

# City of Capitola

## Special City Council Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, January 16, 2025 – 5:30 PM



City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

**Mayor:** Vacant

**Vice Mayor:** Joe Clarke

**Council Members:** Gerry Jensen, Melinda Orbach, Alexander Pedersen

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### Special Meeting of the Capitola City Council – 5:30 PM

1. **Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance** - *The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. In attendance: Council Members Jensen, Orbach, Pedersen, and Vice Mayor Clarke.*
2. **Additions and Deletions to the Agenda** – *The City Manager requested that Items 7 and 8 be removed from the agenda due to City Attorney Zutler’s absence.*
3. **Additional Materials**
  - A. *Item 6A – Two emails received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - B. *Item 6B - One email received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - C. *Item 6C - One email received after publication of the agenda packet.*
  - D. *Item 6D - Two emails received after publication of the agenda packet, one application withdrawn.*
4. **Oral Communications by Members of the Public**
  - *Goran Klepic*
  - *Christina McCann*
  - *Ed Bottorff*
  - *Mike Morrissey*
5. **Staff / City Council Comments**
  - *City Manager Goldstein advised the City Council that a bid opening was conducted for the Community Center Renovation Project, a construction contract will be awarded at an upcoming City Council meeting.*
  - *City Council Member Orbach shared that she attended a local League of California Cities event; she requested that a future Council agenda item be considered to implement term limits to the City’s advisory bodies.*
  - *Vice Mayor Clarke requested a future Council presentation or table-top exercise for how to deal with a disaster event.*
6. **General Government / Public Hearings**
  - A. Appointment to Vacant City Council Seat  
Recommended Action: Receive a report regarding the interview process to fill the City Council vacancy and consider rescheduling the interviews to January 27, 2025.  
  
*City Clerk Gautho presented the staff report.*

**Public Comment:**

- **Leslie Nielsen**
- **Ed Bottorff**
- **Mike Morrissey**

**The City Council thanked the public for sharing feedback regarding this item. The Council discussed the possibility of accepting applications from the community to fill the vacancy and the implementation of a policy for future City Council vacancy appointments.**

**Motion to direct staff to create an application for the City Council vacancy (to include basic information, a resume, and four questions) with a deadline of January 23<sup>d</sup> at 5:00 PM to come back to the City Council on January 30<sup>th</sup> for the City Council to review and make an appointment: Council Member Jensen**

**Second: Vice Mayor Clarke**

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

B. City Council Reorganization for 2025

Recommended Action: Nominate and appoint a new Mayor and Vice-Mayor.

**Public Comment: None**

**The City Council decided by general consensus to continue this item to the January 30, 2025, regular City Council meeting.**

C. City Council Representation on Regional Boards & City Advisory Bodies

Recommended Action: Review nominations for City Council representatives on regional boards for the City Selection Committee meeting on January 27, 2025; review appointments of City Council representatives on regional boards and committees and City advisory bodies.

**City Manager Goldstein and City Clerk Gautho presented the staff report.**

**Public Comment: None**

**Motion to make the following nominations for the City Selection Committee on January 27, 2025: Vice Mayor Clarke**

**Second: Council Member Jensen**

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

- **LAFCO: Vice Mayor Clarke**
- **MBARD: Council Member Jensen**
- **3CE Policy Board: Council Member Jensen**

D. City Council Appointments to City Advisory Bodies

Recommended Action: Appoint members of the public to the City of Capitola's Art and Cultural Commission, Commission on the Environment, Finance Advisory Committee, and Historical Museum Board; appoint a member of the public as an alternate to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Bicycle Advisory Committee.

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

**Public Comment: None**

**The City Council discussed moving all other advisory body appointments to January 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Motion to appoint the following members of the public to the Art and Cultural Commission: Council Member Pedersen**

**Second: Council Member Orbach**

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

- **(Regular/At Large) Jill Payonzeck Lengre**
- **(Regular/At Large) Esther Sylvan**
- **(Regular/At Large) Laurie Hill**
- **(Regular/At Large) Mary Beth Cahalen**
- **(Artist) Roy Holmberg**
- **(Art Professional) Roy Johnson**

**7. Closed Session – *Removed from the agenda***

- i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)  
One Case

**8. Report on Closed Session – *Removed from the agenda.***

**9. Adjournment – *The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting is on January 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM.***

**ATTEST:**

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Joe Clarke, Vice Mayor

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Julia Gautho, City Clerk