

# City of Capitola

## City Council Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, March 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM



City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

**Mayor:** Margaux Morgan  
**Vice Mayor:** Gerry Jensen  
**Council Members:** Joe Clarke, Melinda Orbach, Susan Westman

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#### **Closed Session – 5:30 PM**

- i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Gov't Code § 54956.9(d)(4)  
One Case

#### **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 Clarke, Orbach, Westman, and Vice Mayor Gerry Jensen. Absent: Mayor Morgan.*  
*Vice Mayor Jensen provided remarks on the fire that occurred in the Capitola Village and requested a moment of silence in recognition of those who were injured and lost their life in the fire.*
- 2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda** – *None*
- 3. Presentations**
  - A. *The Mayor presented a proclamation honoring March 2026 as American Red Cross Month to the Santa Cruz Red Cross Chapter.*
  - B. *The Council received a presentation from Santa Cruz County METRO Transit District CEO, Corey Aldridge. One speaker provided comments on the presentation.*
- 4. Report on Closed Session** – *The City Council discussed one item on the Closed Session agenda. No reportable action was taken.*
- 5. Additional Materials**
  - A. *Item 9A – Two emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
- 6. Oral Communications by Members of the Public**
  - *Goran Klepic*
  - *Speaker*
- 7. Staff / City Council Comments**
  - *Public Works Director Kahn provided an update on the structural analysis of the Stockton Bridge and associated traffic impacts.*
  - *Chloe Woodmansee, Assistant to the City Manager, advised the public that the Historical Museum will be hosting a soft opening of their new exhibit on March 13<sup>th</sup>.*

- *Community and Economic Development Director Herlihy provided a staffing update for the Building Division and reminded the public of the Special Meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>.*
- *Council Member Orbach provided comments related to her attendance at the Youth Leadership Summit and provided an update on a citizen's initiative for a ballot measure benefitting METRO.*
- *Council Member Westman requested an agenda item to discuss support of METRO's ballot measure, Council Member Orbach seconded the request.*

## 8. Consent Items

- A. City Council Meeting Minutes  
Recommended Action: Approve minutes from the special meeting on February 23, 2026, and the regular meeting on February 26, 2026.
- B. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Calendar  
Recommended Action: Amend the Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27.
- C. RING Radio System Federal Funding Request  
Recommended Action: Authorize the Vice Mayor to send a letter to federal representatives requesting support for funding in the amount of \$5.4 million for the Regional Interoperable Next Generation (RING) Radio System serving Santa Cruz County public safety agencies.

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

***Second: Council Member Westman***

***Voting Yea: Council Members Clarke, Orbach, Westman, and Vice Mayor Jensen***

***Absent: Mayor Morgan***

## 9. General Government / Public Hearings

- A. E-Bike Safety Action Plan  
Recommended Action: Receive an update on the City's e-Bike Safety Action Plan, including recent legislative outreach and the development of an e-bike permit program at New Brighton Middle School, and provide feedback on next steps.

***Police Chief Ryan presented the staff report.***

**Public Comment:**

- ***Speaker***

***The City Council thanked the Police Chief and staff from Soquel Unified Elementary School District for their collaboration on this safety plan.***

- B. Capitola Active Transportation Plan Technical Consultant  
Recommended Action: Authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Fehr & Peers in an amount not to exceed \$145,000 to provide technical consultant services for development of the Capitola Active Transportation Plan (ATP).

***Public Works Director Kahn presented the staff report.***

**Public Comment:**

- ***Speaker***

***Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Fehr & Peers in an amount not to exceed \$145,000 to provide technical consultant services for development of the Capitola Active Transportation Plan (ATP): Council Member Westman***  
***Second: Council Member Orbach***

***Amendment proposed to include additional language in the agreement specific to Capitola Municipal Code 8.72: Council Member Clarke***

***Council Member Westman accepted the amendment, Council Member Orbach did not. Substitute motion to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Fehr & Peers in an amount not to exceed \$145,000 to provide technical consultant services for development of the Capitola Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and include additional language in the agreement specific to Capitola Municipal Code 8.72: Council Member Clarke***

***Second: Council Member Westman***

***Voting Yea: Council Members Clarke, Orbach, Westman, and Vice Mayor Jensen***

***Absent: Mayor Morgan***

C. Jade Street Site Improvements – Project Progress Update

**Recommended Action:** Receive the progress report on the full set of Jade Street projects, including the Community Center Renovation, Patio Improvements, Treasure Cove Playground, and the Jade Street Park Restroom Renovation.

***Public Works Director Kahn presented the staff report.***

**Public Comment:**

- ***Speaker***
- ***Speaker***

## 10. Adjournment

*The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM. Vice Mayor Jensen reminded the public of the special meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on March 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM.*

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Margaux Morgan, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Julia Gautho, City Clerk