



**CITY OF ARCATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**February 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber
736 F Street, Arcata**

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

Staff Present: City Manager Perry, Assistant City Manager Miller (via teleconference), Deputy City Attorney Goldstein (via teleconference), Chief of Police Ortega, Director of Community Development Loya, 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 White presiding. Notice of this meeting was posted on January 30, 2026.

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mayor White read a statement acknowledging that Arcata sat on ancestral Wiyot land.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Mayor White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Varley called roll.

4. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of Black Liberation Month, February 2026.

Councilmember Schaefer read the proclamation.

5. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

a. Receive Annual Report from the Planning Commission.

Planning Commission Chair Matthew Simmons provided an oral version of the Commission's annual report.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Receive a Presentation from County of Humboldt Staff on the Continuum of Care.**

Mayor White announced that this item would be postponed to a future date.

- b. Receive an Arcata Fire District 2025 Year-End Report from Fire Chief Chris Emmons.**

Fire Chief Chris Emmons with the Arcata Fire District provided a 2025 year-end report.

- c. Receive an Arcata Police Department 2025 Year-End Activity Report from Police Chief Chris Ortega.**

Chief of Police Ortega provided a year-end activity report for 2025.

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

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public Comment: Phil Bradley (who provided a written communication), Tamar Krigel, an unidentified member of the audience, an unidentified member of the audience, an unidentified member of the audience, Bradley, and Lily.

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

8. N/A

None.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

RECESS: The Council recessed from 6:58 p.m. to 7:09 P.M.

STILLMAN MOVED, AND MATTHEWS SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE CONSENT CALENDAR [FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2026, AS PRESENTED, ITEMS A THROUGH L].

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

THE MOTION PASSED ON A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. 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 January 21, 2026.**

- c. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Meeting of January 21, 2026.**
- d. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of January 22, 2026.**
- e. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting Study Session of January 22, 2026.**
- f. **Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.**
- g. **Adopt Ordinance No. 1585, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending the Arcata Municipal Code Title II, Chapter 10, to Make Biennial Consumer Price Index Adjustments to Campaign Contribution Limitations.**
- h. **Adopt Resolution No. 256-37 Authorizing Destruction of Certain City Records Maintained by the City as Permitted under Section 304090 of the California Government Code and the Secretary of State’s Local Government Records Program.**
- i. **Award Construction Contract to Sustainable Living Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$173,150 for the Alliance Intertie Electrical System Replacement, Re-Roof and Solar Project; Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions—CEQA Exempt per Section 15301.**
- j. **Approve Two Contract Amendments with Carollo Engineers for Phase I Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities Upgrade Project: 1) \$161,860 for Construction Management Services; 2) \$44,390 for Engineering Services; and Authorize City Manager to Sign Documents.**
- k. **Adopt Resolution No. 256-35 Adopting Permanent Local Housing Allocation Funding Allocations for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Allocation Years; California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exempt per the Commonsense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15061(b)(3)).**
- l. **Approve an Amendment to Extend the Grazing Lease with John E. and Charline H. Ford, dba John Ford Ranch, Assessor’s Parcel Nos. 501-061-001, -002, -003 and -005 through December 31, 2026; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Applicable Documents.**

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Adopt Resolution No. 256-18 Authorizing Staff to Initiate the Proposition 218 Process for Adjustments to the City of Arcata’s Water and Wastewater Rates.**

Assistant City Manager Miller presented regarding the proposed City of Arcata Water and Wastewater Rate increases covering fiscal years 2026–2030.

Principal Erik Helgeson of Bartle Wells presented regarding the respective financial plans and rate recommendations.

Director Miller and Principal Helgeson responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public Comment: Gregory Daggett, Jony Wise, Joanne McGarry, and an unidentified member of the audience.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

The Council deliberated regarding which rate implementation scenario to choose.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ONE VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-18 AUTHORIZING STAFF TO INITIATE THE PROP 218 PROCESS FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CITY OF ARCATA'S WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES BASED ON SCENARIO 2 PROVIDED IN THE STAFF REPORT. AYES: WHITE, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: ATKINS-SALAZAR. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Public Scoping Hearing on Potential Projects the City may Submit for Funding Under the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2025 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA).**

Vice Mayor Atkins-Salazar left the Chamber at 8:33 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. This project was listed as one of the potential projects in Attachment A for the agenda item.

Director of Community Development Loya presented regarding the process of submitting projects for funding under the State Community Development Block Grant 2025 Notice of Funds Availability.

Director Loya responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: An unidentified member of the audience, Gregory Daggett, an unidentified member of the audience, an unidentified member of the audience, Joanne McGarry, an unidentified member of the audience, Jony Wise, an unidentified member of the audience, Mike Taylor, Connie Stewart, Justin Regnier, S. Smith, Spagnum, and Aaron Bennett.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

The Council provided comments and proposed adding one project to the list by general consensus.

This item was a public hearing consisting of discussion only; no Council action was taken.

12. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Vice Mayor Atkins-Salazar reentered the Chamber at 9:40 p.m.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public Comment: An unidentified member of the audience (who provided a written communication), Michael, Joanne McGarry, Hillary, an unidentified member of the audience, Abraham, Linda, an unidentified member of the audience, Kyle, Larance, Dan Shahin, and an unidentified member of the audience.

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

Councilmember Stillman left the Chamber at 9:59 p.m. and returned at 10:01 p.m.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was none.

14. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future Agenda Item: Mayor White requested to agendize a discussion or Study Session regarding disaster preparedness.

- a. **Confirm Three Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Study Sessions for April 6, 8, and 29, 2026—Each at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.**

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COUNCIL CONFIRMED THREE FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET STUDY SESSIONS FOR APRIL 6, 8, AND 29, 2026—EACH AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

16. CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

17. CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

There were none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley
City Clerk