



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

April 14, 2026
City Council Chamber
1 Civic Center Plaza
Irvine, CA 92606

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Irvine City Council was called to order at 4:07 p.m. on April 14, 2026, in the City Council Chamber, Irvine Civic Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, California; Mayor Agran presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6	Councilmember:	William Go
	Councilmember:	Melinda Liu
	Councilmember:	Betty Martinez Franco
	Councilmember:	Kathleen Treseder
	Vice Mayor:	James Mai
	Mayor:	Larry Agran
Absent: 1	Councilmember:	Mike Carroll

1. CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Melching announced the following Closed Session items:

- 1.1 **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION – (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) - In Re National Prescription Opiate Litigation, United States District Court Case No. 1:17-CV-2804**

1.2 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS (Government Code § 54956.8) – Property: 510 Technology Drive; Agency Negotiators: Sean Crumby, City Manager; Pete Carmichael, Assistant City Manager; Jeffrey Melching, City Attorney; Negotiating Parties: City of Irvine; Jeff Shaw, Vice President of Leasing, The Irvine Company; Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

There were no requests to speak.

RECESS

Mayor Agran recessed the City Council meeting to Closed Session at 4:12 p.m.

RECONVENE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Agran reconvened the City Council meeting at 5:01 p.m. City Attorney Melching, on behalf of the City Council, announced that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Go led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Agran requested a moment of silence in memory of City employees Winifred “Winnie” Todd, Senior Office Specialist, and Robin Chuang, Management Analyst II; and Barbara Wiener, former City Councilmember.

INVOCATION

Irvine Singers, Irvine High School’s advanced mixed singing ensemble, performed the National Anthem and “Unclouded Day.”

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 *United States Men's National Soccer Team*

Steven Stewart, Community & Library Services Superintendent, provided a brief presentation related to the United States Men’s National Soccer Team’s (USMNT) use of the Great Park as a base camp and responded to questions; and introduced Sam Zapatka, USMNT Manager, who presented a team jersey and challenge coins to the City Council.

Jeremy Ficarola, Irvine resident, spoke in support of the USMNT's use of the Great Park as a base camp and having more than one public event for the team.

By consensus, received and filed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

Susan Sayre, Irvine resident, spoke in support of 1) voter protection, as well as ballot verification and vote counting processes, from United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other potential governmental interference; 2) the upholding of terms of voter-enacted initiatives by the City; and 3) ranked choice voting.

Stephen M. Sponer spoke in support of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation into Irvine Police Department corruption, delays, and obstruction.

Ava Kotai and Makayla McCollister, University of California, Irvine, students, spoke in support of measures to protect community members regardless of immigration status in response to increased ICE enforcement activity.

Rolf Parkes, Irvine resident, spoke about the inability to proceed with an initiative petition related to Oak Creek based on the understanding of direction provided by the City Clerk.

Max, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to short-term affordable housing measures, including the proposed two-year housing vouchers related to Oak Creek development; and noted an Irvine Company notice to Orchard Park Apartments residents notifying them of the potential to convert those units to market rate.

Jason Garshfield, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to inconsistencies in addressing of inappropriate language at City Council meetings by the City Attorney.

Laura Cormack, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed Whoosh system in the Great Park and overemphasis of park use for profitable activities; and spoke in support of a park with amenities for the general public.

Mare Stephens spoke in support of adhering to Initiative Resolution 88-1.

Rana noted health concerns posed by the Bowerman Landfill; and expressed appreciation for the closure of the All American Asphalt plant.

James Hwang spoke in opposition to inconsistencies in the operation of automated stop announcements on Irvine CONNECT buses.

Dee Fox, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the nomination of Ann Hwu to the Wall of Recognition (WOR).

Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to the cancellation of recent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting, and spoke in support of the Committee's dissolution; and noted the absences of Will Ferrell, Ezra Klein, and Zack de la Rocha from the WOR.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Michael Kent, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police, noted that there had been no recent immigration enforcement activity in the City since his prior update.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Liu

- The March report of the Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District showed zero positive disease samples in Irvine this year. The District is currently ramping up its Sterile Insect Technique program ahead of the summer months.
- At the last Hotel Improvement District Operating Committee meeting, updates were provided regarding the FIFA World Cup and proposed California Welcome Center at the Great Park.
- The Orange County Sanitation District launched a comprehensive cost-of-service rate study and hosted its largest Citizen's Academy to date, with four Irvine residents among the graduates.
- Councilmember Liu recently joined Councilmember Treseder, along with a group of experts invited by the Municipal Water District of Orange County, to inspect a state water project on Delta Island and learned about water conveyance, infrastructure, and habitat restoration efforts.
- Councilmember Liu expressed appreciation to those who attended the community forum on Youth Domestic Violence Prevention cohosted with Radiant Futures and Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California.
- Members of the public are encouraged to register for the next American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at Northwood Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Councilmember Liu's office, in partnership with OC Goes Solar and Orange County Power Authority, will host a Solar and Power Town Hall on April 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Portola Springs Community Center.
- An Armenian Genocide Commemoration event will be held on April 22.

- Applications for the 2026 Youth Peace Camp are open for grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Korean War veterans through April 27.

Councilmember Martinez Franco

- Councilmember Martinez Franco recently participated in Hands on Training and Resident Appreciation events with Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), and joined Rancho San Joaquin residents to express appreciation to OCFA for a quick response that helped stop a recent brush fire from spreading to neighboring homes.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco recently joined Congressman Dave Min and local leaders at a press conference to call for transparency after ICE confirmed its new office lease in Irvine.
- Councilmember Martinez Franco's office will distribute free food next month to those in need by partnering with Tree of New America on Saturday, May 23, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Mike Ward Community Park.

Councilmember Go

- Councilmember Go recently toured the Call to Adventure at the California Fire Museum and the Flying Leathernecks' restoration hangars. The fire museum recently had its grand opening in the City of Orange.
- Councilmember Go provided certain updates to the Exchange Club of Irvine.
- Councilmember Go attended the Irvine Police Department Open House, where residents were given a glimpse of the department's operations.
- The Orange County Transportation Authority authorized funding amendments for public outreach on Route 55 improvements between Interstates 5 and 405, as well as allocations of \$27.8 million in M2 funds for critical rail infrastructure.
- The Southern California Association of Governments adopted the "Local Data Exchange and Forecasted Development Pattern Guiding Principles," which will support the Connect SoCal 2050 plan by sharing regional transportation data across participating jurisdictions.
- Councilmember Go invited members of the public to attend the following events:
 - Great Park Library Planning Community Meeting on April 20 from 6-7 p.m. at the Great Park Studio;
 - CicloIrvine is taking place on May 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Irvine Boulevard; and
 - Irvine Dream Run at the Great Park on Saturday, May 9.

Mayor Agran

- The Irvine Animal Care Center (IACC) invites all runners, walkers, and animal lovers to support animals in need by participating in its Virtual 5K through April 30. Participants can complete the Virtual 5K at their own pace at any location. Every mile supports the health and well-being of animals in the center's care. To enter, submit an entry fee of \$35 at irvineanimals.org/5k, complete the race before April 30, and receive an exclusive race medal and certificate. Participants can enter their four-legged friends to complete the 5K for an additional \$8, and pets will also receive their very own medal for completing the race. Proceeds go toward special programs at the IACC, which provides sheltering, care, and enrichment for homeless, neglected, abused, or unwanted animals.
- Earth Day is April 22, and the entire month of April is recognized as Earth Month. Residents and businesses are encouraged to take actions to help preserve and protect the planet and pave the way for a greener future. Celebrate Earth Day at Quail Hill Community Center on Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will offer guided hikes, compost demonstrations, and much more. The City is also taking part in the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation this month. The challenge, presented by the Wyland Foundation, invites residents to make a long-term commitment to managing water resources more wisely. Visit mywaterpledge.com by April 30 to join the challenge and help conserve water on behalf of the City of Irvine. For more information, visit cityofirvine.org/earthday.
- Discover the next generation of artists with the return of the High School Art Exhibition on view through Friday, May 15, at Irvine City Hall. Featuring an inspiring collection of artwork by students attending high schools throughout Irvine, this exhibition offers a compelling look at the voices and visions shaping the future of art. Awards will be presented for outstanding submissions during a free opening reception on Thursday, April 23, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Additionally, BLICK Art Materials generously donate art supplies to the classrooms of the winning high school students. For more information, visit cityofirvine.org/artatcityhall.
- Safe, well-maintained roads are an important part of the City's commitment to providing an excellent quality of life. City staff work diligently to repair potholes, but with more than 470 centerline miles of roadway, the community plays an important role in helping identify areas in need of attention. To report potholes, motorists can call the City's hotline at 949-724-7600, report on the Access Irvine mobile app, or submit a request at cityofirvine.org/howcanwehelp.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, Mayor Agran suggested reordering the agenda to consider Council Business Item No. 5.4 following Council Business Item No. 5.1.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Go, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 3.1 through 3.4, and 3.6. Consent Calendar Item No. 3.5 was removed for separate discussion.

3.1 MINUTES

ACTION:

- 1) Approved the minutes of a special meeting of the City Council held on March 10, 2026, at 3 p.m.
- 2) Approved the minutes of a special meeting of the City Council held on March 10, 2026, at 4 p.m.

3.2 PROCLAMATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Proclaimed April 12-18, 2026, as "Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week."
- 2) Proclaimed April 24, 2026, as "Arbor Day."

3.3 WARRANT AND WIRE TRANSFER RESOLUTION

ACTION:

Adopted RESOLUTION NO. 26-26 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS AND SPECIFYING THE FUNDS OUT OF WHICH THE SAME ARE TO BE PAID

3.4 AMENDMENT 3 WITH LAZ PARKING CALIFORNIA, LLC

ACTION:

Approved and authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to execute Amendment No. 3 with LAZ PARKING CALIFORNIA, LLC for continued operation of the IrvineCONNECT shuttle. **(Contract No. XXXXX)**

3.5 RESPONSE TO ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING CONNECTING ORANGE COUNTY TO LAX: EVALUATING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

This item was removed for separate discussion at the request of Mayor Agran, who expressed interest in reestablishing service from Irvine to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and suggested continuing the item to a future City Council meeting.

Sean Crumby, City Manager, responded to questions. Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works & Sustainability, was also available for questions.

City Council discussion included: suggesting that the City's response include interest in reestablishing service from Irvine to LAX and a history of the former Flyaway service; and inquired about the date by which the City was required to respond.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Liu, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

Continue the item to a time chosen by the City Manager with the benefit of a staff report to be made at that time.

3.6 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND GRANT NOMINATIONS

ACTION:

- 1) Approved Councilmember Go's request for Community Partnership Fund Grant Nomination to Fallen Firefighter Relief Fund in the amount of \$1,500 for program costs. **(Contract No. XXXXX)**
- 2) Authorized the City Manager to prepare and sign a funding agreement for the organization listed above.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4.1 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE OPEN SPACE APPROACH FOR PLANNING AREA 12 (OAK CREEK)

Mayor Agran opened the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

Alyssa Matheus, Planning Manager, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Stephanie Frady, Director of Community Development, was also available for questions.

Jeff Melching, City Attorney, provided a brief overview of the General Plan and Zoning Code as they relate to Oak Creek, and responded to questions.

Jeff Davis, representing Irvine Company, and Jennifer Rigby, Interpretive Planner, provided a brief overview of Irvine Company's proposed nature park and community engagement process.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed zoning amendment at Oak Creek:

- Doug Carstens, on behalf of the Orange Tree Homeowners Association and Save Irvine Open Space,
- Rolf Parkes
- Derek Shirk, Irvine resident
- John Albritton
- Rae Pirrello
- Lisa Wood, Irvine resident
- Christina Shea, Irvine resident
- Paul Vu
- Joanne Slobodien
- Jaime Aclander
- Sally Anne Sheridan
- Greg Smith
- Linda Smith, Irvine resident
- Kathryn Osann, Irvine resident
- Dave Foshee, Irvine resident
- Judith Steinhouser, Irvine resident
- Cheri Kettler, Irvine resident
- Paula Miller, The Ranch Homeowners Association President
- Jim Foley, Irvine resident
- Monte Taylor, Irvine resident
- Matt Bretan, Woodbridge Village Association Board of Directors President
- Emma Zhao, University High School student
- Linda Brookhyser, Irvine resident
- Maria McGregor, Irvine resident
- Caryn Kaufman, Irvine resident
- Sandra Goldman, Irvine resident
- Dale Brenner
- Abdolah Moezi, Irvine resident
- Susie Winocur
- Max
- Sharon Wallin, Irvine resident
- Arefeh Lotfian, Irvine resident
- Barry Whitesides, Irvine resident
- Eileen McCarthy
- Art Brown, Irvine resident
- Byron Luoma, Irvine resident
- Sima Bastani, Irvine resident
- David Hackett, Irvine resident
- Bobi Rush

- Elliot Wooten, Irvine resident
- Vera Snyder, Irvine resident
- Pamela Lukas, Irvine resident
- Ruth Bruno, Irvine resident
- Marty Dekarver, Irvine resident
- Mike Ellison, Irvine resident
- Melinda Tomelleri, Irvine resident
- Vivek Devaraj, Irvine resident
- Heidi
- Mary Johnson
- Eric Firooz
- Austin Wagner
- Don Geller, Irvine resident
- Shady Shaaban, Irvine resident
- Michael LeBlanc
- Eric Neshanian, Irvine resident
- Matt Pimentel
- Mona
- Sandra Rush
- Donald Gardner, Irvine resident
- Dee Fox, Irvine resident
- Ethan G. Matkin
- (949) ***_*348
- Nancy Wang

The following individuals spoke in support:

- Bill Shultz, Irvine resident
- Kristy Chen
- Ryan Bates, representing Irvine Neighbors for Nature
- Geraldine Larson, small business owner and Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (FACCOC) Past President
- Mike Nystrom, Irvine resident
- Kimberly Goh, Irvine resident and entrepreneur
- Natalie Poulin, Irvine resident
- Chanchala Singh, Irvine resident
- Tiffany Aguinaldo, Irvine resident
- Pumi Phipathananant, Irvine resident
- Emix Dial, business owner and Filipino Influential Leaders and Mentors (FILAM) founding member
- Neda Mohaved, Irvine resident
- Jeff Bautista, FACCOC President
- Lara Sinanian

- Hima Nipuletti, representing the Asian Business Association of Orange County
- Majid Mohaved, Irvine resident
- Neil Estrada, Irvine resident
- Farah Kanchar, Irvine resident and Arab American Business Chamber President
- Diana and Clark Colby, Irvine residents and entrepreneurs
- Joseph Joseph, small business owner and FACCOB Board Member
- Russ Peterson
- Ryan Borda
- Laura Borda, Irvine resident
- Mohammed Islam
- Tim Cheng, Irvine resident
- Jennifer King, Irvine resident
- Sam Tseng, Irvine resident
- Chris Bank, Irvine resident
- Crit
- Joshua Moore, Irvine resident
- James Hwang, Irvine resident
- Jay Sato, Irvine resident
- Jeremy Ficarola, Irvine resident
- Richard Tang, Irvine resident

Jay Bruce spoke in support of a more detailed and comprehensive zoning ordinance.

RECESS

Mayor Agran recessed the City Council meeting at 9:17 p.m.

RECONVENE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Agran reconvened the City Council meeting at 9:35 p.m.

4.1 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE OPEN SPACE APPROACH FOR PLANNING AREA 12 (OAK CREEK) (CONTINUED)

City Council discussion included: inquiring about the effects of previous voter-approved ballot initiatives; questioned the impacts of the proposed zoning ordinance amendment on preservation, existing maps, use of open space, and the General Plan; noted potential impacts to traffic and open space accessibility; discussed the submission of a ballot measure; suggested that the Irvine Company enhance its outreach efforts; noted the potential for future development; questioned next steps in the event

that the ordinance was adopted; inquired about the project status with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as the overall Environmental Impact Report (EIR) preparation process and timeline; questioned continuity with the Jeffrey Open Space Trail and other trailheads; and inquired about traffic mitigation measures.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Martinez Franco, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to close the public hearing at 10:10 p.m.

ACTION: Moved by Vice Mayor Mai, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

Introduce for the first reading and read by title only ORDINANCE NO. 26-07 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE CHANGE 00976603-PZC TO AMEND SECTION 9-12-7 OF THE IRVINE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING OPEN SPACE IN PLANNING AREA 12 (OAK CREEK); FILED BY IRVINE COMPANY

5. COUNCIL BUSINESS

5.1 COUNTY WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

Luis Estevez, Director of Public Works & Sustainability, presented the staff report and responded to questions.

Michelle Johnson, Irvine resident, inquired about the City's trash rates in comparison with other cities, timing for publicizing the new rates, benefits gained through the City conducting its own composting, and the timetable for the collaborative agreement.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about whether revenue would be applied to the General Fund; questioned the overall process and when the new fees would become effective; inquired about revenue generation and potential consequences; questioned the City's trash rates in comparison with other cities; inquired about benefits gained through the City by conducting its own composting; and suggested the enhancement of community outreach.

ACTION: Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Liu, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

- 1) Approve the Waste Infrastructure System Enterprise (WISE) Agreement with the County of Orange for municipal solid waste disposal rates and services.
- 2) Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the agreement on behalf of the City and make minor modifications as necessary.

5.2 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBER MARTINEZ FRANCO TO DISCUSS CONDUCTING A STUDY ON POTENTIAL LOW-INCOME SOLID WASTE RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This item was agendaized at the request of Councilmember Martinez Franco, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss conducting a study on a potential low-income solid waste rate assistance program.

Sean Crumby, City Manager, responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about a staff evaluation of existing programs and any potential augmentation; expressed concern about the City's current fiscal challenges; suggested polling of other cities; and inquired about the potential use of a consultant for a feasibility study.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Martinez Franco, seconded by Mayor Agran, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

Direct City staff to conduct a feasibility study evaluating the creation of a Low-Income Residential Solid Waste Rate Assistance Program that could partially or fully subsidize trash service rates for qualifying Irvine households, and return to the City Council with findings, policy options, and implementation recommendations within 120 days.

5.4 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY VICE MAYOR MAI TO DISCUSS DIRECTION ON PUBLIC FISCAL BRIEFING AND IMMEDIATE COST CONTROLS

This item was agendaized at the request of Vice Mayor Mai, who asked for City Council consideration to discuss current fiscal situation and the immediate implementation of cost controls.

Dahle Bulosan, Director of Administrative Services, provided an overview of the City's budget and responded to questions. Jonathan Nih, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, and Sean Crumby, City Manager, also responded to questions.

Jay Bruce spoke in support of an expedited mid-cycle budget review and a holistic approach.

Don Geller, Irvine resident and Finance Commission Chair, speaking on behalf of the Finance Commission, noted the Commission's upcoming review of the mid-cycle budget; expressed appreciation to staff; and reiterated underuse of Finance Commission consideration on fiscal matters.

Darren Parker spoke in support of Vice Mayor Mai's request and noted the opportunity for course correction.

The following individuals spoke in support of the City opting out of the Orange County Power Authority (OCPA) to reduce spending:

- Harvey Liss, Irvine resident
- Dee Fox, Irvine resident
- Vicki Johnson

Mona spoke in support of fiscal responsibility and Finance Commission review; and spoke in opposition to quick spending of repaid OCPA funds.

Michelle Johnson and Eric Neshanian, Irvine residents, spoke in support of the City following the normal budget process and a measured approach.

Tiffany Im, Irvine resident, spoke in opposition to a tax increase and a potential transition to Southern California Edison.

Alan Meyerson, Irvine resident, inquired about the distribution of budget information to the City Council and spoke in opposition to the idea that the City was in a fiscal emergency.

Alfredo spoke in opposition to a hiring freeze and the lack of context in Vice Mayor Mai's memorandum.

Following public comments, Councilmember Treseder expressed concern that Don Geller, Chair of the Finance Commission, introduced himself as speaking on behalf of the Finance Commission without a vote of his colleagues authorizing him to do so, though Mayor Agran disagreed with her assessment of Mr. Geller's introduction.

City Council discussion included: suggesting Finance Commission review at its upcoming meeting on May 4, 2026, followed by a special City Council meeting on May 5; inquired about the City's fiscal situation in comparison to other jurisdictions; questioned pension funding levels, general obligation debt levels, and status of outstanding bonds; inquired about inclusion of the Waste Infrastructure System Enterprise Agreement and associated fee adjustments; inquired about the overall budget process and timeframe for budget adoption; inquired about current funding levels and potential balancing measures; questioned the history of Great Park funding transfers to the General Fund, as well as the City's history related to budget deficits; inquired about tourism and the potential to generate revenue; discussed the City's tax rates in comparison to other jurisdictions; inquired about sales and property taxes; questioned current and recommended reserve funding rates; inquired about when the Mayor and City Councilmembers were made aware of the current fiscal situation; questioned any direction given to the City Manager; inquired about polling related to tax increases; discussed potential strategies for increasing revenue; expressed concern about previous budgetary matters and related decisions by former City Manager Chi; and inquired about library funding sources.

ACTION: Moved by Vice Mayor Mai, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, to:

Direct staff to:

- 1) Implement an immediate hiring freeze, with exceptions only as necessary to protect core public safety and essential City operations through the Council's scheduled public budget discussion on this matter.
- 2) Continue the current pause on nonessential spending with exceptions only necessary to protect core City services and operations.
- 3) Return to the City Council at a public meeting with a report that: a) identifies near-term expenditure control options; b) recommends structural budget solutions for FY's 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and beyond; c) clearly present the fiscal impact, advantages, and disadvantages and service implications of each major operation including expenditure reductions, fee maximization, vacancy management, use of one-time funds, use of reserves, and potential revenue measures; d) provide recommendations for immediate actions the City Council can take to preserve flexibility and protect core City services; and e) outline a proposed plan for a public-facing budget workshop including participation

activities for residents, taxpayers, employee associations, and other interested stakeholders.

- 4) Present the public planned workshop to the City Council at the same meeting so the Council may consider next steps for a transparent public process before major long-term fiscal decisions are made.

ACTION: A friendly amendment was made by Councilmember Treseder as seconder, and accepted by Vice Mayor Mai as mover, to:

Direct staff to:

- 1) Implement an immediate hiring freeze, with exceptions only as necessary to protect core public safety and essential City operations through the Council's scheduled public budget discussion on this matter.
- 2) Continue the current pause on nonessential spending with exceptions only necessary to protect core City services and operations.
- 3) Return to the City Council at a public meeting with a report that: a) identifies near-term expenditure control options; b) recommends structural budget solutions for FY's 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and beyond; c) clearly present the fiscal impact, advantages, and disadvantages and service implications of each major operation including expenditure reductions, fee maximization, vacancy management, use of one-time funds, use of reserves, and potential revenue measures; d) provide recommendations for immediate actions the City Council can take to preserve flexibility and protect core City services; and e) outline a proposed plan for a public-facing budget workshop including participation activities for residents, taxpayers, employee associations, and other interested stakeholders.
- 4) Present the public planned workshop to the City Council at the same meeting so the Council may consider next steps for a transparent public process before major long-term fiscal decisions are made.
- 5) Include a forensic audit to be conducted by a third-party forensic auditing firm to be selected by the City Council covering the period from January 1, 2020, to present.

ACTION: A substitute motion was made by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Liu, to:

Continue the item to a special meeting of the City Council to be held on May 5, 2026.

The motion failed as follows:

AYES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Liu, Martinez Franco, and Agran

NOES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Go, Mai, and Treseder

ABSENT: 1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

Following discussion, a vote was taken on the friendly amendment to the main motion.

ACTION: A friendly amendment was made by Councilmember Treseder as seconder, and accepted by Vice Mayor Mai as mover, to:

Direct staff to:

- 1) Implement an immediate hiring freeze, with exceptions only as necessary to protect core public safety and essential City operations through the Council's scheduled public budget discussion on this matter.
- 2) Continue the current pause on nonessential spending with exceptions only necessary to protect core City services and operations.
- 3) Return to the City Council at a public meeting with a report that: a) identifies near-term expenditure control options; b) recommends structural budget solutions for FY's 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, and beyond; c) clearly present the fiscal impact, advantages, and disadvantages and service implications of each major operation including expenditure reductions, fee maximization, vacancy management, use of one-time funds, use of reserves, and potential revenue measures; d) provide recommendations for immediate actions the City Council can take to preserve flexibility and protect core City services; and e) outline a proposed plan for a public-facing budget workshop including participation activities for residents, taxpayers, employee associations, and other interested stakeholders.
- 4) Present the public planned workshop to the City Council at the same meeting so the Council may consider next steps for a transparent public process before major long-term fiscal decisions are made.

- 5) Include a forensic audit to be conducted by a third-party forensic auditing firm to be selected by the City Council covering the period from January 1, 2020, to present.

The motion failed as follows:

AYES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Go, Mai, and Treseder

NOES: 3 COUNCILMEMBERS: Liu, Martinez Franco, and Agran

ABSENT: 1 COUNCILMEMBERS: Carroll

ABSTAIN: 0 COUNCILMEMBERS: None

5.3 LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSED PLAN

Julie Zeoli, Deputy Director of Community & Library Services/City Librarian, presented the staff report and responded to questions. Chris Slama, Director of Community & Library Services, also responded to questions.

City Council discussion included: inquiring about timelines related to selection and committee composition, including Councilmember appointees and members from Friends of the Library organizations; suggested two at-large appointees in addition to the seven Councilmember appointees; and inquired about any urgency to establish the committee and suggested continuing the item to the next City Council meeting for further consideration.

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Treseder, seconded by Councilmember Martinez Franco, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

Continue the item to the April 28, 2026, City Council meeting.

5.5 CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST BY COUNCILMEMBERS TRESEDER, MARTINEZ FRANCO, AND LIU TO DISCUSS THE ADOPTION OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

ACTION: Moved by Councilmember Treseder, seconded by Councilmember Liu, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to:

Continue the item to the April 28, 2026, City Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mayor Agran, seconded by Councilmember Treseder, and unanimously carried by those members present (Councilmember Carroll absent), to adjourn the meeting in memory of Winifred “Winnie” Todd and Robin Chuang, and former Councilmember Barbara Wiener, at 12:46 a.m.


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF IRVINE


CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF IRVINE

May 12, 2026