

# City of Capitola

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, March 13, 2025 – 6:00 PM



City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

**Mayor:** Joe Clarke

**Vice Mayor:** Alexander Pedersen

**Council Members:** Gerry Jensen, Margaux Morgan, Melinda Orbach

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### Regular Meeting of the Capitola City Council – 6 PM

1. **Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance** – *The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. In attendance: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, and Mayor Clarke.*
2. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda** – *The City Manager requested to switch the order of Items 8C and 8D.*
3. **Presentations**
  - A. *Mayor Clarke presented a Proclamation Honoring March 2025 as American Red Cross Month to Cherie Robideaux, Board Member for the Central Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross.*
4. **Additional Materials**
  - A. *Item 8A – 36 emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - B. *Item 8B – 6 emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - C. *Item 8C – 3 emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - D. *Item 8D – 2 emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
5. **Oral Communications by Members of the Public**
  - *Clark Cochran*
  - *Speaker*
  - *Sean Shrum*
6. **Staff / City Council Comments**
  - *Council Member Jensen inquired about the budget process.*
  - *Council Member Orbach provided updates from her attendance at recent METRO and AMBAG meetings; and provided a response to constituent comments.*
7. **Consent Items**
  - A. City Council Meeting Minutes  
Recommended Action: Approve minutes from the special meeting on February 26, 2025 and the regular meeting on February 27, 2025.
  - B. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Calendar  
Recommended Action: Approve the Budget Meeting Calendar for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26.
  - C. Lease with MRA Sales, Inc.

Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to sign a three-year lease agreement between the City of Capitola and MRA Sales, Inc. for concessionary beach services at Esplanade Park, for a total revenue of \$6,399.

D. FY 2023-24 Audit Report

Recommended Action: Receive a report on the FY 2023-24 annual audit. ***(Pulled for discussion by Council Member Jensen)***

***Motion to approve the Consent Calendar: Council Member Morgan***

***Second: Council Member Orbach***

***Council Member Jensen requested to pull Item 8D for discussion.***

***Motion to approve Consent Items 8A – 8C: Council Member Morgan***

***Second: Council Member Orbach***

***Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke***

D. FY 2023-24 Audit Report

Recommended Action: Receive a report on the FY 2023-24 annual audit.

***Council Member Jensen congratulated staff on the City's record of receiving government finance awards.***

***Finance Department Director Malberg provided clarification on the FY 2023-24 Audit and on prior fiscal year encumbrances.***

***Motion to approve Item 8D: Council Member Morgan***

***Second: Council Member Jensen***

***Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke***

## 8. General Government / Public Hearings

A. Rail Trail Project Town Hall Plan

Recommended Action: Approve the proposed town hall meeting plan and outreach strategy.

***Community Development Director Herlihy presented the staff report.***

***Public Comments:***

- ***Nels Westman***
- ***Matt Farrell***
- ***Speaker***
- ***Paula Bradley***
- ***Kristen***
- ***Scott***
- ***Carl Siebert***
- ***Sean Shrum***
- ***Clark Cochran***
- ***Speaker***

***The City Council discussed the list of topics to be addressed at the town hall meeting and the possibility of reviewing the Countywide Rail Trail Project on a regular basis.***

***Motion to approve the proposed town hall meeting plan: Council Member Morgan***

***Second: Council Member Orbach***

**Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke**

B. Public Outreach Long Term Plan for Capitola Wharf

Recommended Action: Receive report regarding the draft long term concepts for the Capitola Wharf and direct staff to proceed with public outreach in April and May 2025 utilizing the concepts.

**Community Development Director Herlihy and Dan Townsend, Fuse Architecture, presented the staff report.**

**Public Comments:**

- **Mick Routh**
- **Dennis Norton**
- **Jacques Bertrand**

**The City Council thanked Fuse Architecture and staff for their presentation; requested that staff engage with the youth and senior communities to obtain feedback on the proposed Wharf Long Term Plan Concepts; expressed a preference for structures to remain in the center of the Wharf to allow access to either side of the Wharf; inquired about incorporating longevity information with each concept; and requested that a “do nothing” concept be included for public feedback.**

**Motion to direct staff to proceed with public outreach: Council Member Orbach**

**Second: Council Member Morgan**

**Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke**

**The City Council took a recess at 7:47 PM and reconvened at 7:52 PM.**

D. Appointment of Capitola Representative to Measure Q Oversight Advisory Board

Recommended Action: Appoint a member of the public to serve as Capitola’s representative on the Measure Q Citizens Oversight Advisory Board.

**City Clerk Gautho presented the staff report.**

**Public Comments: None**

**Motion to appoint Scott Harway as the City’s representative to the Measure Q Oversight Advisory Board: Council Member Morgan**

**Second: Council Member Jensen**

**Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Orbach, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke**

C. Annexation Request for 1610 Bulb Avenue

Recommended Action: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to the Local Agency Formation Commission in support of or opposition to the annexation of 1610 Bulb Avenue into Capitola city limits.

**Council Member Orbach recused herself from the item due to the proximity of her residence to the proposed annexation.**

**Community Development Director Herlihy presented the staff report.**

**Public Comments:**

- **Drew Lander**

- ***Vick Lawser***
- ***Donna Jensen Lewis***
- ***Brian Lewis***
- ***Caroline Cuspa***
- ***Jennifer Galiker***
- ***Jason Wagnermarsh***
- ***Tom Ginsburg***
- ***Kimberly Fry***
- ***Don Mosgard***

***The City Council discussed the impacts of an annexation on neighboring residents and the preference to evaluate a project proposal before supporting annexation.***

***Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of opposition: Council Member Morgan***

***Second: Council Member Jensen***

***Voting Yea: Council Members Jensen, Morgan, Vice Mayor Pedersen, Mayor Clarke***

***Abstaining: Council Member Orbach***

- 9. Adjournment** – *The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on March 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM.*

**ATTEST:**

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Joe Clarke, Mayor

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Julia Gautho, City Clerk