

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

**March 19, 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, Sheriff's Lieutenant Gathings

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 - CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Aguirre called the Closed Session Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Kelly took roll.

3. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Aguirre adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 5:01 p.m.

3.a CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6

Agency Designated Representatives: City Manager, CAO, City Attorney, Human Resources Director, Finance Director, Fire Chief, Finance Manager, Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager

Employee Organizations: Imperial Beach Firefighters' Association (IBFA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 221, Unrepresented Employees – Management/Mid-Management

3.b PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957

Title: City Manager

3.c CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.6
Agency Designated Representatives: Mayor & City Attorney
Unrepresented Employee: City Manager

4. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Aguirre called the Closed Session Meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m.

Reporting out on Closed Session, City Attorney Lyon announced direction was given, no reportable action was taken, and the Closed Session Meeting will be continued until after the Open Session.

5. CALL TO ORDER - REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Aguirre called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

6. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Kelly took roll.

7. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Lt. Gathings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

8. REIMBURSEMENT DISCLOSURES/REPORTS ON ASSIGNMENTS AND COMMITTEES

Councilmember McKay

- Metro Wastewater JPA meeting
- CalCities meeting

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez

- MTS Board of Directors meeting

Councilmember Fisher

- SANDAG Audit Committee meeting
- SANDAG Board of Directors meeting
- Announced Bike Anywhere Day is on May 15, 2025

Mayor Pro Tem Seabury

- IB Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting
- IB Chamber of Commerce Social event
- She encouraged everyone to volunteer in the community
- Social Advocates for Youth event

Mayor Aguirre

- IB Chamber of Commerce Breakfast meeting
- City Selection Committee meeting
- League of California Cities Division meeting
- She welcomed two new Sheriff's deputies

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY STAFF

CAO Cortez-Martinez announced the upcoming Special City Council Workshop meeting on March 26, 2025 in the Burress Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Foltz recommended Item No. 12.c be removed from the agenda and moved to a future date.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mario Pena Cres Cortez, representing San Diego Air Cooled, presented the City Council with a plaque in gratitude for permitting their 2024 event to take place in Imperial Beach.

Truth criticized the modifications to SB 10 and she suggested the City reconsider its support for the bill. She claimed it now aims to use the toll money to fund the plant that should be the federal government's responsibility. She questioned Mayor Aguirre's consistency and priorities.

A written comment was submitted by Sandra Brillhart.

11. PRESENTATIONS**11.a SANDAG UPDATE ON THE BORDER TO BAYSHORE PROJECT. (0680-20)**

David Cortez, SANDAG's Director of Engineering, provided introductory remarks on the Border to Bayshore Project.

Madai Parra, Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

Truth questioned why the southern border was chosen as the destination and why it wasn't Imperial Beach. She inquired about the possibility of break stations along the route. She suggested safer alternatives such as stop lights, lighted crosswalks, riding bikes on sidewalks, or having glow-in-the-dark bike lanes. She also questioned the costs and the long-term goals of the project.

Mayor Pro Tem Seabury raised concerns about the use of bike lanes and questioned whether studies were conducted on how many people actually use them, particularly during peak times like when students are going to school. She requested that the drainage be deep enough to avoid flooding. She was hopeful that the ribbon cutting would be held in the City of Imperial Beach.

Councilmember Fisher requested an update on ridership and incidents a year after the project opens.

Councilmember McKay expressed interest in a report back to City Council on future ridership data to verify whether the new bike infrastructure is being used effectively and safely.

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez spoke in support of the project and commented that he has seen many bikers on the weekend.

In response to Mayor Aguirre's question, Project Manager Parra said that there were a variety of factors in creating the plans for the project, it was not only data driven. It was also community driven, based on best practices, and engineered based.

Mayor Aguirre emphasized that the project was not developed in isolation, but through extensive outreach, including meetings, presentations with the community, and input from local residents. She said the project will improve safety for walking, biking, and driving, making the streets safer and more family-friendly, which aligns with the City's goals.

12. CONSENT CALENDAR

A staff report correcting the date of the Minutes to December 4, 2024 was submitted as Last Minute Agenda Information.

Sandra Brillhart submitted written comments on Item No. 12.d.

Truth submitted written comments on Item No.12.a, noting a misspelled word on page 7.

Motion by Councilmember McKay

Seconded by Mayor Aguirre

To approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 12.a, 12.b, and 12.d.

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

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

12.a APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.

The City Council approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024.

12.b RATIFICATION OF WARRANT REGISTER FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2025 TO MARCH 7, 2025. (0300-25)

City Council ratified and filed the Warrant Register Report.

12.c RESOLUTION 2025-011 AMENDING THE AGREEMENT WITH COAR DESIGN GROUP FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE IMPERIAL BEACH SPORTS PARK PROJECT TO INCREASE THE CONTRACT LIMIT. (0920-40)

Adopted Resolution 2025-011 approving an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Coar Design Group for the design services of the Imperial Beach Sports Park building.

12.d RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-012 AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR SANDAG'S SMART GROWTH INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SGIP) FOR THE PALM AVENUE STREETScape AND GATEWAY PROJECT. (0140-40 & 0720-10)

Adopted Resolution No. 2025-012 to authorize the City Manager to submit an application for SANDAG's SGIP grant.

13. ORDINANCES/INTRODUCTION & FIRST READING

None.

14. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

15. REPORTS

15.a 2025 UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM. (0240-10)

Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager Rolf gave a PowerPoint presentation on the item and he recognized Viri Ramirez, Community Outreach Worker, for her hard work and dedication with assisting clients to meet their needs and help them move towards housing solutions. He responded to questions of City Council regarding the in-town mailing address for the homeless and the concept of a homelessness microcosm in Imperial Beach.

Councilmember Leyba-Gonzalez left Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. and returned at 7:02 p.m.

Truth expressed skepticism about the accuracy of data used to track homelessness and questioned the financial aspects of programs, including the use of EBT benefits.

In response to Councilmember McKay's question about working with the City of Chula Vista on a reservation system to use the pallet shelter, City Manager Foltz stated that staff is still finalizing the details and will present the item to the City Council soon.

The Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation to staff for their hard work and for making a difference in people's lives.

16. I.B. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY SUCCESSOR AGENCY REPORTS

None.

17. ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

None.

18. CITY COUNCIL FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

Councilmember Fisher requested information on the new language in SB 10 and questioned why the changes were made.

Mayor Aguirre seconded the request.

19. ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Aguirre adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:41 p.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION

City Council returned to Closed Session at 7:41 p.m.

4. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

Reporting out on Closed Session, City Attorney Lyon announced direction was given, no reportable action was taken and the Closed Session meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Jacqueline M. Kelly, MMC
City Clerk

Paloma Aguirre
Mayor

DRAFT