



CITY OF ARCATA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND MEETING OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE ARCATA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MINUTES

September 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

736 F Street, Arcata

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

Absent: Councilmember Matthews

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Miller, Director of Environmental Services
Sinkhorn, Deputy Director of Environmental Services—Community
Services Benvie, 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 White presiding. Notice of this meeting was posted on August 28, 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 Coastal Cleanup Month, September 2026.

Councilmember Atkins-Salazar read the proclamation and presented it to Northcoast Environmental Center Operations Manager, Laurel McKay, and Coastal Programs Coordinator, Kennedy Vaillancourt.

5. REPORT BY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE

There were none.

6. STAFF REPORTS

There were none.

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

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Anton Souza.

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

8. MEETING OF THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY TO THE ARCATA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

A meeting of the Successor Agency to the Arcata Community Development Agency was held on September 2, 2026, at 6:10 p.m. as a hybrid meeting, via teleconference utilizing Zoom Video Communications and in person, with Board Chairperson White presiding. Notice of this meeting was posted on August 28, 2026. PRESENT: White, Atkins-Salazar, Schaefer, Stillman. ABSENT: Matthews. STAFF PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Miller, Secretary/Clerk Varley.

a. SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Chairperson White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Board Chairperson White closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY STILLMAN, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE, THE BOARD APPROVED THE SUCCESSOR AGENCY CONSENT CALENDAR [FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, AS PRESENTED). AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: MATTHEWS. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

- 1. Approve the Secretary and Clerk of the Board's Filing of the 2026 Notice of Biennial Review, Conflict of Interest Code, with the City of Arcata; and Ratify the Determination that No Amendment is Required.**

b. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

c. NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

d. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. and the City Council meeting resumed.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

ON MOTION BY STILLMAN, SECONDED BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE, THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE CONSENT CALENDAR [FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, AS PRESENTED], ITEMS A THROUGH I. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: MATTHEWS. 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 August 19, 2026.**
- c. Approve the Minutes of the City Council Meeting of August 19, 2026.**
- d. Bi-Weekly Report on Disbursements.**
- e. Approve the City Manager's Filing of the 2026 Local Agency Biennial Notice, Conflict of Interest Code, with the City of Arcata; and Ratify the Determination that No Amendment is Required.**
- f. Continue to find that Emergency Procurement to Repair Failed Culverts at 4700 West End Road is Necessary; and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**
- g. Adopt Resolution No. 267-16 Revising the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026/2027 Budget for Measure G Renewal Flyer Printing and Mailing.**
- h. Ratify an Extension of the Employment Agreement with Merritt Perry for the Position of City Manager, for the term of August 19, 2024, to August 19, 2029.**
- i. Approve an Amendment to the Construction Contract with Synagro-WWT, Inc. for the 2026 Digester Cleaning Project in the Amount of \$193,375.59; and Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions.**

10. OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve an Application for Funding from the Great Redwood Trail Agency for the Arcata Gateway Trails Project.**

Director of Environmental Services Sinkhorn provided a staff report.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Carol Vander Meer, Colleen Clifford, Carla Osbourne, Joanne McGarry, Dan Shahin, and Nancy Inhara.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

Director Sinkhorn responded to inquiries and comments from the Council.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY STILLMAN, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE, THE COUNCIL APPROVED AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE GRTA FOR THE GATEWAY TRAILS PROJECT INCLUDING PHASES A AND B. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: MATTHEWS. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

b. Consider Approving Playhouse Arts' Permit Application for the Sunny Brae Porchfest Special Event on October 4, 2026.

Deputy Director of Environmental Services Benvie provided a staff report.

Mayor White invited public comment.

Neroli Devaney and Jackie Dandeneau with Playhouse Arts (applicant) provided comments to the Council.

Public comment: Tia Nolan, Joanne McGarry, and Dan Shahin.

Mayor White closed the public comment period.

The Council provided comments and inquiries.

ON MOTION BY SCHAEFER, SECONDED BY ATKINS-SALAZAR, AND WITH A FOUR-TO-ZERO VOICE VOTE WITH ONE ABSENCE, THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE MAJOR SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION FROM PLAYHOUSE ARTS FOR SUNNY BRAE PORCHFEST OCTOBER 4, 2026. AYES: WHITE, ATKINS-SALAZAR, SCHAEFER, STILLMAN. NOES: NONE. ABSENT: MATTHEWS. ABSTENTIONS: NONE.

12. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS [CONTINUED]

Mayor White invited public comment.

Public comment: Joanne McGarry, Oz, and Dan Shahin.

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

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was none.

14. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

16. CLOSED SESSION

There was none.

17. CLOSED SESSION REPORTS

There were none.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhea Varley

City Clerk