



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/9/2025
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor (remote – Brown Act, exited meeting at 11:03 p.m.),
Wise
Absent: None
Staff: Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Assistant to the
City Manager/City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Closed Session

C1. Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation
(Paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Government Code § 54956.9)
Significant exposure to litigation: One case

C2. Conference with labor negotiators
Government Code §54957.6
Labor negotiations with unrepresented management: City Manager
Agency designated representatives: City Attorney Nira Doherty, Special Counsel Genevieve Ng

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Combs re-called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable actions.

F. Agenda Review

The City Council pulled item I2. for comment.

The City Council reordered the agenda bringing L. Informational Items before item J. study sessions.

G. Public Comment

- Robert Peck spoke on concerns of the water temperature of the lap pools and in support of seeing Team Sheeper financial records.
- Sue Kayton spoke in opposition of the speed bumps installed in the bike lanes on Middle Avenue.
- Siosuia Vea invited the City Council to JobTrain's 60th anniversary.
- Bill Kirsch spoke in support of improvements installed on Middle Avenue, in opposition of speed bumps installed in the bike lanes, and in support of bulb outs at busy intersections, and requested traffic calming measures on Patridge Avenue.

H. Presentations and Proclamations

H1. Proclamation: Constitution Week (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamation.

Daughters of the American Revolution Representative Lucey Bowen accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H2. Proclamation: National Night Out (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamation.

Police Chief David Norris, Internal Services Manager Nicole Acker, Management Analyst Mayra Lombera and Block party organizers: Matt Burr, Juanita Croft, Brian Kissel and Dorene Martinez accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H3. Proclamation: National Recovery Month (Attachment)

H4. Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Month (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamations.

Jenny Michel accepted the proclamations (Attachments).

H5. Presentation: Annual Environmental Quality Commission report out (Attachment)

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) Chair John McKenna made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the EQC accomplishments and nearing the 2030 Climate Action Plan goal.

H6. Presentation: Annual Housing Commission report out (Attachment)

Housing Commission (HC) Chair Steven Switzer made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the HC accomplishments including the anti-displacement plan.

I. Consent Calendar

- I1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for August 12, 2025 (Attachment)
- I2. Consider and adopt a resolution approving the City Council Community Funding Subcommittee's recommendations for fiscal year 2025-26 community funding allocations (Staff Report #25-137-CC)
 - Siosuia Vea spoke in support of program funding for JobTrain.
 - Thunder spoke in support of program funding for the East Palo Alto Robotics Foundation.
 - Laura Fanucchi spoke in support of program funding for Hip Housing.
 - Anne-Marie Hong spoke in support of program funding for Ability Path.

The City Council discussed funding from the bottom up and limiting the requested amount to no more than 20% of the applicant's operating budget.

- I3. Waive formal bid requirements and authorize the city manager to enter into a 34-month agreement with OpenGov, Inc., for budgeting, financial accounting and asset management software-as-a-service for a total of \$951,369 (Staff Report #25-131-CC)
- I4. Authorize the city manager to purchase aquatic supplies from Lincoln Aquatics in total amounts not to exceed \$105,495.47 during fiscal year 2024-25 (Staff Report #25-133-CC)
 - Srishti Patel spoke in support of the purchasing of new pool cover for Burgess Pool and concerns on the pool temperatures.
- I5. Accept the grant award of \$152,900 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds passed through the County of San Mateo Behavioral Health and Recovery Services and authorize the city manager to execute an agreement with the County of San Mateo for the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (Staff Report #25-135-CC)
- I6. Consider and adopt a resolution authorizing staff to submit an application to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority for Measure A & W Highway Program (Staff Report #25-136-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Combs), to approve the consent calendar, passed unanimously.

The City Council reordered the agenda.

L. Informational Items

- L1. City Council agenda topics: September – October 2025 (Staff Report #25-139-CC)
- L2. Addendum to police department quarterly update Q2 April – June 2025 regarding Automated License Plate Reader system (Staff Report #25-130-CC) (Informe de Personal #25-130-CC)
 - Randy Avalos spoke in support of the report and transparency.

J. Study Session

- J1. Provide direction on conceptual possibilities for sustaining and potentially restoring operating hours

at City-owned swim centers (Staff Report #25-134-CC)

Library and Community Services Director Sean Reinhart made the presentation (Attachment).

- Sam Sinnott spoke in support of reopening Burgess Pool with previous open hours.
- Rick Schwartz spoke in support of the city allocating funds to support pool operations and continued partnership with Team Sheeper.
- Judith Willson spoke in support of the city funding Belle Haven Pool and reopening Burgess Pool with previous open hours.
- Robin Severns requested Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) signage on Willow Road, a poll of residents to understand the needs of the community and in support for a city-run pool.
- Ania Lee spoke in support of PASA services at the Burgess Pool.
- Pam D Jones requested a side-by-side expenditures report for all options, implementation of a user facility task force, monthly report of pools downtime and closing the pools to make all needed repairs, and support for warmer pool temperature.
- Bob Hubbell spoke in support of the city allocating funds to support pool operations and continued partnership with Team Sheeper.
- Scott Saywell spoke in support of continued partnership with Team Sheeper.
- Stephane Mouradian spoke in support of Team Sheeper and the hybrid model for the Belle Haven Pool.
- Sachi Blue-Smith spoke in support of Team Sheeper operating the pools and immediate financial relief for the aquatics operator.
- Tricia Barr spoke in support of the proposed models.
- Sheng Shi requested, if pool hours are reduced, to have closed hours during midday and allocate additional open hours in the evening and weekend and equal swim access to lanes.
- Felix Kolotinsky spoke in opposition to the reduction of pool hours.
- Nina Wouk spoke in opposition of the hybrid model, in support of a Belle Haven working group and allocating additional open hours in the evenings at Belle Haven Pool.
- Michelle Ferbershaw spoke in support of a policy and program to build-up the swim community in Belle Haven and the use of Menlo Swim and Sport.
- John Burlette requested a review of operating hours at the Belle Haven Pool and in support of allocating additional open hours in the evenings and the use of Menlo Swim and Sport.
- Jacqui Cebrian spoke in support of the city investing in the Belle Haven Pool and extending open hours on weekdays.
- Arleen Navaro spoke in support of programs that enrich the community.
- Galaxy spoke in support of the use of Menlo Swim and Sport and equitable and sustainable business models for the pools.

The City Council discussed Belle Haven Pool hours, pool lane configuration and capacity at both pools, pool operations at Belle Haven Pool, the city's risks of financially supporting a pool, Burgess Pool hour reduction, Belle Haven Pool "hybrid" operating model and hours reduction, nonprofits that provide services to the pool and advertising/signage for Belle Haven Pool hours.

The City Council received clarification on a Belle Haven Pool "hybrid" operating model community task force, pool staffing and financial viability, pool operator profits and losses and potential breakeven models, other city pool operations, impact to monthly pass holders, pool temperatures and pool covers and service interruptions.

The City Council directed staff to return Sept. 30 with actions for potential City Council

authorization of the Belle Haven Pool “cost share” operating model, additional open hours at Burgess Pool, and waiving the revenue share requirement.. City Council also directed staff to further develop the concept of a potential future Belle Haven Pool “hybrid” operating model, with input from a community task force comprised of Belle Haven neighborhood residents and stakeholders, and return with additional information and potential next steps at a future time that would allow for potential implementation of the “hybrid” operating model within 12 months, subject to future City Council authorization.

J2. Review and provide feedback on the draft Anti-displacement Plan strategies (Staff Report #25-140-CC)

Management Analyst Arianna Milton made the presentation (Attachment).

- Pam D Jones spoke on displacement in the Belle Haven neighborhood, requested the rental registry include both apartments and private homes and the creation of a vacancy policy.
- Karen Grove spoke in support of the staff recommendations and requested additional funding to the housing assistance program, increasing tenant relocation assistance and just cause protections for evictions.

The City Council discussed the timeline for implementation, data on BMR units and displacement, home preservation program as a long-term strategy as well as housing protections, identifying timelines for the long-term items, and incentivizing versus policy regulation and enforcement.

The City Council received clarification on recommendations provided by Menlo Together, displacement in Menlo Park since 2017, expressed support for the idea of workforce development and provided direction on the legal assistance program in that it should be in partnership with an organization.

The City Council directed staff to pursue the recommendations provided by the public commenters, including a rental registry to include single family homes and rental units, establishing a housing assistance program, legal assistance program, and a just cause for evictions ordinance.

ACTION: By acclamation, the City Council extended the meeting past 11 p.m.

K. Regular Business

K1. Consider and adopt resolutions to approve side letters of agreement amending the memoranda of understanding between the City of Menlo Park and the Service Employees International Union Local 521, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees Local 829, Menlo Park Police Officers’ Association, and Menlo Park Police Sergeants’ Association to modify medical premium contributions for 2026 (Staff Report #25-138-CC)

Administrative Services Director Brittany Mello introduced the item.

ACTION: Motion and second (Wise/ Nash), to adopt resolutions to approve side letters of agreement amending the memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the City of Menlo Park and the Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU), the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 829 (AFSCME), the Menlo Park Police Officers' Association (POA), and the Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association (PSA) to modify the City's medical premium contributions for the

plan year beginning Jan. 1, 2026, and appropriate an additional \$69,228 from the General Fund unassigned fund balance in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

- K2. Designate a voting delegate for the League of California Cities General Assembly meeting Oct. 10 (Staff Report #25-132-CC)

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren introduced the item.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Wise), to select Vice Mayor Nash as voting delegate and City Council Wise as alternate for the League of California Cities General Assembly meeting Oct. 10, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

M. City Manager Report

None.

N. City Councilmember Reports

- N1. City Councilmember Taylor report (Attachment) (Attachment)

Vice Mayor Nash reported out on the Sept. 7 Menlo Park SAFER Bay Project pop-up at the Menlo Park Farmer's Market.

O. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 11:31 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting October 7, 2025.