



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 5/12/2026
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, Nash, Schmidt (remote), 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

- Ron Snow requested follow-up from a community meeting about how residents report burglaries and in support of the resources provided on the Menlo Park Police Department website.

E. Presentations and Proclamations

E1. Presentation: Youth Poetry Voices celebration

Library and Community Services Supervisor Rose Waldman introduced the item.

The youth poets presented their poems.

E2. Presentation: Youth Advisory Committee

The Youth Advisory Committee made the presentation (Attachment).

E3. Proclamation: Mental Health Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation (Attachment).

E4. Proclamation: Affordable Housing Month (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Housing Manager Tim Wong accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

F. Consent Calendar

- F1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for April 14, 2026 (Attachment)
- F2. Consider and adopt a resolution renewing Chapter 2.70 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code entitled military equipment use ordinance, renewing the Menlo Park Military Equipment Use Policy, and finding that, based on the 2025 Menlo Park Police Department annual military equipment report, each type of military equipment identified in that report complies with the standards of approval set forth in Menlo Park Police Department policy 708.7 and Government Code Section 7071(d) (Staff Report #26-073-CC)
- F3. Receive and file the investment portfolio quarterly reports for Dec. 31, 2025 (Staff Report #26-074-CC)
- F4. Consider and adopt a resolution approving the preliminary engineer's report for the Menlo Park Landscaping Assessment District and adopt a resolution intending to order the levy and collection of assessments for the Landscaping Assessment District for fiscal year 2026-27 (Staff Report #26-077-CC)
- F5. Authorize the city manager to execute an amendment to the Animal Control agreement between the County of San Mateo and cities for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026 (Staff Report #26-080-CC)

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

G. Study Session

- G1. Provide direction on public safety priority for fiscal year 2026-27 (Staff Report #26-079-CC)

Police Chief Norris made the presentation (Attachment).

- Maya Sewald spoke in support of the study session and hiring additional police officers.
- Pam D. Jones spoke in support of the traffic enforcement and being cautious with the use of AI (artificial intelligence) and new technology.

The City Council received clarification on home safety assessments, coordination with the County Sheriff's Office, collaboration with agencies across the state, timing as a factor for rise in burglary, metrics on response prioritization by type/severity, ratio of proactive and reactive patrols, response times and their relation to staffing and deployment, and Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) implementation, operation, and accountability.

The City Council discussed surge patrolling, public perception of crime, photo enforcement, coordination with public works, zero emission landscape equipment (ZELE) workload and next steps.

The City Council directed staff to assess staffing and deployment, review and strengthen recruitment, selection and the Field Training Program, sustain data driven burglary and other crime

prevention through high-profile and saturation patrols, technology use and regional coordination, support Problem Oriented Policing (POP) and code enforcement capacity as assets for long-term problem-solving, and continue targeted technology investments and accountability measures.

G2. Provide direction on the five-year capital improvement plan (Staff Report #26-081-CC)

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

- Peter Hoddie requested clarification on Downtown parking lots resurfacing and capital improvement program (CIP) funding aligning with Downtown vibrancy.
- Adina Levin spoke on projects needed and requested clarification on when more Downtown Parking Management study and shuttle information will be available.
- Jenny Michel spoke in support of the proposed funding recommendations and concerns on the Menlo Park shuttle stops and timing.

The City Council took a recess at 8:37 p.m.

The City Council reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

The City Council received clarification on Middle Avenue Caltrain Crossing funding, Sand Hill tunnel public accessibility, parking plazas 7 and 8 funding, prioritizing new build and maintenance, IT (information technology) master plan, Bayfront Mitigation fund restrictions and usage, cost of Willow Road bike and pedestrian safety project and funding source and the Menlo Children's Center renovation.

The City Council discussed quiet zones, grant funding, utilizing the Downtown Public Amenity fund for Downtown vibrancy, the use of Measure T funds for the Sharon Park pond, and utility underground funding for Plazas 1 and 3.

The City Council directed staff to pursue:

Fund \$3.8 million in General Capital Fund needs – IT Master Plan, Gatehouse roof, SAFER Bay Fund \$0.83 million in Transportation Impact Fee (TIF) needs – Middle Ave. Caltrain Crossing Delay – High Voltage Streetlight Conversion (\$2 million) and Caltrain Grade Separation Projects (\$2.1 million)

Cancel – Sand Hill Tunnel Rehabilitation Project (\$0.39 million)

Utilizing other sources of funding – \$0.25 million Gas Tax, \$1.8 million Bayfront Mitigation Fund, \$0.4 million Measure A

Budget reductions – \$1.5 million

Add to CIP – Sharon Park Pond Pump Station Replacement – \$0.5 million and use Measure T / General Obligation bond proceeds

H. Public Hearing

- H1. Conduct a public hearing, rate protest hearing, and consider adoption of a resolution approving maximum increases in rates for the collection, processing, and disposal of waste, recycling, and compost materials for commercial, multi-family, and single-family customers, with annual adjustments (Staff Report #26-075-CC)

Internal Services Manager Eren Romero made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Nash opened the public hearing.

- Pam D. Jones spoke in opposition of the rate increase.

Mayor Nash closed the public hearing.

ACTION: By acclamation, this item was continued to June 9, 2026, at 6 p.m.

- H2. Conduct a public hearing, rate protest hearing, and consider adoption of a resolution approving maximum rate increases for Menlo Park Municipal Water, with annual adjustments including pass-throughs of any increases in the costs of wholesale water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and establishing and setting water capacity charges (Staff Report #26-076-CC)

Internal Services Manager Eren Romero made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Nash opened the public hearing.

- Pam D. Jones spoke in opposition of the rate increase.
- Arlene Navaro spoke in opposition of the rate increase.

Mayor Nash closed the public hearing.

The City Council received clarification on the errors on the initial public notices and the subsequent corrections.

ACTION: By acclamation, this item was continued to June 9, 2026, at 6 p.m.

- H3. Introduce and waive the reading of an ordinance amending the Menlo Park Zoning Map and Title 16, Zoning, of the Menlo Park Municipal Code to add Chapter 16.57 temporarily excluding eligible sites within the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan subdistricts of D (Downtown), SA-W (Station Area West), SA-E (Station Area East), ECR-SE (El Camino Real South-East), and ECR-NE-R (El Camino Real North-East Residential Emphasis) that are within 0.25 miles of the Menlo Park Caltrain Station, from Senate Bill (SB) 79, the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act (Staff Report #26-078-CC)

Assistant Community Development Director Kyle Perata made the presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Nash opened the public hearing.

- June Shin spoke in support of Planning Commission's recommendation for no action from the City Council.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of Planning Commission's recommendation for no action from the City Council.
- Katherine Dumont spoke in support of Planning Commission's recommendation for no action from the City Council.

Mayor Nash closed the public hearing.

The City Council received clarification on taking no action and defaulting to Senate Bill 79 (SB 79) effective July 1, 2026, zoning density comparisons, FAR (floor are ratio) mixed use developments, objective standards under current system compared to SB 79 and neighboring cities actions.

The City Council discussed the Planning Commission recommendation, vision of the Downtown/El Camino Real Specific Plan, potential to maintain object standards and the Planning Commission deliberations.

The City Council directed staff to keep City Council advised of applications submitted pursuant to SB 79.

No action.

I. Informational Items

- I1. City Council agenda topics: May – June 2026 (Staff Report #26-082-CC)

J. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on the Downtown Development Open House May 7 and provided next steps.

K. City Councilmember Reports

City Councilmember Taylor reported out on the Home for All meeting and the Chamber of San Mateo Commerce Progress Seminar.

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on Assembly Bill 2667.

L. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren