



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 12/2/2025
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 5:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor, Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Closed Session

- C1. Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation
Initiation of litigation (paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of §54956.9): One potential case
- C2. Conference with real property negotiators pursuant to Government Code §54956.8
Property location: 150 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park, CA
Negotiating parties: Anthony Kamm
City negotiators: Justin I.C. Murphy, Nira Doherty
Under negotiation: Price, terms of payment, property negotiations

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable action.

F. Public Hearing

- F1. Receive the Elections Code section 9212 report regarding the proposed initiative measure entitled “Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance Initiative” (Staff Report #25-181-CC)

Community Development Director Deanna Chow introduced the item and M-Group President + Principal Geoff Bradley made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing.

- Mary Seaton spoke on concerns about the analysis, including fire safety and response times not being addressed within the Elections Code section 9212 report.
- Adina Levin spoke on the difficulties achieving Housing Element goals without the Downtown Parking Plaza housing site.
- Caleb Wigham spoke on the need for housing and foot traffic in downtown.
- Kirver spoke in support of affordable housing and need for more people to revitalize downtown.
- Karen Grove spoke on a comparison to a Redwood City Downtown housing project.

Mayor Combs closed the public hearing.

The City Council discussed the findings of the report.

F2. Determination of action, pursuant to Elections Code section 9215, regarding the proposed initiative measure entitled “Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance” (Staff Report #25-180-CC)

City Attorney Nira Doherty introduced the item.

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing.

- Rubye Cervelli spoke in support of approving the Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance, noting that a vote is the ultimate public participation, and expressed that affordable housing should not be where it would harm business and employees.
- Alex Beltramo questioned whether the parking plaza is the right place for affordable housing and indicated that the decision should be made by the people.
- Rob Foster spoke in support of affordable housing, approving the Downtown Parking Plazas Ordinance or submitting the initiative to a future election.
- Kia Shepherd spoke in support of affordable housing benefitting everyone.
- Cherie Zaslowsky spoke on concerns related to the study.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.
- Elysa Gurman spoke in support of submitting the initiative to allow the decision to be made by the people.
- Karen Grove spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.
- Brittani Baxter spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.
- Collette spoke in support of submitting the initiative to a future election.
- Virginia Chang Kiraly spoke in support of public engagement and emergency response and safety for everyone.
- Jennifer Michel spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.
- Ken Chan spoke in support of affordable housing on the Downtown parking plazas.
- Katherine Dumont spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.
- Caleb Wigham spoke in support of submitting the initiative to the November general election.

Mayor Combs closed the public hearing.

The City Council discussed submitting the initiative to the voters, including the initiative on the general election or a special election and impacts to the Downtown Parking Plaza housing element program.

ACTION: Motion and second (Schmidt/ Nash), to adopt a resolution of the City Council of the City of Menlo Park submitting the citizen sponsored initiative measure to prohibit the City of Menlo Park from selling, leasing, donating, disposing of or conveying City-owned Downtown Parking Lots that would affect or diminish the availability or convenience of parking, without voter approval, to the voters at the next general municipal election (Nov. 3, 2026), and authorizing and requesting the County of San Mateo conduct the election; establishing the schedule for submission of ballot arguments, passed unanimously.

G. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 12/9/2025
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Regular Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor, Wise

Absent: None

Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Agenda Review

None.

D. Public Comment

- Brian Schmidt spoke on a Menlo Spark site visit for a project in Berkeley converting five apartment units to 100% electric on a single 200-amp panel.
- Peter Lenhardt spoke on the growing inequity in Recology rates.

E. Consent Calendar

E1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for November 4, 2025 (Attachment)

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

F. Regular Business

F1. Recognition of outgoing Mayor

- Ray Mueller spoke in appreciation of the service of Mayor Combs.
- Pam D Jones spoke in appreciation of the service of Mayor Combs.
- Sally Cole spoke in appreciation of the service of Mayor Combs.

Vice Mayor Nash read the proclamation (Attachment).

Mayor Combs accepted the proclamation.

F2. Selection of Mayor and Vice Mayor (Staff Report #25-182-CC)

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

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren accepted nominations for Mayor 2026.

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Combs), to appoint Betsy Nash as Mayor for a one-year term, passed unanimously.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren accepted nominations for Vice Mayor 2026.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Nash), to appoint Jennifer Wise as Vice Mayor for a one-year term, passed unanimously.

F3. Consider and adopt a resolution approving the 2026 City Council regular meeting schedule (Staff Report #25-183-CC)

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

- Adina Levin requested religious holidays are included when considering meeting dates.

The City Council discussed the proposed July meetings and potential conflicts and meeting locations.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Wise), to adopt a resolution approving the City Council's 2026 meeting schedule and rescheduling the July 7 meeting to July 14, passed unanimously.

F4. Appoint City Council representatives, alternates and liaisons to various local and regional agencies and as liaisons to City Council advisory bodies (Staff Report #25-184-CC)

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

- Pam Jones spoke in support of the addition of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) appointment.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of the addition of the SamTrans appointment.

The City Council directed this item to be returned to the Dec. 16 meeting.

F5. Appoint City Councilmembers to standing and ad hoc subcommittees (Staff Report #25-185-CC)

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

- Pam Jones spoke in support of retaining the Belle Haven Community Campus Subcommittee.

The City Council received clarification on future reporting of the number of unhoused and unhoused programs administered by San Mateo County.

The City Council discussed retaining the Belle Haven Community Campus Subcommittee.

The City Council directed staff to return this item and discussion on the Belle Haven Community Campus Subcommittee to the Dec. 16 meeting.

- F6. Provide direction to the City's voting delegate regarding regional vacancies for the next City Selection Committee meeting Dec. 19 (Staff Report #25-186-CC)

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

The City Council discussed voting delegates.

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Wise), to select City Councilmember Schmidt and, as alternate, City Councilmember Combs, as the City's voting delegate regarding regional vacancies for the next City Selection Committee meeting Dec. 19, passed unanimously.

G. Informational Items

- G1. City Council agenda topics: December 2025 – January 2026 (Staff Report #25-187-CC)

H. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on the Dec. 13 Photos with Santa event at the Belle Haven Community Campus.

I. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Nash reported on the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) meeting.

J. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren