



MAY 13, 2025 - SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION - 4:00 P.M. - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – The Special Closed Session meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephens at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Buley, Council Member Pettis, Council Member Marr, Council Member Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem Chavez, and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: Council Member Gameros.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roberto Herrera, Resilience Orange County, thanked the previous City Manager and spoke in support of appointing Cecilia Gallardo-Daly as Interim City Manager.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6, (a)

Agency Designated Representative: Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Assistant City Manager

Name of Employee Organization: Costa Mesa Police Association (CMPA)

2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6, (a)

Agency Designated Representative: Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Assistant City Manager

Name of Employee Organization: Costa Mesa Police Management Association (CMPMA)

3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6, (a)

Agency Designated Representative: Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Assistant City Manager

Name of Employee Organization: Costa Mesa City Employees Association (CMCEA)

4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6, (a)

Agency Designated Representative: Cecilia Gallardo-Daly, Assistant City Manager

Name of Employee Organization: Costa Mesa Confidential Unit

5. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATION OF LITIGATION - ONE CASE

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2), Potential Litigation.

6. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)
Title: Interim City Manager

City Council recessed at 4:05 p.m. for Closed Session.

Closed Session recessed to the Study Session at 5:10 p.m.

Closed Session resumed at 8:28 p.m. after the Study Session.

Closed Session adjourned at 10:40 p.m. and no reportable action was taken.

**REGULAR STUDY SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 13, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER – The Study Session meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephens at 5:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Buley, Council Member Gameros, Council Member Pettis, Council Member Marr, Council Member Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem Chavez, and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: None.

STUDY SESSION ITEM:

1. FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Presentation by Ms. Molina, Finance Director, Mr. Diminich, Finance Officer, Mr. Sethuraman, Public Works Director, Ms. Reyes, Deputy City Manager, Ms. Tai, Economic and Development Services Director, Fire Chief Stefano, Assistant Fire Chief Pyle, Assistant Fire Chief Neal, Police Chief Lawrence, Mr. Ely, Information Technology Director, and Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director.

Public Comments:

Speaker, requested funding for Brentwood Park.

Roberto Herrera, Resilience Orange County, requested support for tenant protection programs.

Christian Lopez, Resilience Orange County, thanked City Council and staff for their work with the community, spoke on enhancing communication with the Spanish community, and publishing agendas earlier.

Angely Andrade spoke on park development on the Westside of Costa Mesa, spoke on annual investments in parks, and in support for green spaces.

Fischer Derderian, spoke in support of art in Costa Mesa, role of the Arts Commission, the Arts Master Plan, and revisiting the cannabis tax.

ACTION:

The City Council reviewed and offered comments and questions on the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Proposed All Funds Budget of \$224.4 million, with a General Fund component of \$186.9 million including:

- An update on the Fairview Developmental Center.
- Support for a Public Art Fund.
- Quarterly reports on crime data.
- A list of consultant contracts.
- Vacant positions and which positions are in the process of being filled.
- The number of Cannabis stores currently open and information on taxes and revenues.
- Legal fees regarding sober living litigation.
- Skate Park project budgeting.
- Waiving the Capital Asset Needs Ordinance.
- Community outreach and engagement.
- Human Resources training budget.
- Utilizing street sweeping funds.
- Reducing water usage.
- The Arts and Culture Master Plan fund from Measure Q.
- Legal fees.
- The halting of the Capital Asset Needs Ordinance for one year.
- Review street sweeping.
- Tennis Center fees.

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Stephens adjourned the Study Session at 8:28 p.m. and City Council recessed to Closed Session. Closed Session ended at 10:40 p.m., and no reportable action was taken.

Minutes adopted on this 1st day of September, 2026.

John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Green, City Clerk

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