

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: April 23, 2026

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Citywide Website Update Project

Recommended Action: Receive a presentation of the City's new website.

Background: The Citywide Website Update Project was established as a City Council goal for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The project included an audit of existing content and a platform migration to Municipal Websites Central, the latest content management system (CMS) provided by the City's web partner, CivicPlus. The update includes maintaining American with Disability Act (ADA) website accessibility requirements, and the adoption of a new .gov domain. This new domain will be used for both the City website and all City email addresses.

Discussion: To ensure the new website effectively serves the community, staff issued a public survey through the website and newsletters to receive input and identify both areas of improvement and desired features. In addition, staff met with the Mayor to determine high-level website priorities for functionality and aesthetics. A seven-member staff task force of subject matter experts conducted a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis. This group redesigned the homepage architecture to prioritize customer service and intuitive navigation. Each City department conducted internal reviews of its specific web content to streamline and better organize information.

In addition to site-wide content optimization, the City Manager's Department developed a new suite of pages dedicated to City Council functions. These resources provide the public with clear access to Council responsibilities, the Code of Conduct, and detailed information on the process for seeking public office.

As a part of this project, staff also monitored the website's migration to the newest CivicPlus product: Municipal Websites Central. CivicPlus began migrations from Drupal 7 to Central Starter in February 2025 and notified the City of the possibility of migrating in September 2025. Based on their own timeline informed by other, larger municipalities' demands, CivicPlus began City of Capitola content migration and design in February 2026.

The new website will go live on Monday, April 27. Following that date, the City will publicly use the new URL, www.cityofcapitola.gov. City email addresses will change at the same time. Prior to the public launch of the website, staff will provide the Council with a "sneak peek" of the new features and interface during the April 23rd meeting.

Fiscal Impact: None, the project was included in FY 2025-26 and did not exceed the funds appropriated.

Alignment with 2025-2029 Strategic Plan Priority: Accountable Government

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