

**Supplemental to the 8/28/2018 Regular Hermosa Beach City  
Council Meeting Agenda's Consent Item 2-a**

August 28, 2018

To: The Hermosa Beach City Council and Others.

From: Howard Longacre, a Hermosa Beach city resident.

**Re: CONTINUED inadequate Minutes of the city's City Council Meetings.**

**Consent Item 2-a Staff Recommendation:**

It is recommended that City Council approve the following minutes:

1. Regular meeting of October 10, 2017;
2. Regular meeting of October 24, 2017;
3. Regular meeting of November 14, 2017;
4. Adjourned Regular meeting of December 6, 2017; and
5. Regular meeting of January 9, 2018.

Staff item direct link: Link changes after the live meeting.

<https://hermosabeach.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3626800&GUID=C62B5BDF-0109-4AC8-9937-A6274662BB61>

**Gentlemen, Ladies, and others:**

The information in the Item 2-a staff report, re: Hermosa Beach City Council meeting minutes, clearly implies, literally screams, that the City Council of the City of Hermosa Beach **itself** continues to be completely lax in its giving of clear direction to have minutes of the quality deserved to be accomplished for the city's top level city council meetings, especially for a city of the quality and affluence of Hermosa Beach. WHY IS THIS NOT OCCURING?

The minutes being submitted for approval at the 8/28/18 regular council meeting imply that the Hermosa Beach City Council, now for many years, simply no longer cares (gives a hoot) at all, about the minutes of its own meetings, and in fact **seemingly prefers not to have any significant records of its meetings**, such that when those records (the Minutes) are searched, people can determine which meeting it actually was when something was discussed, suggested, or perhaps brought forward ad hoc.

More follows on this directly below. Please review carefully as I find that this subject of these defective Minutes is now going to need to be ratcheted up until the Hermosa Beach City Council wakes up to this continuing disaster of NO SIGNIFICANT MINUTES BEING TIMELY RECORDED. WHY ARE THERE NO SIGNIFICANT MINUTES BEING KEPT? CLEARLY THERE MUST BE SOME REASON.

The minutes presented, notwithstanding what the Hermosa City Council's hired contract City Attorney may claim in his view are fully meeting the city's legal California obligation for minutes, these minutes are without question, little more than an echo of the agenda for the meeting indicated with the action taken on each item. They are useless for any other purpose and are a disgrace to the electorate who elected each member of the Council.

These “Minutes” contain no indication of even the most rudimentary of discussion that took place. They list, from what I can determine, not a single public speaker who spoke at the meeting each Minutes are for.

They are totally and completely absent of substance.

The reason they are such, is not necessarily the City Clerk’s fault entirely, but in my view, mostly the fault of the elected City Councils, present, and those of the recent past, who allowed this situation to develop and then fester for so long and apparently, with no end in sight.

It’s quite obvious that meeting after meeting, all five present councilmembers seem to operate out of total and complete fear that, God forbid, they may step on someone’s toes by speaking up on this subject other than in a weak-as-water manner. I really cannot recall when a Hermosa Beach City Council has had such a milquetoast approach to its important work.

And what’s really outrageous is how three of you on Council had no trouble giving yourself a 60% stipend raise, especially given the circumstances of so little being accomplished. (Can you say 8-th Street Safe-Walks-To-School sidewalk project?)

In any event these useless and late Minutes are a clear reflection of why little of substance is getting accomplished in this city for the residents. The Council as a body comes across gutless to demand action and to give clear direction on anything at all.

Look at the minutes of Manhattan Beach Council meetings. Look at those of Redondo Beach. They have real Minutes. Why does not Hermosa Beach?

Hermosa Beach used to have good minutes. And they were on time. As the minutes became watered down, and then became little more than the barest of minimum “action-minutes”, they have become more and more tardy, more and more useless, and as I have previously reported, are not even searchable on the Internet when posted there as scanned images, even though perhaps that’s to be corrected soon as a result of this resident’s nagging.

I call on the city to stop having the City Clerk’s office doing of the minutes. I call on the Council to direct that the City Manager hire a professional free-lance, or other, minutes-taker who can sit at the meetings, take typical minutes by shorthand, as in other cities, and then prepare and deliver them to the City Clerk’s office for placing on the agenda for approval within two weeks of a meeting that they are taken for.

**Hermosa Beach is paying for 1<sup>st</sup> Class minutes whether it has them or not.**

Presently the city has minutes that are a total and complete joke. The city is paying dearly for the absence of these records. Again, in my view this is mostly the result of the City Councils, both present and of the recent past, especially since the introduction of the Granicus archiving of video meetings. However, without good minutes, searchable minutes, one does not know

which video to go back and view to get the complete detail of something. Minutes are very important, good minutes are, that is. Hermosa Beach presently does not have good Minutes. And who has time to review 5-hour council meetings to find out all the nuanced, often significant stuff, that may have been discussed in a meeting if the minutes do not reflect even a brief paraphrasing that Councilmember X, or Staff Member Y, or Public Member Z indicated something or other of significance. These present minutes do none of that. They are in my view flat-out, useless garbage, printed up nicely to look legitimate.

I call on the Hermosa City Council to absolutely NOT APPROVE THE MINUTES PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL. They are all but worthless Minutes and the Council, all five councilmembers should say the same thing on the record, rather than wishy-washy to each other behind the scenes in Brown-Act violating private discussions. Put it on the record that you are fed up with this Minutes situation and that these Minutes are not what you expect and that you want more than what the City Attorney cares for you to have.

**One last thing; Why does the City Clerk ask for each public speaker to write their name on the tablet, and state, "it helps with the minutes", when the names are not even listed in the minutes, and further there isn't even a brief mention of what the speaker spoke on.**

These Minutes are a joke. The City Council knows it, everyone knows it, so when is the Hermosa Beach City Council going to direct that this city returns to having REAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES rather than the glossy hogwash that's presented at the 8/28/18 regular Hermosa council meeting for approval?

*Again, my disclosure to the Council: I do not set policy in Hermosa Beach. I have never set policy. And, never will, except by voting in an election. Some on Council perhaps think otherwise. I also have never received a penny or asked for such, or any behind the scenes gratuity, comp-d drink, food, tickets, etc., in any form for following all the stuff, much of which is quite deceitful or poorly accomplished, by elected Hermosa Beach officials of this city for the past 40 years. Herein again are of course just my views, as always, JUST MY VIEWS. I pay taxes. I have a right to comment and have views on the deceitful or just plain stupid stuff that goes down by Hermosa Beach City Councils, meeting after meeting. Kindly, if you do not like my views, if you have an incredibly thin skin, or if you need to be pampered and patronized 24/7 as being such an important, big-shot city council-person, then consider getting off the city council, and perhaps also consider moving to a country more applicable and amenable to the kind of dictator you may prefer to really need to be. If you believe that any of this disclosure does not apply to you, simply ignore such. It most certainly does apply to at least one and more likely two of you in my view. It is truly unfortunate that it is necessary to place this disclosure in my supplementals. It is done so as to avoid confusion by anyone on the council who may be so ego-centric to not understand my views and rights to them.*

End of Supplemental.