmember Seabury left Council Chambers at 7:33 p.m.

#### 1. Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project

Director Openshaw gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project. She responded to questions of the City Council regarding who is performing the work, funding for the project, the project cost, and participation/support by the South Bay Union School District.

Mayor Aguirre spoke about securing funding before proceeding with construction, given the current financial constraints. She noted that the project would not only beautify the area but also connect Imperial Beach to the entire Bayshore Bikeway, potentially bringing revenue and tourism as new projects around the bay are completed.

Councilmember Seabury returned to the Council Chambers at 7:45 p.m.

#### 2. IB Community Resilience Plan

Director Openshaw gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project. She responded to Councilmember Fisher's question about navigating the California Coastal Commission by emphasizing the importance of early, consistent engagement, communication, and collaboration throughout the process. In response to Mayor Aguirre, she stated that staff and consultants are working with established relationships and partners, and they plan on doing a combination of pop-up events, virtual events, and workshops to ensure people are involved and informed.

#### 3. Climate Action Plan Phase 1

Director Openshaw gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez left Council Chambers at 7:56 p.m. and returned at 7:58 p.m.

Councilmember Fisher expressed support for planting trees as a means of beautifying the community.

Mayor Aguirre added that, in addition to beautification, the trees also help improve air quality and provide shade, which helps reduce the heat generated by concrete.

#### 4. Palm Ave. Master Plan

Director Openshaw gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

In response to Councilmember Seabury, City Manager Foltz stated the existing vehicle lanes will be preserved, bike lanes will be added, pedestrian access will be addressed,

unnecessary curb cuts will be reduced, and the project will include public and City Council input.

Councilmember Fisher spoke about the importance of engaging with local businesses. He emphasized the value of beautification and infrastructure improvements for Imperial Beach, acknowledging the challenges and opposition to changes like bike lanes. He stressed the need for a balanced approach that considers both development and the impact on local businesses along Palm Avenue.

In response to Councilmember McKay, City Manager Foltz discussed a previous proposal for a local access road on Palm Ave., which was unpopular and subsequently removed from the plan.

Mayor Aguirre emphasized the importance of maintaining Imperial Beach's unique identity while improving infrastructure, highlighting the potential for tree coverage, wider sidewalks, and pedestrian lighting.

#### 5. 13th Street Corridor Improvement Project

Director Openshaw gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project. She responded to Councilmember Fisher's question about if the 13th Street corridor can be used as a prototype for broader citywide improvements, such as reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and the overall goal of the project.

Mayor Aguirre suggested engaging the Imperial Beach Chamber of Commerce in the 13th Street Corridor Improvement Project. The goal is to avoid working in silos and instead collaborate to assess the business climate.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Seabury's concern about reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on a street that serves as a main access point for the military base, commissary, exchange, and Job Corps., Director Openshaw stated the goal is not to decrease access or service, but to provide more transportation options and improve safety.

Director Openshaw proposed creating an overarching theme called "IB Thrivin" to unify and communicate the City's various ongoing projects. The concept aims to provide a cohesive narrative about Imperial Beach's development efforts, making project information more accessible and engaging for residents.

Councilmember McKay supported the idea of "drive to thrive." He liked the idea of placing information on the City's website although some residents find it difficult to navigate.

Councilmember Fisher supported the use of mailers as an outreach tool to ensure that all community members are informed about important projects, especially given the digital divide.

Mayor Aguirre liked the concept of "IB Thrivin" and said that it could be a foundation for a future tourism campaign to revive the local economy once beaches reopen and to attract visitors back to Imperial Beach.

A Written Comment was submitted by Sandra Brillhart and provided as Last Minute Agenda Information.

**12. I.B. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS**

None.

**13. ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

None.

**14. CITY COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS**

Councilmember McKay proposed that City staff present a resolution or some other document outlining the City's priorities and expectations regarding the Tijuana River Cross Border Pollution issue.

Mayor Aguirre agreed that this should be a discussion item called an Issue Briefing.

**15. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Aguirre adjourned the Regular meeting at 8:32 p.m.

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Jacqueline M. Kelly, MMC  
City Clerk

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Paloma Aguirre  
Mayor