



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 4/28/2026
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 6:02 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs Nash, Schmidt, Taylor (remote and exited the meeting at 7:55 p.m.), 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

The City Council reordered agenda bringing item M. to come after item E.

D. Public Comment

- Pete Colby spoke on First Amendment Auditors in Downtown Menlo Park.
- Liam Goudge spoke on concerns related to vehicle speeding on College Avenue (Attachment).
- Adina Levin spoke on the sequence of the meeting and requested public comment after the E4. SamTrans presentation and before City Council discussion.
- Jack Cackler spoke in opposition of the recycling station with large digital screen near the Safeway in Sharon Heights Shopping Center.
- Mukta Dhanuka provided a follow-up comment from the April 14 meeting related to habitability compliance for renters.

E. Presentations and Proclamations

E1. Proclamation: Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates Board Member Billy Chow accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

E2. Proclamation: Jewish American Heritage Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Chief Community Officer at Jewish Silicon Valley Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

E3. Proclamation: Bike Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

- Kathrine Dumont spoke in support of the proclamation.

Complete Streets Commissioner Meredith Bergin Bailey accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

E4. Presentation: SamTrans Senate Bill 63 Local Investment Plan (Attachment)

SamTrans Chief Communications Office Emily Beach made the presentation (Attachment).

- Adina Levin spoke in support of the plan and the need for bus shelters.
- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of the presentation and plan.
- Kathrine Dumont spoke in support of the plan and the need for bus shelters.

The City Council received clarification on the Dumbarton Express line bus schedule and public participation in the ballot measure.

The City Council discussed additional clipper card upload locations.

E5. Presentation: Peninsula Clean Energy update (Attachment)

Peninsula Clean Energy Chief Executive Officer Shawn Marshall made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed partnership with Peninsula Clean Energy and city school districts.

F. Advisory Body Vacancies and Appointments

F1. Consider applicants and make appointments to fill vacancies on various advisory bodies (Staff Report #26-050-CC)

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval made the presentation.

- Tim Rochte spoke in support of their serving on the Complete Streets Commission.
- Nabil Saad spoke in support of their serving on the Environmental Quality Commission.
- Bob Hubbell spoke in support of their serving on the Parks and Recreation and Housing Commission and expressed a preference for serving on the Housing Commission.
- Patrick Ye spoke in support of their serving on the Housing Commission.
- Brittany B. Goodwin spoke in support of their serving on the Environmental Quality Commission, Housing Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Justin Van Buren spoke in support of their reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Sumi Hachmann spoke in support of their serving on the Environmental Quality Commission

and Parks and Recreation Commission and expressed a preference for serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Michael Barclay spoke in support of the reappointment of Sally Cole to the Complete Streets Commission.
- Steven Switzer spoke in support of their reappointment to the Housing Commission.

Applicants within the City Council chambers provided their name and preferred advisory body for appointment.

The City Council discussed the scope of the Planning Commission.

The City Council made appointments to fill vacancies on the Complete Streets, Environmental Quality, Housing, Library, Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions:

Complete Streets Commission:

Sally Cole – term expiring April 30, 2030

Athena Ierokomos – term expiring April 30, 2030

Environmental Quality Commission:

Brittany B. Goodwin – term expiring April 30, 2030

Eduardo Lopez Hernandez – term expiring April 30, 2030

Housing Commission:

Steven Switzer – term expiring April 30, 2030

Library Commission:

Kim Crockett – term expiring April 30, 2030

Brian Westcott – term expiring April 30, 2030

Parks and Recreation Commission:

Justin Van Buren – term expiring April 30, 2030

Planning Commission:

Nancy Larocca Hedley – term expiring April 30, 2030

Jennifer Schindler – term expiring April 30, 2030

G. Consent Calendar

G1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for March 21 and 24, 2026 (Attachment)

G2. Award a construction contract to Cratus, Inc. for the Sand Hill Water Main Replacement project in an amount not to exceed \$6,157,530 and approve an appropriation from the unassigned fund balance in the water capital fund (Staff Report #26-058-CC)

- Kevin Rennie spoke in support of the addition of a protected bike lane and requested clarification on bike lane closures.

The City Council received clarification on the project.

- G3. Waive the second reading and adopt an ordinance adding Chapter 5.80 (Massage Businesses) of Title 5 (Business Licenses and Regulations) of the City of Menlo Park Municipal Code, relating to the regulation of massage businesses (Staff Report #26-060-CC)
- G4. Receive and file the single audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the independent accountants' report on the calculation of the appropriations limit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and the auditors' communication at the conclusion of the audit (Staff Report #26-061-CC)
- G5. Authorize the city manager to purchase library books and media from current vendor Ingram Content Group in total amount not to exceed \$141,785 during fiscal year 2025-26 (Staff Report #26-062-CC)
- G6. Authorize the city manager to execute an amendment to the agreement with AECOM Technical Services Inc. for supplemental work on the Downtown Parking Management Study and approve an appropriation from unassigned fund balance in the Transportation Fund (Staff Report #26-063-CC)
- G7. Consider and adopt a resolution approving an administrative amendment to Paragraph 2.2 of the Peninsula Clean Energy Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement reflecting the name change of Peninsula Clean Energy Authority to WestLight Energy (Staff Report #26-065-CC)
- G8. Approve a professional services agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc., for a comprehensive Classification and Compensation study in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 (Staff Report #26-064-CC)
- G9. Consider and adopt a resolution to authorize the city manager to execute an Affordable Housing Loan Agreement, Secured Promissory Note, Leasehold Deed of Trust, Assignment of Rents, Security Agreement and Fixture Filing, and Below Market Rate and State Density Bonus Law Housing Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants, each substantially in the form attached, with 320 Sheridan LP with respect to a loan in the amount of \$1 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund for the construction and development of affordable housing at 320 Sheridan Dr., and approve the appropriation of \$1 million from the below market rate housing special revenue fund in the fiscal year 2025-26 budget for the construction and development of 87 affordable housing units at 320 Sheridan Dr. (Staff Report #26-066-CC)
- G10. Authorize the city manager to purchase data processing supplies from SHI International Corp. in an amount not to exceed \$130,000 for fiscal year 2025-26 (Staff Report #26-067-CC)

ACTION: Motion and second (Wise/ Nash), to approve the consent calendar, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

H. Regular Business

- H1. Consider and adopt a resolution ratifying the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's Ordinance No. 60-2026 adopting the 2025 California Fire Code with local amendments (Staff Report #26-068-CC)

Community Development Director Deanna Chow and Menlo Park Fire Protection District Fire Marshall Gage Schlice made the presentation (Attachment).

- Virginia Chany Kiraly spoke in support of adopting the resolution.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of potential changes to regulations in the future that affect driveways and building design and seeking opportunities for different size equipment to optimize streets and Complete Streets Commission review.

The City Council received clarification on the size of equipment, response times and routes, and applicability of new sprinkler requirements to residential.

ACTION: Motion and second (Wise/ Schmidt), to adopt a resolution ratifying the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's Ordinance No. 60-2026 adopting the 2025 California Fire Code with local amendments, 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

- H2. Consider and adopt a resolution establishing the Slow Streets Program, superseding the Neighborhood Traffic Management program and authorizing the installation of traffic control devices consistent with the California Vehicle Code (Staff Report #26-059-CC)

Senior Transportation Planner Catrine Machi and Public Works Director Azalea Mitch introduced the item.

- Ken Kershner requested clarification on scoring criteria and speeding percentile and provided amendments to the resolution.
- Janet Poses spoke on concerns to residential streets, the need for sidewalks and provided amendments to the resolution (Attachment).
- Laura Melahn spoke on concerns to dangerous conditions on College Avenue (Attachment).
- Adina Levin spoke in support of the Slow Streets Program (Program) with additional sidewalks and on concerns with the use of the 85th speed percentile.
- Saaya Thompson spoke on concerns of dangerous conditions on College Avenue.
- Joseph Thompson spoke on concerns of dangerous conditions on College Avenue.
- Will Biederman spoke in support of the Program and to include College Avenue.
- Randy Avalos spoke on value and cost inefficiency resulting from the points system.
- Sue Kayton spoke in support of removing Middle Avenue traffic calming measures.
- Bill Kirsch requested staff to review and install quick build traffic calming measures on Partridge and College Avenues.
- Katie Behroozi spoke in support of Middle Avenue traffic calming measures and the need for additional safe streets with pedestrian measures.

The City Council discussed prioritization, civic engagement, quick build pilot programs and the City Council's role in program development and implementation.

The City Council received clarification on adding sidewalks, systemic speeding and the point system related to streets without sidewalks.

The City Council directed staff to add the 95th percentile of speeds and note where there are no sidewalks as unscored details for tracking purposes for the next report out.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Wise), adopt a resolution establishing the Slow Streets Program to supersede the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program and authorizing the installation of traffic control devices pursuant to the California Vehicle Code, passed 3-1-1 (Combs dissenting and Taylor absent).

- H3. Authorize the city manager to execute an amended memorandum of understanding with Caltrain to advance the design and environmental clearance documents for the Middle Avenue Caltrain Crossing project (Staff Report #26-069-CC)

Public Works Director Azalea Mitch introduced the item.

- Adina Levin spoke in support of the amended memorandum of understanding (MOU) and the project.
- Sue Kayton spoke in opposition to the project.
- Michael Barclay spoke on concerns about funding for the project.
- Bill Kirsch spoke in opposition to the project.

The City Council discussed additional funding needs before the next grant cycle.

The City Council received clarification on shovel ready status and timeline, project funding opportunities and transportation impact fee (TIF) funding strategy.

ACTION: Motion and second (Nash/ Schmidt), authorize the city manager to execute an amended memorandum of understanding in the amount of \$1,000,000 with the Caltrain to advance the engineering design and environmental clearance documentation for the Middle Avenue Caltrain Crossing Project for a total agreement amount of \$3,000,000, passed 3-1-1 (Combs dissenting and Taylor absent).

I. Public Hearing

- I1. Consider and adopt a resolution amending the City's comprehensive master fee schedule for the following departments: general administration, administrative services, community development, library and community services, police, public works, and Menlo Park Municipal Water (Staff Report #26-057-CC) (Supplemental documentation)

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

Mayor Nash opened the public hearing.

- Pete Colby spoke in opposition to newsrack fees.
- Jamie Fraser spoke in support of non-profit rental rates with clearly defined guidelines.
- Eleanor Raab spoke in opposition to newsrack fees.
- Adam Dawes spoke in opposition to newsrack fees.
- Nabil Saad spoke in opposition to newsrack fees and in support of parking enforcement.
- Adina Levin spoke on credit card fees, automations to reduce fees and on concerns to impacts on affordable housing from increased/new fees.
- Randy Avalos spoke in opposition to newsrack fees.
- Kathy Newman spoke in opposition to newsrack fees.

Mayor Nash closed the public hearing.

The City Council discussed waiving or zeroing out the newsrack fee, additional newsracks or

distribution in Belle Haven neighborhood, opportunities for City Council review of the master fee schedule and Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

The City Council received clarification on if the new fees impact affordable housing development, the credit card convenience fee and how it applies to debit cards, ability to accept cash or ACH (Automated Clearing House) for fees, newsrack fee calculations and staff inspection process and maintenance, gymnastics and Menlo Children's Center preschool cost recovery tiers and non-profit rental fees.

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

The City Council directed staff to retain the 2021 newsrack fees and proceed with staff recommendations for gymnastics, Menlo Children's Center preschool and credit/debit card convenience fees.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Nash), adopt a resolution amending the City's master fee schedule to incorporate proposed changes in fees to become July 1, 2026, for the following departments: general administration, administrative services, community development, library and community services, police, public works, and Menlo Park Municipal Water, while waiving the permitting newsrack fees and retaining the 2021-level newsrack enforcement fees, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

The City Council took a recess at 11:29 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 11:34 p.m.

J. City Council Initiated Items

J1. Request by City Councilmember Schmidt for a future agenda topic (Staff Report #26-070-CC)

City Councilmember Schmidt introduced the item.

The City Council discussed city childcare approach and balancing costs.

The City Council received clarification on tracking the San Mateo County Child Care Blueprint.

No action.

K. Informational Items

K1. City Council agenda topics: May 2026 (Staff Report #26-072-CC)

K2. Annual City Council priority setting workshop final report (Staff Report #26-071-CC)

L. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on upcoming May 12 and 19 City Council meetings, the Bike Rodeo May 2, Bike to School day May 6, Bike to Wherever day May 14 and the Downtown Developer Open House May 7.

M. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Nash reported out on City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo (C/CAG) resource management and climate protection committee, Peninsula Clean Energy (PCE) meetings, Encinal Elementary Earth Day Bike Fest, Love Our Earth event, Community Fun Run and Mayor Tree Planting events.

Vice Mayor Wise reported out on the Chamber of San Mateo Commerce Progress Seminar.

City Councilmember Taylor reported out on the Chamber of San Mateo Commerce Progress Seminar.

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on the Chamber of San Mateo Commerce Progress Seminar.

N. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 11:59 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren