



**CITY OF ARCATA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**April 15, 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), City Engineer Khatri, Director of Community Development Loya, Building Official Bishop, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Streets and Utilities Culbert, Deputy Director of Information Technology Savage, Senior Project Manager Luu, Engineering Technician Hurley, Program Assistant Pepper, 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 6:01 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 April 10, 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 MATTHEWS, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL, ON NEW BUSINESS, MOVED ITEM D [HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ABATEMENT FOR THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 4600 WEST END RD, ARCATA, 95521, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 507-081-055; AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 256-

55 ORDERING THE ABATEMENT OF A NUISANCE REGARDING 4600 WEST END RD.] TO THE TOP OF NEW BUSINESS. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

5. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

a. Proclamation in Recognition of World Tai Chi Day, Saturday April 25, 2026.

Councilmember Stillman read the proclamation and presented it to Doug Carroll, Tai Chi practitioner of 30 years.

b. Proclamation in Recognition of Bike Month, May 2026.

Vice-Mayor Atkins-Salazar read the proclamation and presented it to Dalton Lee of Wildtrail Tours.

6. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

a. Receive Annual Report from the Wetlands and Creeks Committee.

The Wetlands and Creeks Committee Chair, Emma Held, provided an oral version of the committee's annual report.

7. STAFF REPORTS

a. Receive an Update Regarding the City's Paving Projects from City Engineer Netra Khatri.

City Engineer Khatri and Engineering Technician Hurley provided an update on the City's paving projects.

b. Receive an Update Regarding the City's Steel Waterline Replacement Project from City Engineer Netra Khatri.

City Engineer Khatri and Senior Project Manager Luu provided an update on the City's Steel Waterline Replacement project.

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

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Isaac West, Olivia, an unidentified member of the audience, an unidentified member of the audience, 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 APRIL 15, 2026, ITEMS A THROUGH E]. 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 Meeting of April 1, 2026.**
- c. **Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.**
- d. **Adopt Ordinance No. 1584, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Repealing Article 12 (Public Safety Committee) in Chapter 3 (Boards, Commissions, Committees and Task Forces) of Title II (Administration), of the Arcata Municipal Code.**
- e. **Approve the Purchase of Submersible Pumps and Controls from Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc., in the Amount of \$413,175.36; and Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions.**

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Conduct a Public Hearing and Consider Resolution No. 256-52 Adopting Water and Wastewater Rate Adjustments for FY 2025-26 through 2029-30 and Finding that Adoption of the Rates is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).**

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Tabatha Miller provided a staff report and then responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Mayor White invited public comment.

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

Mayor White directed the City Clerk to tabulate the protests and to then announce whether a majority protest existed.

City Clerk Varley stated that prior to the initiation of the public hearing on February 4, 2026, the City had received thirty-seven (37) protests and that since the public hearing had opened, the City had received thirty-one (31) protests in total. She reported that the number of protests received was clearly less than a majority protest.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

ON MOTION BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, SECONDED BY STILLMAN, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 256-52 ESTABLISHING WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 THROUGH 2029-30; AUTHORIZED THE CITY MANAGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTOR TO IMPLEMENT THE RATES, UPDATE THE MASTER SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES, MAKE NON-SUBSTANTIVE CORRECTIONS TO THE EXHIBITS, AND COMPLETE ALL BILLING SYSTEM UPDATES; AND FOUND THAT ADOPTION OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES WAS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hold a Public Hearing to Consider Abatement for the Properties Located at 4600 West End Rd, Arcata, CA 95521, Assessor's Parcel No. 507-081-055; and Adopt Resolution No. 256-55 Ordering the Abatement of a Nuisance Regarding 4600 West End Rd.**

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

Building Official Bishop and Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Streets & Utilities Culbert presented.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: Robert Figas.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

MATTHEWS MOVED AND STILLMAN SECONDED TO GRANT A LIMITED ONE-TIME EXTENSION OF THIRTY (30) DAYS.

The Council received comments from staff.

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

- b. Introduce Ordinance No. 1586, An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Arcata Amending the Arcata Municipal Code Relating to Cannabis Consumption Lounge Permits, Standards, and Restrictions.**

Director of Community Development Loya and Program Assistant Pepper provided a staff report.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public comment: Misha Blacker, Michael Bettencourt, and Jennifer Henson.

Mayor White closed the public hearing.

Director of Community Development Loya and Program Assistant Pepper responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

ON MOTION BY MATTHEWS, SECONDED BY SCHAEFER, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL INTRODUCED ORDINANCE NO. 1586, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARCATA AMENDING THE ARCATA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO CANNABIS CONSUMPTION LOUNGE PERMITS, STANDARDS, AND RESTRICTIONS, AND CONSENTED TO READING BY TITLE ONLY. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

- c. **Public Hearing to Approve Annual Engineer's Report and Declare City's Intention to Continue to Levy and Collect Assessments of Three Existing Landscape Maintenance Assessment Districts.**

City Engineer Khatri provided a staff report.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

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

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THREE RESOLUTIONS DECLARING THE CITY'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO LEVY AND COLLECT ASSESSMENTS INCLUDING: THE MAD RIVER PARKWAY BUSINESS CENTER LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, RESOLUTION NO. 256-44; THE JANES CREEK MEADOW LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, RESOLUTION NO. 256-43; AND THE WINDSONG LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, RESOLUTION NO. 256-42; AND APPROVED THE ANNUAL ENGINEER'S REPORTS. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

- d. **Public Hearing to Consider Adopting Resolution No. 256-53, Updating the Master Fee Schedule for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.**

Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Miller provided a staff report.

Director Miller responded to inquiries and comments from council.

Mayor White opened the public hearing.

Public Comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor white closed the public hearing.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY MATTHEWS, AND WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 256-53, UPDATING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, MATTHEWS, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

13. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry, and Dan Shahin.

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

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Perry provided a report.

15. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. **Confirm a Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Study Session for April 29, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber.**

BY GENERAL CONSENSUS, THE COUNCIL CONFIRMED A FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 BUDGET STUDY SESSION FOR APRIL 29, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

17. CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

18. CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

There were none.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk

