



**CITY OF ARCATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**March 18, 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, Deputy City Attorney Goldstein (via teleconference), Director of Community Development Loya, IT and Digital Media Specialist Carrillo, City Clerk Varley, Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Redfern, Administrative Aide Raymond-Vernacchio

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arcata was held on the above date at 6:01 p.m. as a hybrid meeting, via teleconference utilizing Zoom Video Communications and in person, with Mayor White presiding. Both the original and revised notice of this meeting were posted on March 13, 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. AGENDA MODIFICATION

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL MOVED ITEM E OF NEW BUSINESS—ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 256-50 DEMANDING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE UNITED STATES-ISRAELI WAR AGAINST IRAN—TO BE PLACED AT THE BEGINNING OF NEW BUSINESS AS ITEM A. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

5. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of Sunshine Week, March 15–21, 2026.

Councilmember Matthews read the proclamation.

b. Proclamation in Recognition of Two-Spirit Celebration and Appreciation Day, March 20, 2026.

Councilmember Schaefer read the proclamation and presented it to Alexis Villegas, Community Liaison for Queer Humboldt.

6. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

There was none.

7. STAFF REPORTS

There were none.

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

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Shawn Leon, Rainer Shea, and an unidentified member of the audience.

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

9. N/A

None.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY STILLMAN, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE CONSENT CALENDAR [AS PRESENTED, FOR MARCH 18, 2026, ITEMS A THROUGH K]. 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 February 26, 2026.

- c. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting Study Session of February 26, 2026.**
- d. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Special Meeting of March 4, 2026.**
- e. **Approve the Minutes of the City Council Meeting of March 4, 2026.**
- f. **Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.**
- g. **Reappoint Erin Kelly and Yana Valachovic to the Forest Management Committee, Each for a Three-Year Term Ending March 31, 2029.**
- h. **Reappoint Stephanie Lane and Heather Quarles to the Parks and Recreation Committee, Each for a Three-Year Term Ending March 31, 2029.**
- i. **Reappoint Emma Held to the Wetlands & Creeks Committee for a Three-Year Term Ending March 31, 2029.**
- j. **Reappoint Peggy Martinez to the Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) for a Three-Year Term Ending March 31, 2029.**
- k. **Approve Sponsorship in an Amount Equivalent to the Plaza Event Fees of \$2,575 for the Playhouse Arts and Fairy Festival's 2026 Arcata Fairy Festival to be Held on the Arcata Plaza on June 28, 2026.**

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Public Hearing to Authorize Submission of Three Applications for Funding under the State 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.**

Director of Community Development Loya presented.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

STILLMAN MOVED AND SCHAEFER SECONDED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 256-40 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THREE 2025 CDBG APPLICATIONS; AND RESOLUTION NO. 256-46 DESIGNATING THE NEPA CERTIFYING OFFICER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO APPLICATIONS DESCRIBED IN RESOLUTION NO. 256-40.

The Council provided comments.

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

- b. **Adopt Ordinance No. 1581, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Adopting a Comprehensive Update to the Coastal Zoning Ordinance;**

and Resolution No. 256-49 for Submittal of the Local Coastal Program Comprehensive Update.

Director of Community Development Loya presented.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY STILLMAN, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL CONFIRMED THE AMENDMENT MADE ON MARCH 4, 2026, TO STRIKE THE WORD "PARKING" FROM SECTION 2.14.080.D.1.c OF THE COASTAL ZONING ORDINANCE; ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 1581, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA ADOPTING A COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE TO THE COASTAL ZONING ORDINANCE, WAIVED READING OF THE TEXT, AND CONSENTED TO READ BY TITLE ONLY; AND ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-49, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL TO THE COASTAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFICATION. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. AGENDA MODIFICATION: Adopt Resolution No. 256-50 Demanding an Immediate End to the United States-Israeli War Against Iran.**

This Item was originally placed on the Agenda as New Business, Item E. Due to an agenda modification at the beginning of the meeting, this item was moved to be considered at the beginning of New Business.

City Manager Perry presented.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Dan Shahin, Rainer Shea, Eileen Mandelbom, Judy Foster, Chip Sharp, Shawn Leon, Joanne McGarry, Dave Meserve, Tamar Krigel, Megan Naserie, Mojgan Mahdiz, and Abraham.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

The Council provided comments and deliberated.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-50 DEMANDING AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE UNITED STATES-ISRAELI WAR AGAINST IRAN. AYES: WHITE,

ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

- b. Appoint Three Members to Three Vacancies on the Transportation Safety Committee; Designate One Member to a Planning Area Term Ending March 31, 2027, Effective Immediately, and Two Members to Resident Terms Ending March 31, 2029, Effective April 1, 2026.**

The Council discussed the three interviews that took place earlier in the evening for the Transportation Safety Committee. The appointments to the three vacancies on the committee were made as detailed in the motion below.

STILLMAN MOVED AND MATTHEWS SECONDED FOR THE PLANNING AREA TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2027, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: MILIA LANDO; RESIDENT TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2029, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2026: SAMANTHA SAUTER; AND RESIDENT TERM ENDING MARCH 31, 2029, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2026: JEFF SCHINDLER.

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.

- c. Consider Adopting Resolution No. 256-47, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Arcata Accepting the Mid-Year Budget Review and Approving Budget Revisions for Fiscal Year 2025-26.**

Assistant City Manager Miller presented.

Mayor White invited public comment.

There being none, Mayor White closed the public comment period.

Assistant City Manager Miller responded to comments and inquiries from the Council.

ON MOTION BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, SECONDED BY STILLMAN, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-47 APPROVING BUDGET REVISIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

d. Public Hearing to Consider Accomplishments to be Reported for Arcata's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant Numbers 22-CDBG-PL-20035 Valley West Neighborhood Center Assessment for Final Closeout.

Director of Community Development Loya presented.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

Director Loya responded to comments and inquiries from the Council.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL DIRECTED STAFF TO SUBMIT THE FINAL REPORTS AND THE CLOSEOUT PACKAGE TO THE STATE; AND AUTHORIZED THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE ALL APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

e. Adopt Resolution No. 256-48 Accepting the 2025 General Plan Annual Progress Report.

Director of Community Development Loya presented.

Mayor White invited public comment.

There being none, Mayor White closed the public comment period.

Director Loya responded to comments and inquiries from the Council.

ON MOTION BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, SECONDED BY STILLMAN, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-48 ACCEPTING THE 2025 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

13. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Mayor White opened the public comment period.

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

Councilmember Stillman left the Council Chamber at 7:48 p.m. and returned at 7:51 p.m.

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

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Perry provided a report.

City Manager Perry and Fire Chief Chris Emmons with the Arcata Fire District responded to comments and inquiries from the Council.

15. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 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.

17. CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

18. CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

There were no additional reports.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk