



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Date: 3/21/2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Nash called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.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. Regular Business

C1. Annual City Council priority setting workshop (Staff Report #26-038-CC)

City Manager Justin Murphy introduced the item.

Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte and Assistant Administrative Services Director Fenny Lei made a presentation (Attachment).

City Council received clarification on tax ballot measures.

Sustainability Manager Rachael Londer made a presentation (Attachment).

City Council discussed including all community-based organizations (CBOs) when scoping programs, the potential Neighborhood Services Manager position and food access.

- Adrian Silva spoke in support of prioritizing infrastructure projects that benefit children.
- Juan Pinzon spoke in support of prioritizing safe route implementation on Middlefield Road.
- Pam Jones spoke on the Environmental Justice (EJ) Element anti-displacement item and the home electrification program.
- Meredith Rohr spoke on CBOs using local approaches to focus on legacy residents.
- Savita Kini spoke in support of completing projects.
- Carol Orton spoke in support of prioritizing downtown vibrancy, housing and a focus on upgrading the main library.
- Shontelle Watkins spoke on the Belle Haven Farmers Market and in support of Belle Haven Action.
- Karen Grove spoke in support of existing priorities and including protections for vulnerable

- communities.
- Shirley Chui spoke in support of prioritizing public safety.
 - Jesse Soto spoke in support of the home electrification program and prioritizing infrastructure maintenance, pollution reduction, landscaping and safe streets in Belle Haven neighborhood.
 - Jesus M. Soto spoke in support of the home electrification program, keeping Belle Haven pool public and replacing trees that cause allergies.
 - Linda Itskonitz spoke in support of prioritizing public safety.
 - Jocelyn Anaya Galvan spoke in support of the existing priorities.
 - Sally Cole spoke in support of safe streets remaining as top priority.
 - Naomi Goodman spoke on mitigating impacts.
 - Ross Silverstein spoke in support of safe routes, traffic mitigation, empowering staff and quick build projects.
 - Ken Kershner spoke in support of prioritizing quick build bicycle and pedestrian project pilots.
 - Amy Mushlin spoke in support of prioritizing the quiet zone.
 - David Miller spoke in support of prioritizing public safety and assistance for the unhoused.

The City Council took a recess at 11:38 a.m.

The City Council reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte made a presentation (Attachment).

The City Council received clarification on core functions/services versus priorities and climate action deliverables.

The City Council discussed public safety, the number of priorities, adding quality of life and planning and future funding, removing climate action, emergency and disaster preparedness, housing and safe streets from priority and retaining as cores services, staff vacancy rates and recruiting and retaining police department staff.

The City Council directed staff to agendize a study session on public safety.

The City Council removed emergency and disaster preparedness as a priority.

The City Council established the top five priorities (alphabetical order):

- Climate action – mitigation, adaptation and resilience
- Downtown vibrancy
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Safe routes

D. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

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



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 3/24/2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
Belle Haven Community Campus
100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Nash called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor, Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy (arrived at 5:41 p.m.), Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte (arrived at 5:50 p.m.), 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 Gov. Code § 54956.9) Significant exposure to litigation: One case

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Nash re-called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable action.

F. Agenda Review

Staff to provide an update on item I3.

G. Public Comment

- Scott Herscher spoke in support of removing Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras.
- Teresa Fernandez spoke in support of the improvements to the Belle Haven Community Campus (BHCC) senior activities, programs and luncheons.
- Patty Barrera spoke in support of the improvements to the BHCC senior activities, programs and luncheons.
- Brittany B. Goodwin spoke in support of the implementation of the Food Systems Subcommittee

recommendations.

- Pam D. Jones spoke in support of the floor modifications to the main hall at BHCC.
- Glafira Garcia spoke in support of training staff to work with seniors.
- Jane Perry stated that the community treats each other with respect.

H. Presentations and Proclamations

H1. Proclamation: Autism Acceptance Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Ravenswood City School District Executive Director of Education Services Clare Chandler accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H2. Proclamation: National Poetry Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Library Foundation representative Monica Corman accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H3. Proclamation: National Library Week (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Friends of the Library representative Carrie Bildstein accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

I. Consent Calendar

I1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for February 24, 2026 (Attachment)

I2. Award a construction contract to VSS International Inc. for the 2026 Street Slurry project (Staff Report #26-039-CC)

I3. Receive and file City Council and advisory body annual attendance report for March 2025 – February 2026 (Staff Report #26-040-CC)

City staff provided an update to the City Council attendance.

I4. Authorize the city manager to execute agreements with Nile Networks for Zero Trust Network Access equipment and related services and with Armature Systems for project implementation and professional support services (Staff Report #26-042-CC)

- Miyko Harris-Parker spoke in support of IT (information technology) upgrades and requested the addition of translation services to the city website.

I5. Authorize the city manager to execute agreements with Ring Central, Inc. for Unified Communications as a Service (UCaaS) phone services and with Packet Fusion, Inc. for professional services (Staff Report #26-043-CC)

- I6. Consider and adopt a resolution to authorize the city manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the acquisition of 975 Florence Ln., Unit 8, Menlo Park, CA 94025 and approve the appropriation of below market rate housing funds not to exceed \$408,949 to purchase and retain the property in the below market rate housing program (Staff Report #26-044-CC)

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

J. Regular Business

- J1. Consider and adopt a resolution accepting the 2025 General Plan Annual Progress Report, including the Housing Element and Environmental Justice Element, and annual housing successor report (Staff Report #26-041-CC) (Informe de Personal #26-041-CC)

Principal Planner Tom Smith made the presentation (Attachment).

- Cade Cannedy requested information on available funds and new funding opportunities in future reports.
- Brittany B. Goodwin spoke in support of renter protections.
- Pam D. Jones spoke on including the cause of displacement in the anti-displacement policy.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of anti-displacement measures.
- Jocelyn Anaya Galvan spoke in support of safe and sanitary housing, anti-displacement measures and the adoption of Building Code revisions.

The City Council received clarification on including the budget for Environmental Justice programs listed in the General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR), the San Mateo County multi-city affordable housing Grand Nexus study, anti-displacement policy timelines and potential Neighborhood Services Manager position.

The City Council discussed displacement and causes within the community, discriminatory landlords, food access and community gardens, options to summarize and improve readability of subsequent annual progress reports, communication of affordable housing and Housing Element progress updates in more frequent intervals.

The City Council discussed creating a community resource guide focused on food access, regular communication of affordable housing and Housing Element progress updates.

ACTION: Motion and second (Schmidt/ Taylor), to adopt a resolution accepting the 2025 General Plan APR, which includes the Housing Element and Environmental Justice Element, and the annual housing successor report, passed unanimously.

K. Study Session

- K1. Provide direction on possibilities for providing programming at the Belle Haven Pool (Staff Report #26-045-CC)

Assistant Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda made the presentation (Attachment).

- Meredith Rohr provided additional pool programs for consideration (Attachment).

- Brittany B. Goodwin spoke in support of a publicly owned and operated pool.
- Pam D. Jones spoke on the need to understand the pool's model as community vs. for-profit and requested a chart of pool downtime.
- Miyko Harris-Parker spoke on the need of pool access and communication to the community.
- Jane Perry spoke on concerns that community needs are not being met and requested clarification on the costs of the pool.
- Nina Wouk requested pool information to be more accessible on the city website.

The City Council received clarification on the cost share model, pool hours, maintenance and equipment issue closures, communication and outreach, community working groups, estimated pool downtime for staff managed pool services, lifeguard staffing needs and financial constraints.

The City Council discussed defining the pool model, operator cost share for pool hours, city budget and funding, other programming options, separating safety and certified pool operator (CPO) from the programming and program revenues.

The City Council directed staff to explore options with operator on shifting the pool hours, improving programming and improving communications.

K2. Provide direction on cost of services study cost recovery policy (Staff Report #26-046-CC)

Assistant Administrative Services Director Fenny Lei and Government Consulting Partners Inc. Director Cindy Sconce made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council received clarification on the methodology and time-spent analysis metric, rec in-lieu fees, water cost of service fees vs. water rates, credit card convenience fee, heritage tree appeal fee, grant offsets and timeline.

The City Council discussed the planning appeal fees and cost recovery, fee waiver practices, budget impacts from approving or not approving updated fees, percentage cap increases across the board, raising fees versus decreasing level of services and phasing some fee increases.

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

The City Council directed staff to compare the proposed fees versus the current fees, consider the flat dollar amount increases versus the percentages, and provide potential service level reductions.

L. Informational Items

- L1. City Council agenda topics: April 2026 (Staff Report #26-047-CC)
- L2. Communitywide electrification project grant spenddown progress report (Staff Report #26-048-CC)

M. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on the March 28 Community Resource Fair and the April 4 Egg Hunt and Spring Festival.

N. City Councilmember Reports

N1. City Councilmember Schmidt report (Attachment)

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on the Commute.org Commuter Challenge.

Mayor Nash reported out on the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee meetings and the Atherton/Menlo Park Ramadan Iftar dinner.

O. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m.

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