



**CITY OF ARCATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**October 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber
736 F Street, Arcata**

Present: Mayor Stillman, Vice Mayor White, Councilmember Atkins-Salazar, Councilmember Matthews, Councilmember Schaefer

Staff Present: City Manager Perry, Assistant City Manager Miller, Deputy City Attorney Goldstein (via teleconference), Director of Community Development Loya, Director of Environmental Services Sinkhorn, Deputy Director of Community Development Dart, IT and Digital Media Specialist Carrillo, City Clerk Varley

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. as a hybrid meeting, via teleconference utilizing Zoom Video Communications and in person, with Mayor Stillman presiding. Notice of this meeting was posted on October 10, 2025.

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mayor Stillman read a statement acknowledging that Arcata sat on Ancestral Wiyot land.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Stillman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

a. Annual Report from the Transportation Safety Committee.

Genevieve Serna, Chair of the Transportation Safety Committee, presented an oral version of the Committee's annual report to the Council.

4. STAFF REPORTS

a. Receive an Update from the Deputy Director of Community Development, Jennifer Dart, Regarding the City of Arcata's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Methodology.

Deputy Director of Community Development Dart provided a staff report regarding the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology.

b. Receive a Presentation from Bartle Wells Associates on the Results of the City of Arcata Water and Wastewater Rate Study.

Assistant City Manager Miller and Erik Helgeson from Bartle Wells provided a staff report regarding the City's Water and Wastewater Rate Study results.

c. Other Staff Reports.

Presenters: Perry.

5. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [EARLY - TIME LIMITED]

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Cynthia Potente, Shawn Leon, Heidi Curtus, Abraham, Emily, Rainer Shea, Lev Golod, Rebecca Gomez, and Shannon Townsend-Bettis.

Mayor Stillman closed the oral and written communications [early - time limited] period.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Stillman and Councilmember Matthews requested that Item G be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

SCHAEFER MOVED AND WHITE SECONDED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS A THROUGH F.

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public comment: Gregory Daggett, and Scott Davies both spoke regarding Item F.

Mayor Stillman closed the public comment period.

THE MOTION PASSED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

a. Approval to Waive Reading of the Text and Consent to Read by Title Only for Any Ordinance on this Agenda.

b. Approve the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of October 1, 2025.

c. Approve the Minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 1, 2025.

d. Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.

e. Approve the D Street Linear Park Exercise Equipment Enhancement Project.

f. Approve a Letter of Support Urging the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to Approve a Modification to the Conditional Use Permit Held by Ridgefield Events.

g. Award a Contract in the amount of \$115,190 to HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. for CEQA/NEPA Services for the Roger's Garage Affordable

Housing Project; Authorize a 10% Increase for Contingencies; and Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions.

Councilmember Atkins-Salazar left the Chamber at 7:27 p.m. due to her need to recuse on account of having a financial conflict of interest for the Roger's Garage Affordable Housing Project because of her husband's employment by the project applicant, Danco.

Director of Community Development Loya presented to the Council regarding the award of a contract to HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. for CEQA/NEPA services for the Roger's Garage Affordable Housing Project.

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry, an unidentified member of the audience, Kathleen Stanton, and Lisa Brown.

Mayor Stillman closed the public comment period.

Director Loya responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

ON MOTION BY MATTHEWS, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE, THE COUNCIL AWARDED A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$115,190 TO HELIX ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, INCORPORATED FOR CEQA/NEPA SERVICES FOR THE ROGER'S GARAGE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT; AUTHORIZED A 10% INCREASE FOR CONTINGENCIES; AND APPROVED NECESSARY AND ASSOCIATED RELATED ACTIONS; AND AUTHORIZED THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: ATKINS-SALAZAR (RECUSED). ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

Councilmember Atkins-Salazar re-entered the Chamber at 7:53 p.m.

7. AGENDA MODIFICATION

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL MOVED THEIR NEW BUSINESS ITEM AHEAD OF THEIR OLD BUSINESS ITEM. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

RECESS: The Council recessed from 7:54 p.m. to 7:59 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS--AGENDA MODIFICATION

- a. Consider Approving a Memorandum of Understanding for the Fall 2025 to Spring 2027 Choose Humboldt Campaign; and Consider Approving a \$5,000 Contribution to Financially Support the Campaign.**

Councilmember Matthews recused herself from this item because her employer, Humboldt Lodging Alliance, could potentially have future involvement with it. She left the Chamber at 7:59 p.m.

Rosa Dixon, Executive Director, and Charlene Cook, Marketing Director, with Humboldt Made presented to the Council regarding the Choose Humboldt Campaign.

Executive Director Dixon and Marketing Director Cook responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

SCHAEFER MOVED AND WHITE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MOU FOR FALL 2025 TO SPRING 2027 FOR CHOOSE HUMBOLDT; AND TO APPROVE THE \$5,000 CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN.

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Gregory Daggett, Joanne McGarry, Meredith Maier, and Abraham.

Mayor Stillman closed the public comment period.

THE MOTION PASSED ON A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: MATTHEWS (RECUSED). ABSTENTIONS NONE.

Councilmember Matthews re-entered the Chamber at 8:25 p.m.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Initiate Adoption of the Comprehensive Update to the City's Local Coastal Program - Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Guidelines Section 15265.**

Old Business, Item A [Initiate Adoption of the Comprehensive Update to the City's Local Coastal Program - Statutorily Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Guidelines Section 15265.] was moved to take place after New Business.

Director of Community Development Loya provided a staff report regarding the initiation of adoption of the comprehensive update to the City's Local Coastal Program. He explained that the item would need to be continued to a future meeting.

Mayor Stillman opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: Gregory Daggett and George Green.

Mayor Stillman closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY MATTHEWS, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL CONTINUED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consider Approving a Memorandum of Understanding for the Fall 2025 to Spring 2027 Choose Humboldt Campaign; and Consider Approving a \$5,000 Contribution to Financially Support the Campaign.**

New Business, Item A [Consider Approving a Memorandum of Understanding for the Fall 2025 to Spring 2027 Choose Humboldt Campaign; and Consider Approving a \$5,000 Contribution to Financially Support the Campaign.] was moved to take place before Old Business.

11. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: George Green who provided written communications to the Council, Gregory Daggett, Ella, Joanne McGarry, Dave Meserve who provided a written communication to the Council, Jody, Geoff Harris, Tricia Murphy, Dan Shahin, and Sherri.

Mayor Stillman closed the oral and written communications [continued] period.

12. COUNCIL REPORTS

Presenters: Matthews, White, Schaefer, Atkins-Salazar, and Stillman.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk