



CITY OF ARCATA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING STUDY SESSION
MINUTES

February 26, 2026, 5:15 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, City Engineer Khatri, Director of Community Development Loya, Director of Environmental Services Sinkhorn, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Community Services Benvie, Senior Planner Freitas, City Clerk Varley

Committee Chairpersons and Members Present: Michael Furniss, Emma Held, Jeff Knapp, Steve Railsback, Genevieve Serna, Matthew Simmons, Michael Winkler.

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata was held on the above date at 5:34 p.m. with Mayor White presiding. This was a Study Session with the City Council and the City's Committee Chairs. Notice of this meeting was posted on February 20, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

3. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Varley called roll.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Discuss Committee and Council Goals, and Priority Projects for Fiscal Year 2026/2027.

Co-Founder of FlashVote Kevin Lyons gave a presentation regarding the results of a community survey to the Council and Committee Chairs.

Discussion was had between the City Council and Committee Chairs. Goals and topics that were touched on during this discussion included:

- Planning Commission: Local Coastal Program recommendations and redevelopment in the Valley West area.
- Energy Committee: Collaboration with Humboldt County on the Regional Climate Action plan and a focus on shifting to electric options with regard to transportation energy.
- Wetlands & Creeks Committee: Supporting aquatic habitat and water quality, collaboration with Cal Poly Humboldt, and strengthening coordination with other committees.
- Transportation Safety Committee: Solidifying project ideas regarding safety improvements and updating the pedestrian and bicycle plan.
- Forest Management Committee: Updates to infrastructure, the protection of long-term ecological quality, and the continued effort to enhance partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt.
- Transactions & Use Tax Oversight Committee: History of the committee, the allocation of City funds for roadway improvements and Police expenditures, and the system in place for Measure H oversight.
- Parks & Recreation Committee: An ADA accessible parameter trail, the basketball court at Redwood Park, and wayfinding signs at the Arcata Marsh and Sanctuary.
- Historic Landmarks Committee: Preservation of properties and signage for historical sites.

Assistant City Manager Miller led a review of 2025/2026 City Council goals and priority projects.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: an unidentified member of the audience, and Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

No Council action was taken. There was a presentation and discussion only for this item.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk