



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 1/27/2026
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 Nash called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs (exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m.), Nash, Schmidt, Taylor (remote – Brown Act), 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

- Virginia Chang Kiraly spoke on the upcoming San Francisquito Creek JPA (Joint Powers Authority) meeting.
- Naji Ali spoke on services provided by Race Swami and on concerns with the Belle Haven pool services (Attachment).

E. Presentations and Proclamations

- E1. Presentation: HIP Housing annual calendar contest (Attachment)

HIP Housing Board Member Brian Perkins made the presentation (Attachment).

- E2. Proclamation: Black History Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Library and Community Services Supervisor Rondell Howard accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

F. Consent Calendar

- F1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for December 16, 2025 (Attachment)

- F2. Award a construction contract to Medallion Landscape Maintenance for the Smart Irrigation Infrastructure project and determine this action is categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines §§15301 for existing facilities (Staff Report #26-009-CC)

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

G. Study Session

- G1. Provide direction on the City's Middle Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Rail Crossing project (Staff Report #26-010-CC)

Public Works Director Azalea Mitch made the presentation (Attachment).

- Sue Kayton spoke in opposition to the project and provided additional projects and programs to fund.
- Michael Barclay spoke in opposition to the project and provided a cost analysis.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of the project and staff recommendations.
- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of the project.
- Ken Kershner spoke in support of the project and to pursue the lowest construction cost option.
- Lesley Feldman spoke in support of the project.

The City Council received clarification on city design funding costs, phasing approach and costs, federal funding, depth of the tunnel, funding sources assurance, applying for additional funding or grants, Stanford University funding source and One Bay Area Grant fourth cycle funding application opportunity.

The City Council discussed funding sources, C/CAG advocacy, design and construction timeline, funding strategy and timeline, construction estimates options and an additional staircase on El Camino Real side of the project.

The City Council directed staff to move forward with finalizing design, provide funding strategies with assessments, pursue Option 4 and return with an MOU (memorandum of understanding) for advancing the design and funding strategy.

H. Regular Business

- H1. Receive and file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 (Staff Report #26-008-CC)

Assistant Administrative Services Director Fenny Lei made the presentation.

The City Council received clarification on the city's net position.

ACTION: Motion and second (Wise/ Combs), to receive and file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, passed unanimously.

- H2. Consider and adopt a resolution approving a City Council Policy for public meeting accessibility (Staff Report #26-011-CC)

City Clerk Judi A. Herren made the presentation.

- Charlotte Reed spoke in support of multilingual, location and written material meeting access and the proposed policy.
- Will Oursler spoke in support of the policy and requested the inclusion of city commissions.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of human interpretation and requested the option for written comments in the submitters primary language and to allow native language comments to be uploaded to request forms.

The City Council received clarification on Spanish closed captioning and the interpretation form option.

The City Council discussed more meetings at the Belle Haven Community Campus and usage of services offered.

The City Council directed staff to begin implementation of the policy and pursue low and no cost accessibility options for submitting native language written comment.

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Wise), to adopt a resolution approving the public meeting accessibility policy, passed unanimously.

I. Informational Items

- I1. City Council agenda topics: February 2026 (Staff Report #26-012-CC)
- I2. Communitywide electrification project grant spenddown progress report (Staff Report #26-014-CC)
 - Brian Schmidt spoke in support of Menlo Spark continuing to support the Home Upgrade Program, requested information on knob and tube replacements and requested clarification on why electrified homes have opted out of solar and storage.
- I3. Update on the Belle Haven Pool hybrid model community task force (Staff Report #26-013-CC)
 - Meredith Rohr requested a future regular City Council agenda item about the task force and to include their report on the item.

J. City Manager Report

City Manager Justin Murphy reported out on the Kelly Park parking lot closure for solar carport construction and upcoming solar carport construction at the Burgess campus.

K. City Councilmember Reports

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on Connect Bay Area Transit Senate Bill 63 kickoff event, ReThinkWaste board meeting and Assembly Bill 762 update.

Mayor Nash reported out on the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), C/CAG Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee and Peninsula Clean Energy meetings and the JobTrain and Per Scholas graduation ceremony.

L. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren