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**Happy New Year**

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**From** John <jxmlulry@gmail.com>

**Date** Fri 1/3/2025 10:20 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Glorious day folks. The Julian sun has risen to banish Pompeian night forever.

Has to be a special election. You can not just appoint Margaux who was recently not chosen by leaps and bounds. Interesting idea appoint Kristen.

But I doubt you folks will do an appointment. So recently after the election the optics would allow folks good at narrative to just own the processes for years after.

Maybe actually appointment is the best idea.

Item 4 C.



Item 4 C.



Warmly JM



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## City council vacancy

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**From** michael routh <qwakwak@gmail.com>  
**Date** Fri 1/3/2025 1:53 PM  
**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Council Members,

With the impending vacancy on the city council, you have been presented with a great opportunity to appoint someone who cares more about Capitola than their political future.

I would encourage you to look at Planning Commissioner Susan Westman to fill the remaining two years of Mayor Brooks seat. She is likely the most knowledgeable person in the city to fill the position, having served as city planner and city manager.

I would also encourage you to select Joe Clarke as Mayor and Gerry Jensen as Vice-Mayor. One of the new mayor's first action should be to remove Council member Pedersen from the RTC, as his positions do not represent the views of Capitola residents.

Please use this opportunity to turn Capitola in a direction that will preserve our character, our historical features, and improve our economic base.

Mick Routh

Sent from my iPad



Outlook

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## Asked Around

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**From** John <jxmulry@gmail.com>  
**Date** Fri 1/3/2025 2:58 PM  
**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

An appointment is right in the footsteps of the Dems putting Kamala on the ticket with no process. We saw how that ended.

Open applications if no elections. Former council members should be barred to not give the impression of a fixed insider political system as Capitola is already accused of.

Also, someone reliable. We don't want a councillor who will just quit halfway through to pursue wealth. We need someone who doesn't care about the money and prestige and is solely focused on service.

I would like these emails included in the agenda packet. I told so many folks this might happen when the job was announced and everyone called me crazy and said Yvette would never betray her commitment like that. I see folks so clearly.

This is such good luck for us. Let's not squander it. United Way made a bold choice considering her minimal schooling and experience but whatever. Not my problem. At that salary point she is unlikely to darken local politics again. I would like to offer the United Way a 10K donation if Yvette will pick up the check and take a photo of the handoff.

I can bundle two other donations for a total of 30K.

Warmly JM



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## Replacing Yvette

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**From** John <jxmuly@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 1/5/2025 7:52 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Chris Neely Lookout <chris@lookoutlocal.com>; PK Hattis <pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com>

5 points

If you choose to base any decision on the last election, it should be the last election Yvette was in, which means Enrique should get the position.

Choosing a white person over a minority to replace a minority on our currently and traditionally all white council is extremely racist, a reputation Capitola has worked hard to shed.

Choosing Margaux means you will have to go back and change the term limits laws. She will have served 6 years in 2026 so will be eligible for reelection but then only able to serve 2 years of her term once it hits 8 years.

Incumbents getting voted out in local government after one term is almost unheard of. The voters have spoken on Margaux. We don't want someone who has been confused as to what month it is while starting meetings to represent us.

And most important. Anyone who started to run in 2024 but pulled out because Gerry and Melinda were obviously going to win, would have a decent chance to sue the city and win and would be compelled to do so by this blatant disregard of democracy. They wouldn't have a choice. They would have to use all the legal means at their disposal to get such a decision overturned, it will become a scandal, consume the next 2 years of council activities and cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Imagine every meeting starting with a long speech about democracy and how our council chose racist oligarchy. Posted on robust social media platforms. Sent to anti racist influencers and orgs and news sources. Your faces on posters calling you racists posted on the Internet and sent around the world. This is a realistic scenario that greatly concerns me.

I also already see a trail showing Brown Act violations. I can't be sure but if Margaux is appointed someone is certain to file such a complaint, what if it's someone who has a knack for such oppo. Then a recall would likely follow.

We can't just dismiss voter's will because the easy choice is the racist one. Racist choices are often easy. Do not replace a minority with a white who was just voted out. Please. Racism has no place in Capitola. But if it's different for you, please choose racism. That is your right. Racism is everywhere. Learning it's found it's way onto our council would not surprise me.

Warmly JM



Outlook

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## Replacing Yvette

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**From** John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

**Date** Sun 1/5/2025 4:57 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

In finale

20% of our city is Hispanic. After white people it is our only population demographic in the double digits. Yvette was their voice on our council.

While I don't love identity politics, I do embrace diversity of representation based on population demographics. Telling our 2000 Hispanic neighbors they do not deserve a voice on our council is a tragedy I can't believe is even under consideration when we have such an excellent candidate available.

Margaux sat on no committees before she was elected. Enrique is on our Museum Board. Margaux still fails to grasp even the most rudimentary facets of policy after 4 years on council, asking questions my 5 year old could answer, while Enrique has shown continued progress since first running in 2022.

Yvette is also a parent to school age children as is Enrique. We at minimum want two of our councillors to be parents so this essential demographic to our long term prosperity is represented.

I'm told the fix is in and Margaux is the candidate and nothing can be done but I can't believe that. All four of you have been to my home. I've looked you in the eyes. You are good people. You think you are powerless and have no choice but to do what the folks who bricked our budgets and our city want you to.

And I'm telling you right here, right now, you have regulatory powers. You can choose to be better than failures of our past. We don't have to make the same mistakes again and again.

We can do better than the mediocrity that got us to the sad situation our budgets and schools and infrastructure and economy and community are in. We can fix it. The first step is doing anything but the things we already know didn't work.

God Bless JM



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## Council Vacancy

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From Heidi <Heidy@cwo.com>

Date Sun 1/5/2025 6:54 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Capitola City Council,

Regarding your January 9, 2025 meeting, Agenda Item 8C (Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat), and Agenda Item 8D (City Council Reorganization for 2025), I respectfully offer the following suggestions for a community-based approach to filling the City Council vacancy and leadership reorganization:

**1. Community Choice is Always Best:**

- While I recognize holding a special election is the most democratic way to fill the vacancy, I also understand cost and logistical challenges may make this option unfeasible.
- Considering this, I urge the council to pursue a transparent, equitable, and community-centered appointment process to ensure the public's trust and involvement in selecting the right candidate.

**2. Prioritize Transparency and Community Engagement:**

- The process should balance timeliness with careful consideration. A well-thought-out process builds trust, validates the individual chosen to serve, and ensures the best outcome for the community.
- The council should involve residents every step of the way, ensuring all voices are heard and considered.

**3. Empower Residents with a Citizens' Commission:**

- Establishing a temporary citizens' commission could provide an inclusive and impartial approach.
- This body would review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend the top candidates to the council for their decision.
- To ensure accountability and public trust, the commission's meetings should comply with the **Brown Act**, California's open meetings law, which ensures transparency and public participation in government decisions.
- One way to determine the commission's composition could be for each council member to appoint one member, with a final member selected by consensus of the current four-person council. A five-member commission ensures efficient decision-making and allows for an odd number to address potential disagreements.



- The commission should be supported by city staff to provide administrative and logistical assistance throughout the process.

**4. Appointee Should Serve as a Steward, Not a Candidate:**

- The appointee should commit to being a steward for the remainder of the term and agree not to run in the next election.
- This ensures the council does not inadvertently grant a political advantage to any individual through the appointment process, maintaining fairness and neutrality.
- By focusing on stewardship, the appointee can dedicate their time to serving the community's immediate needs without the distraction of future political ambitions.

**5. Postpone the Selection of Mayor and Vice Mayor:**

- Delaying the selection of the mayor and vice mayor until the council is fully seated with five members ensures fairness and inclusivity.
- This allows the new councilmember to participate in selecting their presiding officer(s), promoting collaboration and shared responsibility.
- The current vice mayor can fulfill mayoral duties temporarily, ensuring stability and continuity in leadership during the interim period.

All the best,  
Heidy Kellison  
Capitola, CA



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**appointment of new council member**

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**From** michael termini <4766206@gmail.com>  
**Date** Mon 1/6/2025 9:19 AM  
**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

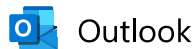
mayor and honorable councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to appoint a new council member to fill the soon to be vacant position. a special election will confuse and delay your daily business as well as cost the city precious funds. You have the ability to appoint anyone you choose from a former council member to a planning commissioner to just anyone who is a citizen of our city. I would recommend appointing one of the other candidates from the most recent election. I believe this would be the most fair and representative of the wishes of our community. Either candidate would be appropriate since the votes were close

Please be decisive and expedient in your actions.

sincerely

Michael Termini



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## Jan 9th City Council Meeting Agenda Items 8...

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From Kevin Maguire <kmaguire831@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/6/2025 6:47 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello Council Members.

Please take to heart the community voice and the majority of opinions on the follow:

### **A. The Monte Foundation Fireworks 2025 Recommended Action -**

Replace gunpowder fireworks with Drones, or maybe the Monte Foundation could hosts a Free picnic BBQ instead of polluting our Marine Sanctuary! Beach Clean up and Tacos, that would be an Epic way to get the community together!

Fireworks shows are considered significantly bad for the environment, contributing to air pollution by releasing large amounts of particulate matter, heavy metals, and chemicals like perchlorates, which can contaminate water sources and harm wildlife; they also generate noise pollution and leave behind debris that can litter the environment and harm animals if ingested

**C.. Fill the Vacate seat with Mr. Enrique Dolmo**, or have a Special Election. Or send out an online Survey/mailer / Special Council meeting where members of the community can vote. There should be ways to hear the voice of the community that doesnt cost a lot. Even in the case of a Special Election, that is better than putting a former incumbent in that didn't try hard on her campaign, and barley beat out Enrique. As the incumbent, it is typically a shoe in. While exact probabilities depend on the specific circumstances, studies suggest that incumbents in local elections have a re-election success rate of **70–90%**.

The people dont want Margauex. Mr Dolmo has the heart and character our city would benefit from. Passion for making Capitola safer, and friendly for the youth and elderly. He has continued to serve our community, New Brighton Middle School, and has fresh ideas for vacated spaces.

We dont want any Termed out old council members. I have heard Susan Westman name mention as well, that sounds like it could be a good option.

### **E. City Council Representation on Regional Boards & City Advisory Bodies Recommended**

**Action:** Many residents are on record for their concerns about Mr Pedersen. His Blue Dot Non-Profit taking money from our City. His behavior and voting against Measure L, and conflicts being on the RTS, and service the residents wishes.

Remove Pedersen from RTC! Listen to the people and Measure L, and the Costal Commission about no passenger Rail service should be active again in Santa Cruz.

Headways for a Choo-Choo would be once an hour, or maybe twice? How will trains pass each other with one track?

No Parking at proposed Stations? Speed limits of 25MPH due to setbacks next to a trail (8 foot from center line) The Choo-Choo will take over 30 minutes to get to Watsonville from Capitola, with the 4-6 stops in between.

Farebox recovery rate is 20-30%. So tax payers will have to subsidise the rest.

The "Trail" Thru the Village is not Safe!!

If you care about Safety and the health and well-being of the residents and people visiting. We need a Trail on the Trestle, or PROTECTED Bike Lanes. Lets Remove all Parking from the Village!!

We need to put Safety First, Safety above all else!

Thank You  
Kevin Maguire  
Capitola Resident since 1974!



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## Expression of Interest for Open City Council Seat

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**From** Enrique Dolmo Jr <44enrique@gmail.com>

**Date** Mon 1/6/2025 6:56 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Capitola City Council,

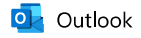
Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my interest in the upcoming open seat on the Capitola City Council. I would be honored to be considered for this opportunity to serve and contribute to our beloved city's continued growth and improvement.

As someone deeply committed to Capitola, I am particularly passionate about addressing the needs of our youth, seniors, and underserved populations. I believe that investing in all our neighbors is a key step toward creating a thriving, sustainable community for generations to come.

My dedication to and love for our city is why I ran for public office. I volunteer at the Santa Cruz Juvenile Hall and currently serve on both the Capitola Historical Museum Board and the Capitola Chief Advisory Board. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with community members and gain valuable insight into the needs and goals of our city.

I love our community. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the open seat. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve and work alongside the Council to make Capitola an even better place to live and grow.

Sincerely,  
Enrique Dolmo Jr



Outlook

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item 8c

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From Michael routh <qwakwak@icloud.com>  
Date Tue 1/7/2025 6:57 AM  
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

In the past 50 years there have been two previous council resignations - Phil Walker in 1975 and Margaret Fabrizio around 1990. Both vacancies were filled by appointment. The council should appoint and put a new face on the council.

Many residents have been unhappy with the direction of the city and this is a golden opportunity to put the city on a new path.

For the past 8 years Capitola has not progressed. Some council members appeared to be more concerned about their personal future than the city's. The council relinquished their policy making power to the staff and became a rubber stamp for staff proposals. Our city manager hasn't offered any creative solutions to move the city forward. What's important to residents has often been overlooked.

It's time for a change. Appoint someone who is assertive, not afraid to question staff proposals and city manager performance, Appoint someone who wants to preserve what makes Capitola special, and who will bring new ideas to improve our city. Someone with priorities that have been overlooked -like maintaining our streets, keeping the city, beach, and streets clean, prioritizing economic development, and city beautification.... someone who cares more about Capitola than their resume'. We don't need failed incumbents or candidates. We don't need more of the last 8 years. We need new ideas. Open the process up to the community, set up a citizen panel to interview applicants and make recommendations to the council who will then make the final selection.

Mick Routh  
Crystal St

1/7/25, 9:52 AM

item 8c - Gautho, Julia - Outlook

Sent from my iPad

*Item 4 C.*





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## City Council Vacancy

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From Meghan D Morrissey <mdmorrissey@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 10:08 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Cc Capitola Morrissey <morrisseycapitola@gmail.com>

Dear Capitola City Council Members-

We are writing in support of the proposal made by Heidi Kellison to establish a process by which the Capitola community can actively participate in the selection process for the open city council seat vacated by the resignation of Yvette Brooks.

A special election would be the most democratic way to proceed in filling this open seat. Unfortunately, the expense and general election fatigue makes this option less attractive. We are very opposed to an immediate appointment by the existing four members of the city council as it's the least open and community-inclusive manner to select an individual to fill this critical position.

**In our view, transparency, integrity and community involvement/oversight are the critical priorities for filling this seat. An open, efficient and community-based process is the optimal way to help the Capitola community rally around an individual of merit, purpose and commitment to fill this vacant seat.**

We should not prioritize speed over transparency and community oversight. The lack of transparency and process displayed by the previous city council has left many long-term residents on the sidelines, actively questioning key governance decisions made by the previous city council that are in direct conflict with the will of Capitola's citizens, based on unequivocal election results, and simple safety concerns for the well being of current and future residents.

We need to dramatically improve our governance practices and now have the opportunity to add a new member that can work in a truly collaborative fashion with the council, city staff and community to help restore trust and help rebuild Capitola for the decades ahead of us.

The proposal submitted by Heidi Kellison is well constructed and detailed in a step-by-step manner that is based on community-involvement and transparency from the outset. Let's seize the moment and come together as a community to embrace this process and use it as a model for how we solve important problems as a community, now and in the future.

**Finally, we strongly urge the Capitola City Council to immediately amend the agenda for Thursday's city council meeting to postpone the Monte Foundation fireworks topic to a later time when the new Capitola City Council is reconstituted.** The fireworks topic is simply a much lower priority than the absolute mission-critical nature of defining a process to select a new council member. We acknowledge the area residents who have sent letters to share their concerns about these annual fireworks and they should have a public forum to voice their opinions. However, we

count on the Capitola City Council to have the strategic oversight and clarity of vision to prioritize topics for discussion/decisions and hope they'll use the opportunity on Thursday to focus the topic on the single most important issue facing Capitola today.

Thanks - we look forward to sharing our views publicly Thursday at the meeting.

Meghan and Michael Morrissey  
Capitola



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## Office Hours

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**From** John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 1/7/2025 10:08 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Chris Neely Lookout <chris@lookoutlocal.com>; PK Hattis <pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com>

Hello Neighbors

As some of you may remember, our city councillors used to be available to our residents not just on dais (the silent statue vibe is disconcerting/ quality psyops), but through community engagement.

With the failed takeover from those treating Capitola as a ladder for their own self enrichment near its end (congrats Yvette you make more than I do now/ good luck fundraising here it's brutal), I suggest a return to the service forward representation easily found in the example of Gerry Jensen.

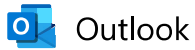
His availability by text or phone isn't feasible for all councillors, however, office hours once a month 2 hours should be the minimum requirement, especially for councillors like Alexander Pedersen who rarely to never respond to residents queries when emailed. Please consider legislating such an office hours policy.

At minimum whoever replaces Yvette should commit to holding office hours TWICE a month, as such an appointment will be an unelected councillor still wielding regulatory powers.

Margaux has a reputation for never responding to constituents. This should disqualify her imo. Inclusion is easy when people agree with you. Service as a councillor requires including all of one's constituents, not just supporters.

In finale let me stress our Hispanic neighbors are 20% of our population/ 2000 souls, please prioritize replacing their only voice on council with a member of their community, if such a member meets all other requirements.

God Bless JM



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## City Council Vacancy

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**From** vickee95010@aol.com <vickee95010@aol.com>

**Date** Tue 1/7/2025 12:46 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

To Whom It May Concern:

In light of Yvette Brooks resignation from the Capitola City Council, we believe the most logical and cost-effective decision would be to appoint Margaux Keiser to complete the remainder of Yvette Brook's term.

Margaux is already highly knowledgeable about the workings of the City Council, and her dedication, intelligence, and commitment would continue to serve the best interests of the people of Capitola.

We are confident that Margaux would be a valuable asset to both the Council and the community.

Sincerely,

Vicki & Armando Rubalcaba



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## Council position

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**From** Ron Burke <rburke477@gmail.com>  
**Date** Tue 1/7/2025 1:19 PM  
**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello, Council members,

As a former Planning Commissioner, I am aware of the challenge presented you with Yvette's departure for her outside opportunity and leaving her post as Council member.

First, thank you Yvette for your service to our community.

Second, in response to Yvette's upcoming vacancy, I suggest that the Council take the most straight-forward response to fill the vacancy by appointing the largest vote count candidate in last November's election not elected, that of Margaux Keiser.

The option of holding a special election is not wise. It is first time-consuming, which will leave you with a period of difficulty finding a solid quorum, especially when members are recused from any particular matter under consideration. Additionally, such a route is very costly, funds which would compete with needed city services and backlogged capital improvements from your CIP.

If there is an option of appointing another council member, that places you in a position of favoritism which will not be forgotten.

In closing, the people have already spoken, and they have already voiced their support for Margaux.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Ron Burke



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**Item 8-C. Process to Fill Vacant Council Seat**

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From Susan Westman <susan@bestwestman.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 2:50 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

January 7, 2025

Dear City Council Members,

On your agenda for January 9, 2025 is item 8-C "Process to fill vacant Council seat". I am hopeful that when the Council discusses this item that you will be mindful of the need to have some community input as part of the section process. Normally having an election to fill this position would provide for the most direct input from the community but a special election of that type will have a cost and time delay. As it is important to have a full 5-member Council I would offer the following suggestions to include in a selection process.

The Council should have a process that allows for applications to be accepted for this 2-year term. The applicants for this appointment should be committed to serving out the remainder of Mayor Brooks term and not be a candidate in the next election in 2026. Not having the applicants be candidates in the 2026 election leaves that 2026 election process untainted. This is similar to the approach used by Governor Newsom in filling the 2-year Senate vacancy created by the death of Diane Feinstein.

There are numerous ways the Council can screen the applications but some community members should be involved in the screening process and having the process open to the public is critical.

Whatever committee is set up to evaluate the applications should use a consistent evaluation method for all applicants and have a rank scoring system. This is the only method that will allow for transparency in the ranking process.

Having this type of open process is important to assure the community that the Council has selected the best person to fill this 2-year term. It assures the public that this was not simply a politically motivated choice but shows the Council is choosing the best applicant to help Capitola move forward during the next 2 years. There are many important items which Capitola faces at this time. The mall project and City revenues are a top priority. Decisions on implementing the City's new adopted Housing Element are critical. Helping the City's businesses move through challenging times for retail in the Village and on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue need to be addressed are a few examples.

Understandably this is a unique time for Capitola but it will be important for the Council to:

1. Involve the community in this selection process.
2. Select someone who is going to fill this position for 2 years but will not be a candidate in 2026.

3. Make certain there is a transparent ranking system of the applicants.

Item 4 C.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues.

Susan Westman  
507 Riverview Drive  
Capitola, CA 95050



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## Capitola City Council vacancies-Agenda Item 8-C

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**From** Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 1/8/2025 9:57 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

**Cc** Welch, Troy (TJ) (nowworries4TJ@mac.com) <nowworries4TJ@mac.com>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Council Members,

Proper representation for Capitola residents by our City Council is now at stake with the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Yvette Brooks. Concerned Citizens of Capitola is requesting that the Council find a fair and transparent process that involves community input to select the new Council Member. Options include an appointment process that includes residents, or a special election.

**Appointing the new Council Member from the last election**-There has been some public discussion that the City Council is considering the appointment of past city council member Margaux Morgan simply because she placed third in the recent council election. Placing third however says a lot more than just a ranking. As an incumbent she lost by 775 votes to a first time candidate. The 775 vote gap for an incumbent in a Capitola election, is really a mandate from the residents that they have lost faith in her ability to appropriately represent our community. To appoint Enrique Dolmo would only further exacerbate the situation. The election was for two members only, and the community did not choose candidates Morgan or Dolmo.

**Appointing a member of the community**-Any outside appointment without community input at this time would likely not have the full support by the community. The lack of transparency would further the lack of trust that already exist. Any selection by appointment should include respected community members.

**Special Election**-While a special election is the fairest, we recognize there is a substantial cost to the City and an extended timeframe. However, Concerned Citizens of Capitola believe a special election would be fair to all, as well as help to improve trust and reduce potential legal recourse.

Respectfully,

TJ Welch on behalf of

Concerned Citizens of Capitola





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**Public Comment for Thursday agenda items**

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From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:04 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Capitola City Council,

Re: Agenda Item 8C - Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat, and Agenda Item 8D - City Council Reorganization for 2025

As I will be attending the meeting remotely this week, I submit the following public comments for your consideration.

Item 8C. While an election is clearly the least controversial and most democratic approach to filling the seat, the time and budget trade-offs are not insignificant. I believe this task can be managed in a democratic way that continues the momentum of improving collaboration amongst the City Staff, City Council, and Community using a transparent process versus the swift appointment of a named person.

The time required to get this done using a process that includes the community by having them involved in a committee approach or being present for application reviews, interviews, etc. will go a long way towards building trust. It will also ensure the newly appointed member can hit the ground running having been properly vetted in a public and transparent manner.

I am confident you can define a community inclusive process that doesn't have to be a huge time sink, and that the extra effort over a mere appointment will have a great payback for all constituent groups.

8D. It struck me as odd that item 8C was to define the approach to be used to select a council member, and that item 8D was to take action and appoint Mayor and Vice Mayor seats before the new member was identified. Please consider allowing the Vice Mayor to act in the Pro Tempore capacity covering the duties of the Mayoral position until a full council is seated, and postpone this action. Given the new council member will be a vetted and deemed qualified candidate, they should be a participant in selecting governing positions.

This logic may also warrant a discussion on postponing Items 8E and 8F.

Best regards,  
Leslie Nielsen



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## 01.09.2025 agenda item 8.C

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**From** Katherine Harasz <katherine.harasz@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 1/8/2025 10:48 AM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

The Council has an important decision to make regarding an appointment versus special election to fill the current vacancy. I advocate for the appointment of Enrique Dolmo.

First and foremost, from my chair, it appears that the older, white Capitola resident perspective is well-represented on this council. And, I will throw in business interests, as this demographic seems to align with business interests.

Second, Mr. Dolmo is not retired or semi-retired. He is a working man very much in touch with another important demographic in our community: the youth. Through his employment he understands the current behavior, habits and trends of our youth. I think this is a perspective that is needed in improving pedestrian and bicycle paths, addressing the dangers of e-bikes, and addressing other current youth issues that I am not aware of as a person with adult children.

Third, as a working man, although Mr. Dolmo may not have the luxury of time to volunteer and glad-hand the predominant demographic in our community at various local festivals, he has volunteer hours with the Racial Justice Task Force and Police Chief's Advisory Committee. He has a unique perspective as a person of color, and we need that on our Council.

Melinda Orbach made an astute observation when launching her campaign: that the west side is not represented because Capitola does not have district elections, which would allow for neighborhood interests to be better represented. This same barrier prevents people like Mr. Dolmo from ever being elected. This appointment would not only save money, but achieve an equity that, in my opinion, is long overdue in this City absent the establishment of district elections.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Katherine Harasz  
Capitola Resident



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## New Council Member

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**From** Katharine Parker <katharinep3@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 1/8/2025 2:38 PM

**To** City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

# City Council of Capitola

Thank you for the work you devote to Capitola. You're serving the City at a pivotal time, trying to preserve its' historic charm, including its' small, close residential neighborhoods, with the push for more commerce and housing. Unfortunately, lack of outreach and transparency and an apparent lack of respect from some council members towards the community they're serving have led to distrust and concern among many local citizens.

Now, with Yvette Brooks' unexpected resignation you have an opportunity to extend outreach and rebuild trust in the community. An election would certainly be the most open route but also the most expensive. If an election is not possible, an appointment by city council together with a respected and varied group of Capitola residents (including resident business owners) could set the Council and constituents on a more productive and cooperative path for the betterment of Capitola.

Thank you,

Tom & Katharine Parker

Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** carol morgan <carolhillmorgan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:00 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** best for Capitola

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,  
Carol Morgan

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Hollis Snell <hollisbsnell@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:30 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Margaux Morgan to City Council

**Dear Capitola City Council,**

**With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.**

**We should not spend City funds on a special election.**

**Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.**

**Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.**

**Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.**

**Sincerely,**  
Hollis Snell

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Teri Snell <terileighsnell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:33 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Mayor

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely, Teri Snell

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Sheryl Coulston <sheryl.coulston@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:01 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Appoint Margaux Morgan to City Council

January 8, 2025

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Coulston  
300 Plum St. #25  
Capitola, CA 95010  
831-227-9494  
[sheryl.coulston@gmail.com](mailto:sheryl.coulston@gmail.com)



**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Bob Edgren <agren7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:05 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Thursday Meeting

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My apologies for this late letter. I hope it is recieved in time for the meeting.

Okay, my main concern lies in the State Mandated affordable housing act. I apologize for not being up on this. I do not believe I am th4 only one who is in the dark. I think we need to be brought up to date on this issue. Frankly, it is appalling how our Governor and state representatives can impose such a radical move on any city. This program would significantly change the lifestyle many of us have worked hard to accomplish. If I could make some suggestions and questions;

1. At this point in time, where does the city sit with these high density state mandates?
2. Has anyone in a city position opposed this act, or looked into opposing it? Are the council members aware of avenues to take to contest the act?
3. How about appointing a task force to keep abreast of this issue, one that could communicate with other cities, invite speakers, hold public hearings and so forth.

Okay, I many cities have been cold cocked by this measure and after reading some cities that oppose it, It's impressive to see the number of cities stand up and say no.

That's all I have to say about that.

Regarding the replacement of the vacant Council seat, there is a pool of potentials that could be called on. If any are interested, perhaps we could have a customary panel discussion. Anyone opposing high density housing has my backing. But some names to consider;

Susan Westman  
 Mick Routh  
 Mike Termini  
 Jacques Bertrand  
 Sam Story  
 Bruce Arthur  
 Kirby Nicol

Regarding the fireworks.If someone could explain how the money in this works. How does anyone make money of fireworks. Is there money raised for a cause?

Okay, thanks for your time to review these ideas.

Yours truly,

Robert Edgren

Item 4 C.

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** heatherohara36@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:50 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Replacing Mayor Brooks seat on city council

With Mayor Brooks moving on to her next opportunity it leaves a vacancy on our city council. Having had an election recently it gives us a perfect candidate to fill in the remaining two years. The runner up.

Ms Morgan has plenty of current experience and knowledge of our city. She stood strong as our Mayor during a very difficult time for Capitola. Margaux has served our council with grace and class. I ask that our City Council and Staff waste no time or money on a special election or an application system.

Appointing Ms Morgan is the right and smart option in front of you.

Thank you  
Heather OHara  
20-year resident

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Andrew Baumhardt <andrew.baumhardt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:00 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Vacancy left by Mayor Brooks

I urge the Council and Staff to honor the latest election results by filling the seat with Ms Morgan. Please do not waste money or time on special election or applications. Margaux knowledge of our city and recent experience make her the perfect choice.

Thank you  
Andrew Baumhardt

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Mary Cahalen <mbbythesea@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:48 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Resignation of Mayor Yvette Brooks

**Dear Capitola City Council,**

I am writing in regard to the recent resignation of Mayor Yvette Brooks. As I understand, the City Council has two options for filling the mayoral vacancy:

1. Calling a special election, which is estimated to cost the city approximately \$80,000.
2. Appointing a Capitola resident to serve for the remainder of the mayor's term.

Regarding the first option, I strongly believe that calling a special election would be an unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, particularly given the tightness of the city's budget and the fact that a general election was held just two months ago. It seems inefficient to incur such significant costs when the community has already recently participated in the electoral process.

For the second option, I would like to express my strong support for appointing Margaux Morgan (Kaiser) to fill the mayoral vacancy. Having served a term on the City Council, Margaux has a solid understanding of the issues facing our city and would serve the residents of Capitola well. She has already demonstrated her commitment to the community, particularly in helping during the storms and with the Wharf. Furthermore, as the third-highest vote recipient in the recent election, she has the backing of a broad segment of the community, making her a logical and appropriate choice.

Additionally, I would like to make it clear that I am *strongly opposed* to the reappointment of former Mayor Kristen Brown to the City Council. Having completed two consecutive terms, Kristen is ineligible to serve another term under the City's term limits. Appointing her would be in direct contradiction to the will of the voters, who established the term limit rule to ensure fresh perspectives and accountability on the Council.

In conclusion, I believe appointing Margaux Morgan is the best course of action for our community and would reflect the values of fiscal responsibility and respect for the electoral process.

If you have any questions or would like further input, I am happy to provide additional information.

Sincerely,  
Mary Beth Cahalen

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Kevin Zelter <zelv5@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:39 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Margaux Morgan

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zelter  
Santa Cruz County Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Neal Stokes <curlyskidman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:19 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Best for Capitola

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,  
Neal Stokes

Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Judy Garrison <judyxgarrison@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 9:45 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Margaux Morgan

**Dear Capitola City Council,**

**With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.**

**We should not spend City funds on a special election.**

**Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.**

**Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.**

**Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.**

**Sincerely,**

**Judy Garrison**



**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Lori Mahan <lori.mahan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Margaux Morgan

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,  
Lori Mahan  
504 Oak Drive  
Capitola ca

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** robin elias <robinlelias@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:11 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** City Council replacement

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,  
Robin Elias

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Margaux Morgan <margauxpmorgan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Vacancy Letter of Intent

Dear Capitola City Council,

While it is the end of an era to see Mayor Brooks step down, I want to put forth my letter of intent to occupy the new vacant seat on Capitola City Council.

I would be honored to serve the City of Capitola for the next 2 years while the City works through this transitional period. I can provide some up to date leadership as I have been serving the city for the last four years.

During my term in office I worked well with my fellow council members and our city staff to complete many successful projects. Affordable housing projects, rebuilding and reopening of the Municipal Wharf, moving forward with our City's strategic plan, passing measure Y to ensure the prosperity of our community, among many other things.

One of my main goals taking office was to have more community awareness, knowledge and engagement and I am seeing that come to fruition as we navigate this transition and I could not be more pleased.

I would be proud to assist this new council for the end of Mayor Brooks' term, creating space for more people to become informed, and up to date with upcoming decisions so that they may properly run for a seat on council in 2026.

Council, you have a hard decision ahead of you as to how to move forward and I will support your decision whatever it may be. Serving this beautiful city is not easy, and you are never going to be able to please everyone at once, but I have faith you will do what is best for our community.

Please, if you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,  
Margaux Morgan  
Capitola City Mayor 2023

Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** olson\_steven@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 2:27 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Support for Margaux Morgan

I am writing to express my support for appointing Margaux Morgan to the council to serve the remainder of Yvette Brooks term. I have known Margaux for several years, and as some of you that served with her can attest, she is a smart, thoughtful, and dedicated person, whose experience on the council and as mayor, would be invaluable now. I also realize that there may be other former council members willing to take on this role, but I really think she brings a fresh perspective, and youthful energy, that will service our community best.

Sincerely,

Steve Olson  
[olson\\_steven@yahoo.com](mailto:olson_steven@yahoo.com)  
831.419.6142  
[www.linkedin.com/in/swolson](http://www.linkedin.com/in/swolson)