



**CITY OF ARCATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**November 19, 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), City Engineer Khatri, Director of Community Development Loya, Deputy Director of Community Development Dart, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Community Services Benvie, Natural Resources Specialist McDowall, IT and Digital Media Specialist Carrillo, City Clerk Varley, Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Redfern

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 November 14, 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. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Varley called roll.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 16–22, 2025.

Councilmember Schaefer read the proclamation and presented it to Nezzie Wade, Co-Founder and President of AHHA, and Gretta Stockwell, a member of the Board of Directors for Food for People.

- b. Proclamation Designating November 16–December 31, 2025, as the Season of Wonder and Light in Arcata.**

Councilmember Matthews read the proclamation and presented it to Meredith Maier, Executive Director of the Arcata Chamber of Commerce.

5. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

- a. Annual Report from the Forest Management Committee.**

Michael Furniss, Chair of the Forest Management Committee, provided an oral version of the Committee's Annual Report.

- b. Annual Report from the Transactions and Use Tax Oversight Committee.**

Assistant City Manager Miller requested to have the item moved to the middle of New Business.

ON MOTION BY MATTHEWS, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL POSTPONED THE ITEM UNTIL LATER IN THE AGENDA. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

Later in the meeting at 7:32 p.m., during New Business, Steve Cole, Vice Chair of the Transactions and Use Tax Oversight Committee, presented an oral version of the Committee's annual report.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Receive an Update on the Arcata Strategic Arts Plan and Preview of the 2025-26 Call for Art from Emily Benvie, Environmental Services Deputy Director, and Jaqueline Dandeneau, Executive Artistic Director of Playhouse Arts.**

Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Communities Services Benvie and Jackie Dandeneau, Executive Artistic Director of Playhouse Arts, provided a three-year review of the Arcata Strategic Arts Plan.

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

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Shawn Leon, Cy, Nezzi Wade, Logan, Heidi Kurtis, George Green, an unidentified member of the audience, and Tricia Murphy.

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

8. N/A

None.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

ATKINS-SALAZAR MOVED AND SCHAEFER SECONDED TO ADOPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR [AS PRESENTED FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025, ITEMS A THROUGH D].

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

There being none, 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 November 5, 2025.**
- c. Approve the Minutes of the City Council Meeting of November 5, 2025.**
- d. Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.**

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Adopt Resolution No. 256-20 Supporting Humboldt County Association of Governments Regional Housing Needs Allocation Methodology.**

Director of Community Development Loya and Deputy Director of Community Development Dart presented regarding the proposed Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) methodology.

Director Loya provided an amended version of Resolution No. 256-20 to the Council for consideration. The proposed amended language added a second item to the "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED . . ." section of the resolution as follows: " 2) recommends Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAoG) work with affected jurisdictions to demonstrate the 50/50 method meets all five statutory objectives pursuant to Government Code Section 65584(d), including affirmatively furthering fair housing, infill development, and achieving the region's greenhouse gas reduction targets recognizing the AFFH Mapping Tool does not produce desired results in Humboldt County."

Director Loya and Deputy Director Dart responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

WHITE MOVED AND ATKINS-SALAZAR SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 256-20 SUPPORTING HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY WITH STAFF RECOMMENDED

AMENDMENTS; AND DIRECT STAFF TO FORWARD RESOLUTION 256-20 TO THE HCAOG BOARD.

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry.

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.

RECESS: The Council recessed from 7:26 p.m. until 7:31 p.m.

b. Conduct a Public Hearing to Receive Input Regarding Unmet Transit Needs; and Direct Staff to Forward All Comments to the Humboldt County Association of Governments.

City Engineer Khatri presented regarding the hearing process for unmet transit needs.

Director Khatri responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

Mayor Stillman opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: April Joyce, Dan Shahin, and Joanne McGarry.

Mayor Stillman closed the public hearing.

No Council action was taken on this item.

c. Public Hearing on Updates to the Master Fee Schedule; and Adopt Resolution No. 256-21, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Arcata Adopting Changes to the City's Master Fee Schedule.

Assistant City Manager Miller presented regarding a mid-year update including fees being added or corrected on the City's fee schedule.

Mayor Stillman opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Mayor Stillman closed the public hearing.

ON MOTION BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-21 ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE CITY'S MASTER FEE SCHEDULE. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

d. Find Ordinance No. 1583 to be Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; and Introduce Ordinance No. 1583, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending Title VIII of the Arcata Municipal Code and Adopting by Reference the

Building Official Bishop presented regarding the proposed amendments to Title VIII of the Arcata Municipal Code that Ordinance No. 1583 would make.

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor Stillman closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL FOUND THAT THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1583 WAS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15061 (B)(3) OF THE CEQA GUIDELINES FOR THE REASONS STATED IN ORDINANCE NO. 1583; AND INTRODUCED ORDINANCE NO. 1583, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA AMENDING TITLE VIII OF THE ARCATA MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADOPTING BY REFERENCE THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS CODE, THE UNIFORM HOUSING CODE, THE UNIFORM CODE FOR THE ABATEMENT OF DANGEROUS BUILDINGS, AND THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE; AND WAIVED READING OF THE TEXT, AND CONSENTED TO READ BY TITLE ONLY. AYES: STILLMAN, WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

12. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Mayor Stillman invited public comment.

Public Comment: Dan Shahin, Brice Barker, Dwayne, Joanne McGarry, Abraham, and Jody.

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

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Perry provided a report.

14. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Cancel the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COUNCIL CANCELLED THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.

b. Schedule the Special Meeting to Elect a Mayor and Vice Mayor for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025, in the Council Chamber.

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COUNCIL SCHEDULED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ELECT A MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR FOR 5:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

16. CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

17. CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

There were none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk