



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 2/24/2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Vice Mayor Wise called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Schmidt, Taylor, Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, Assistant City Attorney Mary Wagner, Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Closed Session

- C1. Conference with labor negotiators
Government Code Section 54957.6
Labor negotiations with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 829, Menlo Park Police Officers' Association, Menlo Park Police Sergeants' Association, and Service Employees International Local 521, Service Employees International Union Local 521 – Temporary Employees Unit

Agency designated representatives: City Manager Justin I.C. Murphy, Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, Assistant City Attorney Mary Wagner, Extra Help Retired Annuitant – Human Resources Director Sue Rush, Legal Counsel Charles Sakai

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Nash re-called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable actions.

F. Agenda Review

None.

G. Public Comment

- Will Oursler spoke on concerns about Quimby Act fees on Senate Bill 9 (SB 9) lot splits.
- Pam Jones spoke in support of street sweeping on Mondays and requested a dumpster for community use.

H. Consent Calendar

- H1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for January 27, 2026 (Attachment)
- H2. Annual review of the Planning Commission stipend program (Staff Report #26-021-CC)

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

I. Regular Business

- I1. Consider applicants and make an appointment to fill an unexpired vacancy on the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Advisory Committee (Staff Report #26-022-CC)

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval introduced the item.

- Jaggan Subbiah spoke in support of their appointment to the committee.

The City Council discussed responsibilities and expectations for appointees representing the City of Menlo Park.

The City Council made an appointment to fill an unexpired vacancy on the East Palo Alto Sanitary District Subsidiary District Advisory Committee:

- Vamsi Velagapudi

- I2. Consider and adopt a resolution authorizing the installation of a no stopping zone on the south side of Pierce Road between Carlton Avenue and Del Norte Avenue (Staff Report #26-023-CC)

Associate Transportation Planner Casandra Cortez made the presentation (Attachment).

- Sally Cole spoke on issues of installing protected bike lanes due to impacts from street sweepers.
- Nick Pataki spoke in support of the bike lane on Pierce Road and provided implementation suggestions.
- Pam Jones spoke in support of the bike lane on the sound wall side of the street.

The City Council received clarification on location of the bike lane, maintenance of the street for protected bike lanes and the number of parking observations per project.

The City Council discussed additional landscaping.

ACTION: Motion and second (Taylor/ Combs), to adopt a resolution authorizing the installation of a no stopping zone on the south side of Pierce Road between Carlton Avenue and Del Norte Avenue, passed unanimously.

- I3. Consider and adopt a resolution to amend the fiscal year 2025-26 budget (Staff Report #26-028-CC)

Assistant Administrative Services Director Fenny Lei made the presentation (Attachment).

- Pam Jones requested clarification on how businesses in the RDA (redevelopment agency) were taxed compared to residents and how taxes are repaid to the successor agency.

The City Council received clarification on RDA tax rates, timing of the UUT (users utility tax) lawsuit and federal grant funding.

The City Council discussed the proposed appropriations.

The City Council directed staff to provide a map of the RDA area and, in future appropriation items, include a running total of previous approved appropriations.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Wise), to adopt a resolution approving additional appropriations and amendments to the fiscal year 2025-26 adopted operating and capital budget, passed unanimously.

J. Study Session

- J1. Provide direction for a lease agreement for City property at 555 Ravenswood Ave. and provide direction on the framework for considering a longer-term lease (Staff Report #26-029-CC)

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed an exclusive lease with the Junior League, rent options and structure, lease terms, capital improvement responsibilities, possible electrification and facility usage.

The City Council directed staff to:

- Pursue an exclusive lease with the Junior League.
- Pursue electrification through home upgrade program, and if program funding is unavailable, provide a city cost estimate.
- Establish a rental amount with either current base rent or an alternative with regular Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.
- Build into the lease a framework for increasing community awareness of the space and simple facility usage reporting.
- Consider a roof replacement contribution at the start of a new lease and a lower base rent in exchange and an ongoing cost sharing model for capital improvements that arise during the lease term.

K. Informational Items

- K1. City Council agenda topics: March 2026 (Staff Report #26-030-CC)

- K2. Update on City's Solid Waste Rate Study (Staff Report #26-024-CC)

- Peter Lenhardt spoke in support of the new rate increase recommendations, which no longer place most of the increases on multifamily units, and on concerns about rate differential

inequities.

The City Council discussed public comment opportunities at the ReThink Waste Board meetings.

- K3. Update on the Menlo Park Municipal Water Rate Study (Staff Report #26-025-CC)
- K4. Communitywide electrification project grant spenddown progress report (Staff Report #26-026-CC)
- K5. Receive the 2025 aquatics program annual report; an independent financial analysis of the aquatics program; and the results of the City-conducted aquatics community survey (Staff Report #26-027-CC)

L. City Manager Report

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren reported out on the March 21 City Council annual priority setting meeting and public input forms acceptance through March 6 and the annual recruitment for city commissions through April 3.

M. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Nash reported out on the San Mateo County Local Officials briefing and the City/County Association of Government (C/CAG) Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee meeting.

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on the Commute.org meeting and provided an update to Assembly Bill 2313.

N. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

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