



City of Rockaway Beach

Workshop City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Location: Rockaway Beach City Hall, 276 Hwy 101 - 2nd Floor Conference Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McNeilly called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Charles McNeilly, Mary McGinnis, Tom Martine, Penny Cheek, Kiley Konruff, Pat Ryan

Staff Present: Luke Shepard, City Manager; Melissa Thompson, City Recorder; Todd Hesse, Fire Chief; Mary Mertz, Public Works Director

3. COUNCIL BRIEFING/DISCUSSION

a. High Grounds Phase 1: Fire Station Feasibility, Initial Data Review - Joe Slack, HGE Architects

- Shepard introduced Joe Slack, HGE Architects. Shepard provided background, explaining that High Grounds Project Phase 1, a review of Fire Station feasibility, was a Strategic Plan initiative, and acknowledging that Fire Stations were expensive to build.
- Hesse distributed a *Fire Station Replacement Project Overview* and explained the options under consideration.
- Slack gave a presentation including a summary of the existing fire station assessment, renovation and replacement options at the existing Fire Station location, designs for a new building at the High Grounds location, and next steps in the process.
- After discussion, there was Council consensus to explore options to either renovate and increase the size of the existing building, or build a replacement building at the High Grounds site.
- Shepard noted that possible restrictions on outside funding at the current location would need to be investigated.
- Discussion regarding access roads to the High Grounds location and highway access.
- Discussion regarding long-term funding needs for Fire Department operations.
- Discussion regarding inflation estimates for construction costs.
- Shepard confirmed that a portion of unrestricted Transient Lodging Tax funds could be spent on emergency services.

b. Review of Small Community Grant Recommendations

- No discussion due to lack of time.

c. Review of Resolution Adopting Forest Resources Stewardship Plan - Public Works Director Mertz

- No discussion due to lack of time.

d. Promoting/Supporting STR Accessibility

- No discussion due to lack of time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Kiley Konruff, seconded by Tom Martine, to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Motion Passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 (Mary McGinnis, Tom Martine, Penny Cheek, Kiley Konruff, Pat Ryan)

No: 0 (None)

MINUTES APPROVED THE
13TH DAY OF MAY 2026



Charles McNeilly, Mayor

ATTEST



Melissa Thompson, City Recorder