

Following Council questions, fielded by Mr. Welker, Councilor Schreiber made a motion to approve issuance of the RFQ for the RV campground only, removing the parking lot from the scope. The motion died for lack of a second, and no vote was taken.

Motion to approve issuance of the RFQ for design and engineering services for both the City Beach RV campground and the City Beach parking lot improvements.

Motion made by Councilor Ruehle, Seconded by Councilor Dick.

Voting Yea: Councilor Ruehle, Councilor Aispuro, Councilor Dick, Councilor Duquette, Councilor Howarth

Voting Nay: Councilor Schreiber

Old/Unfinished Business

10. Discussion: Citizen Advisory Boards

Mayor Grimm introduced this item, noting concerns about the manner in which the City's citizen advisory boards (commissions and committees) are operating without clear direction from the Council and Mayor, proceeding with work that may not necessarily be aligned with the priorities established by the City's elected leadership and potentially straining staff resources, relaying a desire to confirm and reestablish the Council and Mayor as the accountable authority for directing board work, with scope and assignments provided up front for a focus on the City's priorities.

Discussion ensued, with the Mayor fielding questions from Councilor Duquette, pointing out that City Code does not require the advisory boards to meet every month, although all of the current boards have a standing monthly meeting. He remarked on the challenges of limited staff resources.

Councilor Dick suggested that each board meeting agenda include a roundtable discussion, where board members would have an opportunity to propose topics to be addressed by the board, then these ideas would be taken into consideration depending on how they align with the City's plans and priorities.

Councilor Ruehle concurred and suggested a wish list from each board containing their suggestions of three to five top priorities, which could then come before Council for consideration and direction, with the possibility of suggestions for "low hanging fruit" projects that could be addressed at the staff level. She also suggested that specific direction could reduce the need for standing subcommittees, which sometimes may actually slow the review and decision-making process, noting that additional meetings add to the need for staff resources. City Clerk Melissa Ward provided information on the level of staff involvement in assisting with meetings of the current standing subcommittees.

Councilor Schreiber remarked that confining the boards to topics and concerns that only the elected officials direct may eliminate important feedback from the community, and he sees value in the use of subcommittees. He also pointed out that, as an example, for some boards, making suggestions for the budget, for instance, is included in their list of duties as provided by City Code but that Council and/or staff may not be seeking recommendations from the boards in a timely manner. He would like to see the commissions and committees expanded, where the City could fully utilize this volunteer force. He isn't necessarily in support of placing additional rules on these boards but was open to directing a list of three to five strategic projects per year.

Councilor Howarth relayed that it would be frustrating to be a board member, spending time working on a project that never comes to fruition, where the City needs to ensure that the work the boards are doing is beneficial, with projects they can see to completion; otherwise, the City may lose the experienced and talented citizens who serve on these boards. He appreciates the public involvement and summarized the suggestions for improvements as a desire for better synergy, where the elected leadership can do a better job of guiding their work.

Councilor Aispuro concurred with much of what had already been said and remarked on the pace of government projects, noting that, in his experience, he may have different expectations of the boards and was uncertain of the Council liaison role. He would like to see a better flow and agreed with providing some direction, which, in turn, would result in gains for Council and the City and allow the elected officials to work together with the community members.

Mayor Grimm observed, from the feedback received, a desire for a balance of elevating opportunities for suggestions from the boards, and the elected body having an opportunity to consider and endorse those ideas to ensure the valuable time of these volunteers is spent in an efficient and meaningful way. He will move forward and direct actions accordingly.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that the foregoing minutes, prepared by the City Clerk, were approved by City Council during their meeting held _____, 2025.

Jeremy Grimm, Mayor

Attest: Melissa Ward, City Clerk