



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 8/20/2026
Time: 5:00 p.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 5:06 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor, Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval

C. Closed Session

- C1. Conference with labor negotiators
Government Code Section 54957.6
Labor negotiations with Service Employees International Local 521 and Service Employees International Union Local 521 – Temporary Employees Unit

Agency designated representatives: City Manager Justin I.C. Murphy, Assistant City Manager Stephen Stolte, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Administrative Services Director Brittany Mello, Legal Counsel Charles Sakai

- Juan Quinonez spoke in support of fair contracts for the Service Employees International Local 521 and Service Employees International Union Local 521 (SEIU).
- Suzanna Fong spoke in support of fair contracts for the Service Employees International Local 521 and SEIU, and on concerns related to living costs, medical costs and commuting costs for City staff.

D. Adjourn to Closed Session

Mayor Nash adjourned to the closed session.

E. Call To Order

Mayor Nash re-called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

F. Report from Closed Session

No reportable actions.

G. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – DRAFT

Date: 8/25/2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

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

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Taylor (remote and exited at 7:58 p.m.), Wise
Absent: None
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, 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 Section 54956.9)

Significant exposure to litigation: One case

Documentation related to this agenda item are attached to this agenda (Attachment)

- Amy Boggs spoke in support of thoughtfully processing the 80 Willow Rd. project and requiring an environmental impact report (EIR).
- Elizabeth Burr spoke in support of an EIR and a public hearing before action on the 80 Willow Rd. project.
- Susan Chamberlain spoke on concerns about the health of the San Francisquito Creek and community from the proposed 80 Willow Rd. project and in support of an EIR and a public hearing before action on the project.
- Vamsi Velagapudi requested additional transparency related to closed sessions.
- Chris Sullivan provided a comparison of a project in San Rafael and the proposed 80 Willow Rd. project in Menlo Park.

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Nash re-called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable action.

F. Agenda Review

None.

G. Public Comment

- Will Oursler spoke in opposition of the Flock program and sharing data with the San Diego District Attorney, requested the City Council review the response to the Grand Jury Report (GJR) on ALPRs (automated license plate readers) before submission and alongside the Flock renewal.
- Chris Sullivan spoke on concerns related to requests for publishing his written comments related to 80 Willow Rd..
- Scott Herscher spoke in opposition of renewing Flock contract.
- Shani Podell spoke in support of additional tennis and pickleball court space and recommended pickleball courts be placed at Burgess Park.
- Amir Proushani spoke on concerns from the noise generated by pickleball.
- Clara Jaeckel spoke on concerns about ALPRs data security, in support of City Council review of the ALPR GJR before responding and in opposition of renewing the Flock agreement.
- Rebecca Elisa spoke in opposition of using ALPRs and renewing the Flock agreement.
- Julianne Hanson spoke in support of retaining the four tennis courts at Nealon Park.
- Tim Mackensie spoke in opposition of using ALPRs and renewing the Flock agreement.
- Sara Matlin spoke in opposition of renewing the Flock agreement.
- Janice Smith spoke on concerns from the noise generated by pickleball.

H. Presentations and Proclamations

H1. Proclamation: National Night Out (Attachment)

Mayor Nash introduced the proclamation.

Police Chief David Norris, Management Analyst Mayra Lombera and block party hosts Sandy Bardas, Karim Bakhit and Federico De Giuli accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H2. Presentation: Annual Environmental Quality Commission work plan report out (Attachment)

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) Chair Susannah Hill made the presentation (Attachment).

- Brian Schmidt spoke in support of the work done by the EQC.

The City Council discussed progress that the city has made towards achieving the Climate Action Plans (CAP) greenhouse gas emission reduction goal.

The City Council received clarification on the timeline of the Belle Haven tree planting.

H3. Presentation: Annual Finance and Audit Commission work plan report out (Attachment)

Finance and Audit Commissioner (FAC) Vamsi Velagapudi made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the FACs investment policy feedback.

H4. Presentation: Annual Housing Commission work plan report out (Attachment)

Housing Commission Chair William Oursler made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council discussed the Housing Commission outreach efforts.

H5. Presentation: Annual Library Commission work plan report out (Attachment)

Library Commission Vice Chair Kim Crockett made the presentation (Attachment).

The City Council received clarification on the Library of the Future and program attendance.

The City Council discussed the number of library card holders and programs.

I. Advisory Body Vacancies and Appointments

I1. Consider applicants and make an appointment to fill an unexpired vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission (Staff Report #26-140-CC)

Deputy City Clerk Sarah Sandoval introduced the item.

The City Council discussed balancing district representation on advisory bodies.

The City Council made an appointment to fill an unexpired vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission:

Parks and Recreation Commission:
Robert Hubbell – term expiring April 30, 2028

J. Consent Calendar

J1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for July 14, 2026 (Attachment)

J2. Receive and file the Technology Master Plan (Staff Report #26-144-CC)

J3. Consider and adopt a resolution to amend the salary schedule effective Sept. 6, 2026 (Staff Report #26-142-CC)

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

K. Study Session

Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda and Library and Community Services Manager Natalya Jones made the presentation (Attachment).

- Irakli Nadareishvil spoke in support of the services provided by the Menlo Children's Center

- (MCC) and on concerns of losing MCC services.
- Kerri Smyth spoke in support of the services provided by the MCC and in opposition of increased rates.

The City Council received clarification on afterschool program costs and recovery, missing middle and working families, resident to non-resident ratios, state funding, the San Mateo County child care blueprint and market rate cost analysis.

The City Council discussed cost recovery percentages and fee increases over two or three years.

The City Council directed staff to conduct a high-level market analysis and proceed with a 70% cost recovery rate achieved by fee increases over two years starting in 2027 and aligning with the master fee schedule cycle.

L. City Council Initiated Items

- L1. Request by City Councilmember Schmidt for a future agenda topic (Staff Report #26-141-CC)

City Councilmember Schmidt introduced the item.

- Sally Cole spoke in support of agendizing this item for the Complete Streets Commission (CSC).

The City Council discussed options for moving the item forward.

ACTION: Motion and second (Schmidt/ Combs), to direct staff to prepare a formal staff report for the Complete Streets Commission, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

M. Informational Items

- M1. City Council agenda topics: September 2026 (Staff Report #26-143-CC)

- M2. Update on the Grand Boulevard Initiative for El Camino Real (Staff Report #26-146-CC)

- Vamsi Velagapudi spoke in support of a grant funded pilot on a stretch of El Camino Real (ECR) between Sand Hill Road and Roble Avenue.
- Ken Kershner spoke in support of applying to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Pedestrian and Bicycle Program (Cycle 8) for a scoped, externally funded quick-build pilot on ECR from Sand Hill Road to Roble Avenue and funding an outside project manager and design team.
- Adina Levin spoke in support of a pilot on ECR.

The City Council received clarification on conducting a pilot and the process for hiring consultant.

- M3. Update on City-hosted community events and observances (Staff Report #26-147-CC)

N. City Manager Report

City Manager Murphy reported out on the upcoming September City Council meetings and a

potential special Sept. 29 meeting.

O. City Councilmember Reports

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on the vehicle license fee (VLF) progress and provided an update on Assembly Bill 762.

Mayor Nash reported out the Resource Management and Climate Protection (RMCP) Committee meeting.

P. Adjournment

Mayor Nash adjourned the meeting at 10:47 pm.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren