



PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Nordbye at 5:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners present:	Chairperson Stephen Nordbye, Commissioners Sharon Lazorko, Daniel Louder(arrived at 5:33 pm), Tyler Rutledge, and Vice Chairperson Vern Montague
Commissioner absent:	None
Councilmember(s) present:	Vice Mayor Enriquez
Staff present:	City Planner Lisa Lozier and City Clerk Jennifer Schmitke

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Planning Commission Minutes from January 22, 2026

ACTION: Vice Chairperson Montague moved, seconded by Commissioner Rutledge, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Motion carried by a voice vote, 4-0-1, Commissioner Louder absent for vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION OR ACTION

A. Tree Ordinance Follow-Up

City Planner Lisa Lozier presented an updated staff report following the January 22nd Planning Commission meeting regarding the development of a Tree Ordinance for the City of Orland. The report revisited policy options for either amending Title 17 (Zoning) of the Orland Municipal Code to incorporate tree regulations or pursuing a stand-alone ordinance focused on tree conservation, protection, and maintenance.

Ms. Lozier shared that the Planning Commission discussed the benefits of both approaches and emphasized the importance of including education and community engagement in any future ordinance. At the January 22nd Planning Commission meeting the Commission directed staff to conduct additional research, including outreach to the University of California Cooperative Extension (Glenn County), consultation with arborists and the Master Gardener program, exploration of broader public outreach efforts, and research into developing a Heritage Tree Policy.

Ms. Lozier shared that, staff identified several resources, including contacts at UC Cooperative Extension–Glenn County, the Master Gardener Arborist Program and weekly plant clinic, the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute’s Cal Poly’s Selectree Database for climate-appropriate tree selection, and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 21538, a management guide for oak trees intended for woodland owners and managers.

Ms. Lozier noted that she attached additional reference materials to the staff report, including the City of Willows tree ordinance and master tree list, as well as the City of Orland 2021 tree list.

Orland resident Jan Walker provided background on the former tree committee, discussed the work of the Master Gardeners, and referenced the tree list created in 2018 for the streetscapes project.

Commissioner Lazorko shared that she spoke with Director Barber regarding the tree committee and Public Works’ involvement in tree maintenance. Director Barber indicated the committee is not currently active and that Public Works spends approximately 10% of its time on tree-related work primarily in the spring-with about 90% completed in-house and the remainder contracted out. Commissioner Lazorko expressed interest in revisiting the current tree list, including adding allergenic considerations, and questioned whether a formal ordinance is necessary, noting she appreciated the simplicity of the Willows ordinance. She also supported developing a written policy to guide the community, consistent with Director Barber’s preference for an educational approach.

Ms. Lozier stated she would like to meet with Director Barber to review the existing policy and tree list and explore incorporating elements from Willows into a draft policy.

Vice Chairperson Montague expressed support for a policy rather than an ordinance, emphasized the importance of heritage trees, and favored maintaining a recommended tree list.

Commissioner Rutledge agreed that an educational approach would provide guidance while preserving flexibility for residents.

Chairperson Nordbye also supported a simple policy approach and suggested inviting a representative from the UC office, along with Director Barber, to review the 2021 tree list and consider potential updates.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

- Commissioner Lazorko: Thanked Councilmember McDermott for speaking about the road conditions on East Street at the last City Council meeting, she stated she liked the road the way it was prior and was happy that something will be done about the pot holes on the road currently.
- Commissioner Rutledge: Nothing to report.
- Commissioner Louder: Nothing to report.
- Vice Chairperson Montague: Spoke about AB504 or 507 regarding commercial zoning.
- Chairperson Nordbye: Shared that the Wall that Heals will be in Orland the last week of March and that they are looking for volunteers and shared he will most likely miss the Planning Commission meeting that week.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schmitke, City Clerk

Stephen Nordbye, Chairperson