

City of Capitola

Special City Council Meeting Agenda

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

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

All correspondence received prior to 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding a Council Meeting will be distributed to Councilmembers to review prior to the meeting. Information submitted after 5 p.m. on that Wednesday may not have time to reach Councilmembers, nor be read by them prior to consideration of an item.

1. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Gerry Jensen, Melinda Orbach, Alexander Pedersen, and Vice Mayor Joe Clarke.

2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

3. Additional Materials

Additional information submitted to the City after distribution of the agenda packet.

- [A.](#) Item 6A - Correspondence Received
- [B.](#) Item 6B - Correspondence Received
- [C.](#) Item 6C - Correspondence Received
- [D.](#) Item 6D - Correspondence Received & One Application Withdrawn

4. Oral Communications by Members of the Public

*Oral Communications allows time for members of the Public to address the City Council on any "Consent Item" on tonight's agenda, or on any topic within the jurisdiction of the City that is not on the "General Government/Public Hearings" section of the Agenda. Members of the public may speak for up to three minutes, unless otherwise specified by the Mayor. Individuals may not speak more than once during Oral Communications. All speakers must address the entire legislative body and will not be permitted to engage in dialogue. **A maximum of 30 minutes** is set aside for Oral Communications.*

5. Staff / City Council Comments

Comments are limited to three minutes.

6. General Government / Public Hearings

All items listed in "General Government / Public Hearings" are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure pertains to each General Government item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Council questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Council deliberation; 5) Decision.

- 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.
- B.** City Council Reorganization for 2025
Recommended Action: Nominate and appoint a new Mayor and Vice-Mayor.
- 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.
- 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.

7. Closed Session

Closed Sessions are not open to the public and held only on specific topics allowed by State Law (noticed below). An announcement regarding the items to be discussed in Closed Session will be made in the City Hall Council Chambers prior to the Closed Session. Members of the public may, at this time, address the City Council on closed session items only. There will be a report of any final decisions in City Council Chambers during the Open Session Meeting.

- 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

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

How to View the Meeting

Meetings are open to the public for in-person attendance at the Capitola City Council Chambers located at 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, California, 95010.

Other ways to Watch:

Spectrum Cable Television channel 8

City of Capitola, California YouTube Channel

To Join Zoom Application or Call in to Zoom:

Meeting

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83328173113?pwd=aVRwcWN3RU03Zzc2dkNpQzRWVXAydz09>

Or dial one of these phone numbers: **1 (669) 900 6833, 1 (408) 638 0968, 1 (346) 248 7799**

Meeting ID: **833 2817 3113**

Meeting Passcode: **678550**

How to Provide Comments to the City Council

Members of the public may provide public comments to the City Council in-person during the meeting. If you are unable to attend in-person, please email your comments to citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us and

they will be included as a part of the record for the meeting. Please be aware that the City Council will not accept comments via Zoom.

Notice regarding City Council: The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola.

Agenda and Agenda Packet Materials: The City Council Agenda and the complete Agenda Packet are available for review on the City’s website and at Capitola City Hall prior to the meeting. Need more information? Contact the City Clerk’s office at 831-475-7300.

Agenda Materials Distributed after Distribution of the Agenda Packet: Pursuant to Government Code §54957.5, materials related to an agenda item submitted after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Reception Office at City Hall, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, California, during normal business hours.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Disability-related aids or services are available to enable persons with a disability to participate in this meeting consistent with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Assisted listening devices are available for individuals with hearing impairments at the meeting in the City Council Chambers. Should you require special accommodations to participate in the meeting due to a disability, please contact the City Clerk’s office at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting at 831-475-7300. In an effort to accommodate individuals with environmental sensitivities, attendees are requested to refrain from wearing perfumes and other scented products.

Si desea asistir a esta reunión pública y necesita ayuda - como un intérprete de lenguaje de señas americano, español u otro equipo especial - favor de llamar al Departamento de la Secretaría de la Ciudad al 831-475-7300 al menos tres días antes para que podamos coordinar dicha asistencia especial o envíe un correo electrónico a jgautho@ci.capitola.ca.us.

Televised Meetings: City Council meetings are cablecast “Live” on Charter Communications Cable TV Channel 8 and are recorded to be rebroadcasted at 8:00 a.m. on the Wednesday following the meetings and at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday following the first rebroadcast on Community Television of Santa Cruz County (Charter Channel 71 and Comcast Channel 25). Meetings are streamed “Live” on the City’s website by clicking on the Home Page link “Meeting Agendas/Videos.” Archived meetings can be viewed from the website at any time.

Gautho, Julia

From: John <jxmlry@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 8:04 PM
To: City Council; Gautho, Julia
Subject: Candidates Unable to Serve/ 1/16 Special Meetonv

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

If you miss the interview you don't get the job folks. One has to be realistic. If one candidate shows up and the other doesn't you give the job to one who wants it enough to be present.

Margaux isn't going to be coherent in 11 days no matter how much you prep her. She can't even keep paradise from its steep decline. We can do better.

Warmly JM

Gautho, Julia

From: heatherohara36@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 1:57 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Ms Morgan to fill empty seat

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I reiterate that Ms Morgan is the right choice for our city council. The two candidates that are going to be question tonight have already been vetted and ran for a seat. They both have answered many questions and attended many "meet and greets" throughout their campaign. Moving this decision from last week is only a waste of time. Wasted time equals wasted money, as a city we cannot afford either. Please do not make this a habit of how you as a council plan to do things. The council represents the people, the vote is counted. Ms Morgan is the runner up and should fill the seat.

Heather

Gautho, Julia

From: Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); Gautho, Julia; City Council
Subject: Jan 16 agenda comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Jamie, Julia and Council,

The agenda for the City Council Meeting tomorrow evening does not make sense.

As there are no minutes available for the 1/9/25 meeting, I re-watched the decision made at 2:31 on the recorded video by the council at the 1/9 meeting to defer items D, E, and F.

All 4 council members agreed that it was best to wait until a 5th member was sworn in to appoint positions defined in Items D, E and F.

A week later, we have agenda items B, C and D with recommended actions to nominate and appoint a mayor and vice mayor, review nominations and appointments for city council representation on regional boards and city advisory committees, and to appoint members to city advisory bodies.

However, Item 6A for tomorrow now suggests reviewing a **process** to interview candidates and suggests re-scheduling interviews to January 27th.

With Ms. Morgan unavailable to attend, it is clear the motion that passed last week cannot be executed tomorrow.

Therefore, the remaining agenda items if addressed will be in direct conflict to what the council agreed to do last week.

With the mayor position vacant, it is likely staff or the collective council set the agenda for tomorrow night.

I would like to see the council follow the established procedure for amending an agenda that is different than what was proposed and take a vote before the meeting starts to ensure they have all 4 changed their minds from last week and would like to go forward with nominations and appointments ahead of having the 5th member sworn in.

If the council has not changed their minds, can the City staff please cancel this meeting or refine the agenda to only the time sensitive appointments needed - eg. Arts and Culture commission. The public does not need to attend another poorly managed inefficient meeting.

If we have had time to reflect on last week's meeting, perhaps the first motion proposed last week to follow a swift and efficient community involved process to review applicants, create a short list to interview and appoint can also be brought back for discussion. Whoever is sworn in to this seat will have a far better chance of being successful and helpful to the community if they are not simply appointed by 4 people who are "new to all of this".

We have a lot of work to do. Let's mature this effort to be process v. people oriented, get a qualified candidate in the seat quickly, and eliminate the fodder for more "people drama".

Regards,
Leslie Nielsen

Item 3 B.

Gautho, Julia

From: Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); Gautho, Julia; City Council
Subject: Jan 16 agenda comments

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Regards,
Leslie Nielsen

Item 3 C.

Gautho, Julia

From: Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); Gautho, Julia; City Council
Subject: Jan 16 agenda comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Regards,
Leslie Nielsen

Item 3 D.

Gautho, Julia

From: Amanda Lee Dover <adover@umd.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 4:19 PM
To: Gautho, Julia
Subject: Withdrawl from consideration for the Museum Board

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Julia,

My name is Amanda Dover and I was informed that I needed to send you an email in regards to my withdrawal from consideration for the Capitola Museum Board. I am withdrawing because my work schedule has recently changed and conflicts with the board meeting times. I apologize and thank you for your time and consideration.

Have a wonderful evening.

Amanda Dover
408 892 2858

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 16, 2025
From: City Manager's Department
Subject: 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.

Background: On January 3rd, Mayor Yvette Brooks announced her resignation from the City Council effective January 15, 2025. The requirements to fill a vacancy on City Council are defined by Government Code Section 36512.

Section 36512(b) states if a vacancy occurs in an elective office, the Council shall, within 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, either call a special election to fill the vacancy or fill the vacancy by appointment.

At the January 9, 2025, meeting, the City Council declared a vacancy to fill Mayor Brooks' City Council seat. The City Council directed staff to invite the two remaining candidates from the November 5, 2024, General Municipal Election, Enrique Dolmo Jr. and Margaux Morgan, to be interviewed on January 16, 2025.

Staff reached out to both candidates. Margaux Morgan was not available to attend the January 16th interview, due to a previously scheduled conflict.

Discussion: Staff recommends rescheduling the interviews to January 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM (or an alternate date) to allow for participation from both candidates. Originally, City Council was scheduled to hold a strategic planning workshop from 2-6 PM that day, however, due to the vacancy, Council may wish to repurpose that meeting date.

Staff will prepare potential questions for the City Council to use in the interviews based on suggested interview questions from individual Councilmembers, best practices, and legal review. The special meeting will include an opportunity for public comment. Staff recommends Council conclude that meeting by appointing one of the two candidates by a motion and vote and schedule the swearing-in ceremony for the January 30th regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

The Council must either appoint a successor to the vacant seat or call a special election no later than 60 days from the commencement of the vacancy, pursuant to Government Code Section 36512 (b). This appointment deadline is March 14, 2025, following the commencement of the vacancy on January 15, 2025.

Fiscal Impact: There would be no fiscal impact to appoint a replacement Councilmember to fill the vacancy. The current adopted budget does not include funding for a special election. Should Council direct staff to prepare documentation for such an election, staff would work with the County Clerk to determine estimated election costs and prepare a budget amendment.

Attachments: Public Comments (Received after publication of January 9th Agenda)

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Reviewed By: Samantha Zutler, City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager

Gautho, Julia

From: Brigitt Nelson <themidge78@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 10:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Margaux Morgan for Council

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Brigitt Nelson

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: Sue Hart <sue.hart09@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 8:26 AM
To: City Council
Subject: City council appointment

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

> Dear Capitola City Council,

>

> With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

>

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>

> Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

>

> Sincerely,
Larry and Suzanne Hart
Capitola residents

Sent from my iPad



For 1/16 special council mtg

From Michael routh <qwakwak@icloud.com>
Date Fri 1/10/2025 1:23 PM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear council members,

What a disappointing display Thursday night of ignoring the community that elected you. And how disappointing you missed a golden opportunity to appoint someone who could actually contribute new ideas. Margaux was turned out of office by the voters. She came in 3rd behind the 2nd place finisher by 700 votes. Obviously the community was unhappy with her performance on the council. She refused to meet with residents who disagreed with her. She said her “greatest accomplishment” was meeting the President!?!? She was booted from office because of poor performance and positions not being aligned with a majority of Capitola residents. To return her to the council will be a slap in the face to Capitola voters.

If you must appoint, and refuse to change course and open the selection process, than appoint Enrique Dolmo. He is a better

choice.

Mick Routh
Former Mayor / Council member
1972-1996

Sent from my iPhone



Outlook

For 1/16 special council mtg

From Michael routh <qwakwak@icloud.com>

Date Fri 1/10/2025 1:29 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear council members,

What a disappointing display Thursday night of ignoring the community that elected you. And how disappointing you missed a golden opportunity to appoint someone who could actually contribute new ideas. Margaux was turned out of office by the voters. She came in 3rd behind the 2nd place finisher by 700 votes. Obviously the community was unhappy with her performance on the council. She refused to meet with residents who disagreed with her. She said her “greatest accomplishment” was meeting the President!?!? She was booted from office because of poor performance and positions not being aligned with a majority of Capitola residents. To return her to the council will be a slap in the face to Capitola voters.

If you must appoint, and refuse to change course and open the selection process, than appoint Enrique Dolmo. He is a better

CHOICE.

Item 6 A.

Mick Routh
Former Mayor / Council member
1972-1996

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: Kevin Maguire <kmaguire831@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 10:16 PM
To: City Council; Gautho, Julia; Woodmansee, Chloe; Goldstein, Jamie
(jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: (1/16/2025) 1/9/2025 8C. Process to Fill Vacant Council Seat

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

With the Special City Council meeting set for 1/16/2025.

Having Mr. Dolmo there, is this just a dog and pony show? Or will members of the council be open-minded, and judge the two of them on the questions asked that night?

It is pretty clear who Melina, Alexandria, and Barry Scott want to fill that seat.

The residents are asking for a fair and democratic process. Maybe having each council member rate Ms. Morgan and Mr. Dolmo on their responses, and share why they gave those ratings live in the meeting, would make this session, these questions, a fair platform.

Incumbents typically win re-election 70-90% of the time, so for Ms. Morgan to not win one of the two seats, shows the will of the people. If she is selected, would she then be allowed to run for another full term?

Ms. Morgan, being a previous council member, obviously has more experience than Mr. Dolmo. In a few of the interviews, Ms. Morgan's greatest accomplishment was meeting the President! That says a lot about why she was not voted in. She couldn't give any positive, tangible examples of how she made Capitola better. Oh maybe one other, the flashing crosswalk by the Stockton bridge.

This appointment should be based on the Special Council Meeting, and how each answers those questions, how can we ensure this is a fair process? (we know its subjective, and bias will prevail, but please try to be open-minded!)

thank you

Kevin Maguire
Capitola since 1974'

Gautho, Julia

From: John <jxmuly@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2025 11:03 AM
To: City Council; Gautho, Julia; Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); Chris Neely Lookout; PK Hattis; Andrew Goldenkrantz; Barry Train dude Scott; Ortiz, Gayle (gayle@gocapitola.com); Westman, Nels (nels@bestwestman.com)
Subject: Special City Council Meeting 1/16/25

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Neighbors

Melinda made clear she has the clarity of self to lead our council in a way unseen in generations. I can't be sad about this suspicion of mine proved true on the quick. If you pick Margaux, Melinda will solve problems I want solved (if she can keep her focus policy inward observing instead of performance outward gazing). Alex was put on council for so few reasons yet one of them was hopes we would be in such a situation minus the resignation/ with the leading state vs hyperlocal power blocs greatly weakened as Thursday night made public. This weakened was beyond my highest hopes and the two groups most opposed to me hyperlocally. Whatever else I am my product is exceptional.

Alex and Melinda. You will go for Margaux but if Gerry and Joe hold strong and vote for Enrique, and no one bends, then it is open applications which obviously would be my choice because what a blast that'll be.

If one of you votes Enrique however, who leads the council is up for grabs, no easy shift in power from Yvette to a bloc or successor.

Enrique is a good human. He is earnest. He is eager. He, like me and you Melinda, is incorruptible in his truth, but like you Gerry wants to get along with everyone all the time. He is Hispanic and this matters in our 20% Hispanic populated city whose voice has traditionally been silenced here for all the wrong reasons. He was more popular in 24 than 22. While Margaux was less popular in 24 than 20/ a clear indictment of the steep decline of our city the last 6 years.

Again. If Margaux is appointed. Congrats to the DCC, the YIMBY big box market rate developers, fossil fuel rail and the folks who love the idea of the trail being sharrows on Capitola and Monterey Aves AND I'm eager to watch you work and work with you every chance you give me Melinda.

I hope you focus on the present crises of housing, economic accessibility and safe/productive streets which solves so many problems in one go. Parking minimums are the silliest thing ever imo. Getting our HQT stop and corridor at the mall restored by AMBAG, that Kristen Brown removed as president in 2022, should be on the agenda in the sooner. Missing middle housing through the gentle density of horizontal multifamily an approach I think could be popular again here as it was for most of our city's history until very recently. And of course the big builds on arterials that pay for services, keep locals housed, and grow our community stronger. Never run into an all affordable build I didn't love.

Gerry and Joe. Good luck guys. Alex and Melinda are much better at Robert's Rules let's call it than you. Vote for Enrique. Maybe you end up with an open application process so many of your supporters are calling for.

Rail on the SC Branch Line is an albatross at the moment. Not forever. Barry is the state NEED director dude runs programs for kids like "the joy of fracking". Pajaro multimodal station is what we will get. It's amazing too. Watsonville will no longer be directed towards serving us. Other stark realities in demographics and future economics already underway easy for the data driven to glean.

Better to advocate for a real Metro bond in 2026 not the bare bones 'we need to survive' one being discussed. Capitola would also greatly benefit from an affordable housing bond like Fred is dreaming about in SC. Our revenue continues to lose spending power. Our unfunded state liabilities and increasing mandates are not within our means. We can't just keep passing regressive sales taxes every 7 years. Growth is the firmament of Capitalism. Not markets. Growth.

Budgets are where our radical solutions lie. Never doubt it. I would have crushed the finance committee. Numbers always been my cookie.

I can not stress enough how much fun this is. I love this place. Our city is for everyone.

Warmly JM

Gautho, Julia

From: Sue Kaufmann <suegkaufmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 6:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Margeaux Morgan is qualified for City Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Capitola City Council,

I have lived, worked, dined, shopped and enjoy being with my many Capitola friends in our town. I have lived in Capitola since 1994 and my children and grandchildren grew up here.

Please appoint Margeaux Morgan to City Council. Ms. Morgan is more qualified and experienced. More Capitola voters voted for her. This past election Ms. Morgan received 1560 (29.16%) votes whereas the other candidate received 1430 (17.56%) votes.

There is no reason for a special election as it could cost our city over \$55,000 and delay and cripple important city services and planning. Be fiscally responsible and don't have a special election.

Sincerely,

Sue Kaufmann
404 El Salto Drive
Capitola, CA 95010



The finest gift or compliment I can receive is a referral from friends, family and clients. "Thank you"

suegkaufmann@gmail.com

Gautho, Julia

From: Paula Bradley <pbradley2004@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 2:11 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Capitola City Council, Special Meeting, January 16, 2025 Public Comment
Attachments: CC Mtg 1-16-25 letter Margaux.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please see attached letter.

Paula Bradley (she/her)
P. O. Box 1146 Capitola CA 95010
mobile (831) 345-5482

Capitola City Council, Special Meeting, January 16, 2025,
Public Comment

Dear Capitola City Council,

Please consider appointing one of the two other election candidates, Margaux Morgan, or Enrique Dolmo as interim Council Member. Margaux is the logical choice as she has the four years' experience on the Council and completed her term in good standing. She did a great job and there is no reason to bypass this candidate with the most votes in the recent election.

Do not delay or waste city funds on a special election (estimated \$56,000, or more). These funds are not in the budget and are desperately needed for other city expenses. It would not be fiscally responsible to proceed with a special election and waste taxpayer's money when there is an easy alternative to appoint. The City Council is allowed by law to do so and there is a viable candidate. If Margaux declines, then Enrique Dolmo could be considered as a second choice, but he has no experience with local government. A previous Council member might be a better choice but I am sure you will all do the right thing and appoint. We need someone with experience and we need the five Council members as four could diminish the Council's capacity to effectively conduct the city's business.

I have read the multitude of letters for the last meeting by those opposing Margaux. Do not bow to those vocal few who oppose Margaux's appointment due to their single-issue agenda (anti rail trail) is irrelevant to the circumstances and to the best interests of the City and the residents.

Please do what is best for Capitola and appoint Margaux Morgan as quickly as possible so we to move forward without delays, unnecessary costs, and disruption.

Sincerely,

Paula Bradley
Capitola resident

Gautho, Julia

From: John <jxmuly@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2025 11:22 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Last time we replaced a councillor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello
Neighbors

Gayle Ortiz was appointed in 98ish. Gayle then ran for reelection after serving her term and won the 2000-2003 term.

With this in mind let's not put any criteria on candidates not running for reelection. Politicians lie about running all the time. Gerry told me repeatedly he wasn't running for council again, Alex told me he believed in inclusive communities, Yvette swore she would finish her term, and Kristen Brown still claims she isn't interested in any higher office but the one she is currently pursuing.

Precedent with Gayle shows a great councillor can come from the appointment process. Whoever we appoint should not be given conditions we didn't put on Gayle in the same circumstance.

Warmly JM



Happy New Year

From John <jxmlry@gmail.com>

Date Fri 1/3/2025 10:20 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Glorious day folks. The Julian sun has risen to banish Pompeian night forever.

Has to be a special election. You can not just appoint Margaux who was recently not chosen by leaps and bounds. Interesting idea appoint Kristen.

But I doubt you folks will do an appointment. So recently after the election the optics would allow folks good at narrative to just own the processes for years after.

Maybe actually appointment is the best idea.

Item 6 A.



Item 6 A.



Warmly JM



City council vacancy

From michael routh <qwakwak@gmail.com>
Date Fri 1/3/2025 1:53 PM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Council Members,

With the impending vacancy on the city council, you have been presented with a great opportunity to appoint someone who cares more about Capitola than their political future.

I would encourage you to look at Planning Commissioner Susan Westman to fill the remaining two years of Mayor Brooks seat. She is likely the most knowledgeable person in the city to fill the position, having served as city planner and city manager.

I would also encourage you to select Joe Clarke as Mayor and Gerry Jensen as Vice-Mayor. One of the new mayor's first action should be to remove Council member Pedersen from the RTC, as his positions do not represent the views of Capitola residents.

Please use this opportunity to turn Capitola in a direction that will preserve our character, our historical features, and improve our economic base.

Mick Routh

Sent from my iPad



Outlook

Asked Around

From John <jxmulry@gmail.com>
Date Fri 1/3/2025 2:58 PM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

An appointment is right in the footsteps of the Dems putting Kamala on the ticket with no process. We saw how that ended.

Open applications if no elections. Former council members should be barred to not give the impression of a fixed insider political system as Capitola is already accused of.

Also, someone reliable. We don't want a councillor who will just quit halfway through to pursue wealth. We need someone who doesn't care about the money and prestige and is solely focused on service.

I would like these emails included in the agenda packet. I told so many folks this might happen when the job was announced and everyone called me crazy and said Yvette would never betray her commitment like that. I see folks so clearly.

This is such good luck for us. Let's not squander it. United Way made a bold choice considering her minimal schooling and experience but whatever. Not my problem. At that salary point she is unlikely to darken local politics again. I would like to offer the United Way a 10K donation if Yvette will pick up the check and take a photo of the handoff.

I can bundle two other donations for a total of 30K.

Warmly JM



Replacing Yvette

From John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/5/2025 7:52 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Chris Neely Lookout <chris@lookoutlocal.com>; PK Hattis <pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com>

5 points

If you choose to base any decision on the last election, it should be the last election Yvette was in, which means Enrique should get the position.

Choosing a white person over a minority to replace a minority on our currently and traditionally all white council is extremely racist, a reputation Capitola has worked hard to shed.

Choosing Margaux means you will have to go back and change the term limits laws. She will have served 6 years in 2026 so will be eligible for reelection but then only able to serve 2 years of her term once it hits 8 years.

Incumbents getting voted out in local government after one term is almost unheard of. The voters have spoken on Margaux. We don't want someone who has been confused as to what month it is while starting meetings to represent us.

And most important. Anyone who started to run in 2024 but pulled out because Gerry and Melinda were obviously going to win, would have a decent chance to sue the city and win and would be compelled to do so by this blatant disregard of democracy. They wouldn't have a choice. They would have to use all the legal means at their disposal to get such a decision overturned, it will become a scandal, consume the next 2 years of council activities and cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Imagine every meeting starting with a long speech about democracy and how our council chose racist oligarchy. Posted on robust social media platforms. Sent to anti racist influencers and orgs and news sources. Your faces on posters calling you racists posted on the Internet and sent around the world. This is a realistic scenario that greatly concerns me.

I also already see a trail showing Brown Act violations. I can't be sure but if Margaux is appointed someone is certain to file such a complaint, what if it's someone who has a knack for such oppo. Then a recall would likely follow.

We can't just dismiss voter's will because the easy choice is the racist one. Racist choices are often easy. Do not replace a minority with a white who was just voted out. Please. Racism has no place in Capitola. But if it's different for you, please choose racism. That is your right. Racism is everywhere. Learning it's found it's way onto our council would not surprise me.

Warmly JM



Replacing Yvette

From John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

Date Sun 1/5/2025 4:57 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

In finale

20% of our city is Hispanic. After white people it is our only population demographic in the double digits. Yvette was their voice on our council.

While I don't love identity politics, I do embrace diversity of representation based on population demographics. Telling our 2000 Hispanic neighbors they do not deserve a voice on our council is a tragedy I can't believe is even under consideration when we have such an excellent candidate available.

Margaux sat on no committees before she was elected. Enrique is on our Museum Board. Margaux still fails to grasp even the most rudimentary facets of policy after 4 years on council, asking questions my 5 year old could answer, while Enrique has shown continued progress since first running in 2022.

Yvette is also a parent to school age children as is Enrique. We at minimum want two of our councillors to be parents so this essential demographic to our long term prosperity is represented.

I'm told the fix is in and Margaux is the candidate and nothing can be done but I can't believe that. All four of you have been to my home. I've looked you in the eyes. You are good people. You think you are powerless and have no choice but to do what the folks who bricked our budgets and our city want you to.

And I'm telling you right here, right now, you have regulatory powers. You can choose to be better than failures of our past. We don't have to make the same mistakes again and again.

We can do better than the mediocrity that got us to the sad situation our budgets and schools and infrastructure and economy and community are in. We can fix it. The first step is doing anything but the things we already know didn't work.

God Bless JM



Council Vacancy

From Heidi <Heidy@cwo.com>

Date Sun 1/5/2025 6:54 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Capitola City Council,

Regarding your January 9, 2025 meeting, Agenda Item 8C (Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat), and Agenda Item 8D (City Council Reorganization for 2025), I respectfully offer the following suggestions for a community-based approach to filling the City Council vacancy and leadership reorganization:

1. Community Choice is Always Best:

- While I recognize holding a special election is the most democratic way to fill the vacancy, I also understand cost and logistical challenges may make this option unfeasible.
- Considering this, I urge the council to pursue a transparent, equitable, and community-centered appointment process to ensure the public's trust and involvement in selecting the right candidate.

2. Prioritize Transparency and Community Engagement:

- The process should balance timeliness with careful consideration. A well-thought-out process builds trust, validates the individual chosen to serve, and ensures the best outcome for the community.
- The council should involve residents every step of the way, ensuring all voices are heard and considered.

3. Empower Residents with a Citizens' Commission:

- Establishing a temporary citizens' commission could provide an inclusive and impartial approach.
- This body would review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend the top candidates to the council for their decision.
- To ensure accountability and public trust, the commission's meetings should comply with the **Brown Act**, California's open meetings law, which ensures transparency and public participation in government decisions.
- One way to determine the commission's composition could be for each council member to appoint one member, with a final member selected by consensus of the current four-person council. A five-member commission ensures efficient decision-making and allows for an odd number to address potential disagreements.

- The commission should be supported by city staff to provide administrative and logistical assistance throughout the process.

4. Appointee Should Serve as a Steward, Not a Candidate:

- The appointee should commit to being a steward for the remainder of the term and agree not to run in the next election.
- This ensures the council does not inadvertently grant a political advantage to any individual through the appointment process, maintaining fairness and neutrality.
- By focusing on stewardship, the appointee can dedicate their time to serving the community's immediate needs without the distraction of future political ambitions.

5. Postpone the Selection of Mayor and Vice Mayor:

- Delaying the selection of the mayor and vice mayor until the council is fully seated with five members ensures fairness and inclusivity.
- This allows the new councilmember to participate in selecting their presiding officer(s), promoting collaboration and shared responsibility.
- The current vice mayor can fulfill mayoral duties temporarily, ensuring stability and continuity in leadership during the interim period.

All the best,
Heidy Kellison
Capitola, CA



appointment of new council member

From michael termini <4766206@gmail.com>
Date Mon 1/6/2025 9:19 AM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

mayor and honorable councilmembers,

I am writing to urge you to appoint a new council member to fill the soon to be vacant position. a special election will confuse and delay your daily business as well as cost the city precious funds. You have the ability to appoint anyone you choose from a former council member to a planning commissioner to just anyone who is a citizen of our city. I would recommend appointing one of the other candidates from the most recent election. I believe this would be the most fair and representative of the wishes of our community. Either candidate would be appropriate since the votes were close

Please be decisive and expedient in your actions.

sincerely

Michael Termini



Jan 9th City Council Meeting Agenda Items 8...

From Kevin Maguire <kmaguire831@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/6/2025 6:47 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello Council Members.

Please take to heart the community voice and the majority of opinions on the follow:

A. The Monte Foundation Fireworks 2025 Recommended Action -

Replace gunpowder fireworks with Drones, or maybe the Monte Foundation could hosts a Free picnic BBQ instead of polluting our Marine Sanctuary! Beach Clean up and Tacos, that would be an Epic way to get the community together!

Fireworks shows are considered significantly bad for the environment, contributing to air pollution by releasing large amounts of particulate matter, heavy metals, and chemicals like perchlorates, which can contaminate water sources and harm wildlife; they also generate noise pollution and leave behind debris that can litter the environment and harm animals if ingested

C.. Fill the Vacate seat with Mr. Enrique Dolmo, or have a Special Election. Or send out an online Survey/mailer / Special Council meeting where members of the community can vote. There should be ways to hear the voice of the community that doesnt cost a lot. Even in the case of a Special Election, that is better than putting a former incumbent in that didn't try hard on her campaign, and barley beat out Enrique. As the incumbent, it is typically a shoe in. While exact probabilities depend on the specific circumstances, studies suggest that incumbents in local elections have a re-election success rate of **70–90%**.

The people dont want Margauex. Mr Dolmo has the heart and character our city would benefit from. Passion for making Capitola safer, and friendly for the youth and elderly. He has continued to serve our community, New Brighton Middle School, and has fresh ideas for vacated spaces.

We dont want any Termed out old council members. I have heard Susan Westman name mention as well, that sounds like it could be a good option.

E. City Council Representation on Regional Boards & City Advisory Bodies Recommended

Action: Many residents are on record for their concerns about Mr Pedersen. His Blue Dot Non-Profit taking money from our City. His behavior and voting against Measure L, and conflicts being on the RTS, and service the residents wishes.

Remove Pedersen from RTC! Listen to the people and Measure L, and the Costal Commission about no passenger Rail service should be active again in Santa Cruz.

Headways for a Choo-Choo would be once an hour, or maybe twice? How will trains pass each other with one track?

No Parking at proposed Stations? Speed limits of 25MPH due to setbacks next to a trail (8 foot from center line) The Choo-Choo will take over 30 minutes to get to Watsonville from Capitola, with the 4-6 stops in between.

Farebox recovery rate is 20-30%. So tax payers will have to subsidise the rest.

The "Trail" Thru the Village is not Safe!!

If you care about Safety and the health and well-being of the residents and people visiting. We need a Trail on the Trestle, or PROTECTED Bike Lanes. Lets Remove all Parking from the Village!!

We need to put Safety First, Safety above all else!

Thank You
Kevin Maguire
Capitola Resident since 1974!



Expression of Interest for Open City Council Seat

From Enrique Dolmo Jr <44enrique@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/6/2025 6:56 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Dear Capitola City Council,

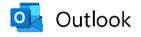
Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my interest in the upcoming open seat on the Capitola City Council. I would be honored to be considered for this opportunity to serve and contribute to our beloved city's continued growth and improvement.

As someone deeply committed to Capitola, I am particularly passionate about addressing the needs of our youth, seniors, and underserved populations. I believe that investing in all our neighbors is a key step toward creating a thriving, sustainable community for generations to come.

My dedication to and love for our city is why I ran for public office. I volunteer at the Santa Cruz Juvenile Hall and currently serve on both the Capitola Historical Museum Board and the Capitola Chief Advisory Board. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with community members and gain valuable insight into the needs and goals of our city.

I love our community. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the open seat. I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve and work alongside the Council to make Capitola an even better place to live and grow.

Sincerely,
Enrique Dolmo Jr



Outlook

item 8c

From Michael routh <qwakwak@icloud.com>
Date Tue 1/7/2025 6:57 AM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

In the past 50 years there have been two previous council resignations - Phil Walker in 1975 and Margaret Fabrizio around 1990. Both vacancies were filled by appointment. The council should appoint and put a new face on the council.

Many residents have been unhappy with the direction of the city and this is a golden opportunity to put the city on a new path.

For the past 8 years Capitola has not progressed. Some council members appeared to be more concerned about their personal future than the city's. The council relinquished their policy making power to the staff and became a rubber stamp for staff proposals. Our city manager hasn't offered any creative solutions to move the city forward. What's important to residents has often been overlooked.

It's time for a change. Appoint someone who is assertive, not afraid to question staff proposals and city manager performance, Appoint someone who wants to preserve what makes Capitola special, and who will bring new ideas to improve our city. Someone with priorities that have been overlooked -like maintaining our streets, keeping the city, beach, and streets clean, prioritizing economic development, and city beautification.... someone who cares more about Capitola than their resume'. We don't need failed incumbents or candidates. We don't need more of the last 8 years. We need new ideas. Open the process up to the community, set up a citizen panel to interview applicants and make recommendations to the council who will then make the final selection.

Mick Routh
Crystal St

1/7/25, 9:52 AM

item 8c - Gautho, Julia - Outlook

Sent from my iPad

Item 6 A.



City Council Vacancy

From Meghan D Morrissey <mdmorrissey@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 10:08 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Cc Capitola Morrissey <morrisseycapitola@gmail.com>

Dear Capitola City Council Members-

We are writing in support of the proposal made by Heidi Kellison to establish a process by which the Capitola community can actively participate in the selection process for the open city council seat vacated by the resignation of Yvette Brooks.

A special election would be the most democratic way to proceed in filling this open seat. Unfortunately, the expense and general election fatigue makes this option less attractive. We are very opposed to an immediate appointment by the existing four members of the city council as it's the least open and community-inclusive manner to select an individual to fill this critical position.

In our view, transparency, integrity and community involvement/oversight are the critical priorities for filling this seat. An open, efficient and community-based process is the optimal way to help the Capitola community rally around an individual of merit, purpose and commitment to fill this vacant seat.

We should not prioritize speed over transparency and community oversight. The lack of transparency and process displayed by the previous city council has left many long-term residents on the sidelines, actively questioning key governance decisions made by the previous city council that are in direct conflict with the will of Capitola's citizens, based on unequivocal election results, and simple safety concerns for the well being of current and future residents.

We need to dramatically improve our governance practices and now have the opportunity to add a new member that can work in a truly collaborative fashion with the council, city staff and community to help restore trust and help rebuild Capitola for the decades ahead of us.

The proposal submitted by Heidi Kellison is well constructed and detailed in a step-by-step manner that is based on community-involvement and transparency from the outset. Let's seize the moment and come together as a community to embrace this process and use it as a model for how we solve important problems as a community, now and in the future.

Finally, we strongly urge the Capitola City Council to immediately amend the agenda for Thursday's city council meeting to postpone the Monte Foundation fireworks topic to a later time when the new Capitola City Council is reconstituted. The fireworks topic is simply a much lower priority than the absolute mission-critical nature of defining a process to select a new council member. We acknowledge the area residents who have sent letters to share their concerns about these annual fireworks and they should have a public forum to voice their opinions. However, we

count on the Capitola City Council to have the strategic oversight and clarity of vision to prioritize topics for discussion/decisions and hope they'll use the opportunity on Thursday to focus the topic on the single most important issue facing Capitola today.

Thanks - we look forward to sharing our views publicly Thursday at the meeting.

Meghan and Michael Morrissey
Capitola



Office Hours

From John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 10:08 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Chris Neely Lookout <chris@lookoutlocal.com>; PK Hattis <pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com>

Hello Neighbors

As some of you may remember, our city councillors used to be available to our residents not just on dais (the silent statue vibe is disconcerting/ quality psyops), but through community engagement.

With the failed takeover from those treating Capitola as a ladder for their own self enrichment near its end (congrats Yvette you make more than I do now/ good luck fundraising here it's brutal), I suggest a return to the service forward representation easily found in the example of Gerry Jensen.

His availability by text or phone isn't feasible for all councillors, however, office hours once a month 2 hours should be the minimum requirement, especially for councillors like Alexander Pedersen who rarely to never respond to residents queries when emailed. Please consider legislating such an office hours policy.

At minimum whoever replaces Yvette should commit to holding office hours TWICE a month, as such an appointment will be an unelected councillor still wielding regulatory powers.

Margaux has a reputation for never responding to constituents. This should disqualify her imo. Inclusion is easy when people agree with you. Service as a councillor requires including all of one's constituents, not just supporters.

In finale let me stress our Hispanic neighbors are 20% of our population/ 2000 souls, please prioritize replacing their only voice on council with a member of their community, if such a member meets all other requirements.

God Bless JM



City Council Vacancy

From vickee95010@aol.com <vickee95010@aol.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 12:46 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

To Whom It May Concern:

In light of Yvette Brooks resignation from the Capitola City Council, we believe the most logical and cost-effective decision would be to appoint Margaux Keiser to complete the remainder of Yvette Brook's term.

Margaux is already highly knowledgeable about the workings of the City Council, and her dedication, intelligence, and commitment would continue to serve the best interests of the people of Capitola.

We are confident that Margaux would be a valuable asset to both the Council and the community.

Sincerely,

Vicki & Armando Rubalcaba



Council position

From Ron Burke <rburke477@gmail.com>
Date Tue 1/7/2025 1:19 PM
To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello, Council members,

As a former Planning Commissioner, I am aware of the challenge presented you with Yvette's departure for her outside opportunity and leaving her post as Council member.

First, thank you Yvette for your service to our community.

Second, in response to Yvette's upcoming vacancy, I suggest that the Council take the most straight-forward response to fill the vacancy by appointing the largest vote count candidate in last November's election not elected, that of Margaux Keiser.

The option of holding a special election is not wise. It is first time-consuming, which will leave you with a period of difficulty finding a solid quorum, especially when members are recused from any particular matter under consideration. Additionally, such a route is very costly, funds which would compete with needed city services and backlogged capital improvements from your CIP.

If there is an option of appointing another council member, that places you in a position of favoritism which will not be forgotten.

In closing, the people have already spoken, and they have already voiced their support for Margaux.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ron Burke



Item 8-C. Process to Fill Vacant Council Seat

From Susan Westman <susan@bestwestman.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 2:50 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

January 7, 2025

Dear City Council Members,

On your agenda for January 9, 2025 is item 8-C "Process to fill vacant Council seat". I am hopeful that when the Council discusses this item that you will be mindful of the need to have some community input as part of the section process. Normally having an election to fill this position would provide for the most direct input from the community but a special election of that type will have a cost and time delay. As it is important to have a full 5-member Council I would offer the following suggestions to include in a selection process.

The Council should have a process that allows for applications to be accepted for this 2-year term. The applicants for this appointment should be committed to serving out the remainder of Mayor Brooks term and not be a candidate in the next election in 2026. Not having the applicants be candidates in the 2026 election leaves that 2026 election process untainted. This is similar to the approach used by Governor Newsom in filling the 2-year Senate vacancy created by the death of Diane Feinstein.

There are numerous ways the Council can screen the applications but some community members should be involved in the screening process and having the process open to the public is critical.

Whatever committee is set up to evaluate the applications should use a consistent evaluation method for all applicants and have a rank scoring system. This is the only method that will allow for transparency in the ranking process.

Having this type of open process is important to assure the community that the Council has selected the best person to fill this 2-year term. It assures the public that this was not simply a politically motivated choice but shows the Council is choosing the best applicant to help Capitola move forward during the next 2 years. There are many important items which Capitola faces at this time. The mall project and City revenues are a top priority. Decisions on implementing the City's new adopted Housing Element are critical. Helping the City's businesses move through challenging times for retail in the Village and on 41st Avenue need to be addressed are a few examples.

Understandably this is a unique time for Capitola but it will be important for the Council to:

1. Involve the community in this selection process.
2. Select someone who is going to fill this position for 2 years but will not be a candidate in 2026.

3. Make certain there is a transparent ranking system of the applicants.

Item 6 A.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues.

Susan Westman
507 Riverview Drive
Capitola, CA 95050



Capitola City Council vacancies-Agenda Item 8-C

From Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 9:57 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Cc Welch, Troy (TJ) (nowworries4TJ@mac.com) <nowworries4TJ@mac.com>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Council Members,

Proper representation for Capitola residents by our City Council is now at stake with the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Yvette Brooks. Concerned Citizens of Capitola is requesting that the Council find a fair and transparent process that involves community input to select the new Council Member. Options include an appointment process that includes residents, or a special election.

Appointing the new Council Member from the last election-There has been some public discussion that the City Council is considering the appointment of past city council member Margaux Morgan simply because she placed third in the recent council election. Placing third however says a lot more than just a ranking. As an incumbent she lost by 775 votes to a first time candidate. The 775 vote gap for an incumbent in a Capitola election, is really a mandate from the residents that they have lost faith in her ability to appropriately represent our community. To appoint Enrique Dolmo would only further exacerbate the situation. The election was for two members only, and the community did not choose candidates Morgan or Dolmo.

Appointing a member of the community-Any outside appointment without community input at this time would likely not have the full support by the community. The lack of transparency would further the lack of trust that already exist. Any selection by appointment should include respected community members.

Special Election-While a special election is the fairest, we recognize there is a substantial cost to the City and an extended timeframe. However, Concerned Citizens of Capitola believe a special election would be fair to all, as well as help to improve trust and reduce potential legal recourse.

Respectfully,

TJ Welch on behalf of

Concerned Citizens of Capitola



Public Comment for Thursday agenda items

From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:04 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Capitola City Council,

Re: Agenda Item 8C - Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat, and Agenda Item 8D - City Council Reorganization for 2025

As I will be attending the meeting remotely this week, I submit the following public comments for your consideration.

Item 8C. While an election is clearly the least controversial and most democratic approach to filling the seat, the time and budget trade-offs are not insignificant. I believe this task can be managed in a democratic way that continues the momentum of improving collaboration amongst the City Staff, City Council, and Community using a transparent process versus the swift appointment of a named person.

The time required to get this done using a process that includes the community by having them involved in a committee approach or being present for application reviews, interviews, etc. will go a long way towards building trust. It will also ensure the newly appointed member can hit the ground running having been properly vetted in a public and transparent manner.

I am confident you can define a community inclusive process that doesn't have to be a huge time sink, and that the extra effort over a mere appointment will have a great payback for all constituent groups.

8D. It struck me as odd that item 8C was to define the approach to be used to select a council member, and that item 8D was to take action and appoint Mayor and Vice Mayor seats before the new member was identified. Please consider allowing the Vice Mayor to act in the Pro Tempore capacity covering the duties of the Mayoral position until a full council is seated, and postpone this action. Given the new council member will be a vetted and deemed qualified candidate, they should be a participant in selecting governing positions.

This logic may also warrant a discussion on postponing Items 8E and 8F.

Best regards,
Leslie Nielsen



01.09.2025 agenda item 8.C

From Katherine Harasz <katherine.harasz@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:48 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

The Council has an important decision to make regarding an appointment versus special election to fill the current vacancy. I advocate for the appointment of Enrique Dolmo.

First and foremost, from my chair, it appears that the older, white Capitola resident perspective is well-represented on this council. And, I will throw in business interests, as this demographic seems to align with business interests.

Second, Mr. Dolmo is not retired or semi-retired. He is a working man very much in touch with another important demographic in our community: the youth. Through his employment he understands the current behavior, habits and trends of our youth. I think this is a perspective that is needed in improving pedestrian and bicycle paths, addressing the dangers of e-bikes, and addressing other current youth issues that I am not aware of as a person with adult children.

Third, as a working man, although Mr. Dolmo may not have the luxury of time to volunteer and glad-hand the predominant demographic in our community at various local festivals, he has volunteer hours with the Racial Justice Task Force and Police Chief's Advisory Committee. He has a unique perspective as a person of color, and we need that on our Council.

Melinda Orbach made an astute observation when launching her campaign: that the west side is not represented because Capitola does not have district elections, which would allow for neighborhood interests to be better represented. This same barrier prevents people like Mr. Dolmo from ever being elected. This appointment would not only save money, but achieve an equity that, in my opinion, is long overdue in this City absent the establishment of district elections.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Katherine Harasz
Capitola Resident



New Council Member

From Katharine Parker <katharinep3@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 2:38 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

City Council of Capitola

Thank you for the work you devote to Capitola. You're serving the City at a pivotal time, trying to preserve its' historic charm, including its' small, close residential neighborhoods, with the push for more commerce and housing. Unfortunately, lack of outreach and transparency and an apparent lack of respect from some council members towards the community they're serving have led to distrust and concern among many local citizens.

Now, with Yvette Brooks' unexpected resignation you have an opportunity to extend outreach and rebuild trust in the community. An election would certainly be the most open route but also the most expensive. If an election is not possible, an appointment by city council together with a respected and varied group of Capitola residents (including resident business owners) could set the Council and constituents on a more productive and cooperative path for the betterment of Capitola.

Thank you,

Tom & Katharine Parker

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: carol morgan <carolhillmorgan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: best for Capitola

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Carol Morgan

Gautho, Julia

From: Hollis Snell <hollisbsnell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Margaux Morgan to City Council

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Hollis Snell

Gautho, Julia

From: Teri Snell <terileighsnell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 7:33 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Mayor

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely, Teri Snell

Gautho, Julia

From: Sheryl Coulston <sheryl.coulston@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:01 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Appoint Margaux Morgan to City Council

January 8, 2025

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Coulston
300 Plum St. #25
Capitola, CA 95010
831-227-9494
sheryl.coulston@gmail.com

Gautho, Julia

From: Bob Edgren <agren7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:05 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Thursday Meeting

Honorable Mayor and Council,

My apologies for this late letter. I hope it is recieved in time for the meeting.

Okay, my main concern lies in the State Mandated affordable housing act. I apologize for not being up on this. I do not believe I am th4 only one who is in the dark. I think we need to be brought up to date on this issue. Frankly, it is appalling how our Governor and state representatives can impose such a radical move on any city. This program would significantly change the lifestyle many of us have worked hard to accomplish. If I could make some suggestions and questions;

1. At this point in time, where does the city sit with these high density state mandates?
2. Has anyone in a city position opposed this act, or looked into opposing it? Are the council members aware of avenues to take to contest the act?
3. How about appointing a task force to keep abreast of this issue, one that could communicate with other cities, invite speakers, hold public hearings and so forth.

Okay, I many cities have been cold cocked by this measure and after reading some cities that oppose it, It's impressive to see the number of cities stand up and say no.

That's all I have to say about that.

Regarding the replacement of the vacant Council seat, there is a pool of potentials that could be called on. If any are interested, perhaps we could have a customary panel discussion. Anyone opposing high density housing has my backing. But some names to consider;

Susan Westman
 Mick Routh
 Mike Termini
 Jacques Bertrand
 Sam Story
 Bruce Arthur
 Kirby Nicol

Regarding the fireworks.If someone could explain how the money in this works. How does anyone make money of fireworks. Is there money raised for a cause?

Okay, thanks for your time to review these ideas.

Yours truly,

Robert Edgren

Item 6 A.

Gautho, Julia

From: heatherohara36@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:50 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Replacing Mayor Brooks seat on city council

With Mayor Brooks moving on to her next opportunity it leaves a vacancy on our city council. Having had an election recently it gives us a perfect candidate to fill in the remaining two years. The runner up.

Ms Morgan has plenty of current experience and knowledge of our city. She stood strong as our Mayor during a very difficult time for Capitola. Margaux has served our council with grace and class. I ask that our City Council and Staff waste no time or money on a special election or an application system.

Appointing Ms Morgan is the right and smart option in front of you.

Thank you
Heather OHara
20-year resident

Gautho, Julia

From: Andrew Baumhardt <andrew.baumhardt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 12:00 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Vacancy left by Mayor Brooks

I urge the Council and Staff to honor the latest election results by filling the seat with Ms Morgan. Please do not waste money or time on special election or applications. Margaux knowledge of our city and recent experience make her the perfect choice.

Thank you
Andrew Baumhardt

Gautho, Julia

From: Mary Cahalen <mbbythesea@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 6:48 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Resignation of Mayor Yvette Brooks

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing in regard to the recent resignation of Mayor Yvette Brooks. As I understand, the City Council has two options for filling the mayoral vacancy:

1. Calling a special election, which is estimated to cost the city approximately \$80,000.
2. Appointing a Capitola resident to serve for the remainder of the mayor's term.

Regarding the first option, I strongly believe that calling a special election would be an unnecessary and wasteful expenditure, particularly given the tightness of the city's budget and the fact that a general election was held just two months ago. It seems inefficient to incur such significant costs when the community has already recently participated in the electoral process.

For the second option, I would like to express my strong support for appointing Margaux Morgan (Kaiser) to fill the mayoral vacancy. Having served a term on the City Council, Margaux has a solid understanding of the issues facing our city and would serve the residents of Capitola well. She has already demonstrated her commitment to the community, particularly in helping during the storms and with the Wharf. Furthermore, as the third-highest vote recipient in the recent election, she has the backing of a broad segment of the community, making her a logical and appropriate choice.

Additionally, I would like to make it clear that I am *strongly opposed* to the reappointment of former Mayor Kristen Brown to the City Council. Having completed two consecutive terms, Kristen is ineligible to serve another term under the City's term limits. Appointing her would be in direct contradiction to the will of the voters, who established the term limit rule to ensure fresh perspectives and accountability on the Council.

In conclusion, I believe appointing Margaux Morgan is the best course of action for our community and would reflect the values of fiscal responsibility and respect for the electoral process.

If you have any questions or would like further input, I am happy to provide additional information.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Cahalen

Gautho, Julia

From: Kevin Zelter <zelv5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 7:39 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Margaux Morgan

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,

Kevin Zelter
Santa Cruz County Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Gautho, Julia

From: Neal Stokes <curlyskidman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 8:19 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Best for Capitola

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Neal Stokes

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: Judy Garrison <judyxgarrison@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 9:45 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Margaux Morgan

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,

Judy Garrison

Gautho, Julia

From: Lori Mahan <lori.mahan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 1:04 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Margaux Morgan

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Lori Mahan
504 Oak Drive
Capitola ca

Gautho, Julia

From: robin elias <robinlelias@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 3:11 PM
To: City Council
Subject: City Council replacement

Dear Capitola City Council,

With Mayor Brooks stepping down, I urge you to honor the runner up of the most recent election.

We should not spend City funds on a special election.

Please do not waste time on an application system and swiftly move forward with appointing Margaux Morgan to City Council.

Ms. Morgan has plenty of experience, has stood as Mayor during one of our most tumultuous years, even greeted and toured the President through our beloved city. She has knowledge of, and has been involved with the issues at hand and maintains great relationships with city staff, council, and the community.

Please do what is best for Capitola by supporting consistency, vision and loyalty to our city.

Sincerely,
Robin Elias

Gautho, Julia

From: Margaux Morgan <margauxpmorgan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 2:47 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Vacancy Letter of Intent

Dear Capitola City Council,

While it is the end of an era to see Mayor Brooks step down, I want to put forth my letter of intent to occupy the new vacant seat on Capitola City Council.

I would be honored to serve the City of Capitola for the next 2 years while the City works through this transitional period. I can provide some up to date leadership as I have been serving the city for the last four years.

During my term in office I worked well with my fellow council members and our city staff to complete many successful projects. Affordable housing projects, rebuilding and reopening of the Municipal Wharf, moving forward with our City's strategic plan, passing measure Y to ensure the prosperity of our community, among many other things.

One of my main goals taking office was to have more community awareness, knowledge and engagement and I am seeing that come to fruition as we navigate this transition and I could not be more pleased.

I would be proud to assist this new council for the end of Mayor Brooks' term, creating space for more people to become informed, and up to date with upcoming decisions so that they may properly run for a seat on council in 2026.

Council, you have a hard decision ahead of you as to how to move forward and I will support your decision whatever it may be. Serving this beautiful city is not easy, and you are never going to be able to please everyone at once, but I have faith you will do what is best for our community.

Please, if you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,
Margaux Morgan
Capitola City Mayor 2023

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: olson_steven@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2025 2:27 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Support for Margaux Morgan

I am writing to express my support for appointing Margaux Morgan to the council to serve the remainder of Yvette Brooks term. I have known Margaux for several years, and as some of you that served with her can attest, she is a smart, thoughtful, and dedicated person, whose experience on the council and as mayor, would be invaluable now. I also realize that there may be other former council members willing to take on this role, but I really think she brings a fresh perspective, and youthful energy, that will service our community best.

Sincerely,

Steve Olson
olson_steven@yahoo.com
831.419.6142
www.linkedin.com/in/swolson

Gautho, Julia

From: Daijaku <daijaku@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:44 AM
To: City Council
Subject: New Council Member

Dear All,

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community. I learned that the vacant seat on the council will be appointed, and I understand the need to save funds. However, this removes the possibility of people making the choice. There are many important matters coming up that will impact us for years to come and I don't think this is the time to take short cuts in deciding who will make them.

I am particularly concerned that your decision lead you to choose the person who got the next largest number of votes. What happened in the past election does not necessarily reflect what would happen in a new one. If, for example, someone, who might have considered running, saw that someone with their values is already running, they might very well decide to wait or not run at all. That does not mean they, or the voters in general, would support the person who got the next largest amount of votes. In fact that person may be just the voice they do *not* want on the council.

I think it very likely that Margaux Morgan was not elected, in part, because of a preference of the others, but also because sufficient numbers of people did not, and do not, agree with her positions. Please take that into account. If you are going to appoint anyone, I hope it will be a new voice.

Yours, Judith Kinst



CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

January 16, 2025



Background

- 1/9/25: Mayor Brooks resignation, Council discussed appointment process and directed staff to invite 2 candidate from 11/2024 Election to be interviewed on January 16th



Background

- One candidate not available 1/16
- Due to scheduling conflicts, staff was unable to find a time when everyone was available for a special meeting
- Recommend holding the interviews during the 1/30 regular City Council meeting



Recommended Action

- Reschedule interviews to fill City Council vacancy for the regular Council meeting scheduled for January 30, 2025.

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: January 16, 2024
From: City Manager's Department
Subject: City Council Reorganization for 2025



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

Background: With the resignation of Mayor Brooks, the City Council should select a new mayor and vice-mayor by motion. At the January 9, 2025 City Council meeting this item was continued to this Special Meeting to allow a full Council to participate in the decision-making process for Mayor and Vice-Mayor. This item could be continued to a future meeting when a full Council is established.

Capitola Municipal Code Section 2.04.150 states that each year, the City Council shall select a mayor and vice mayor. During years with a general election, such selection shall be made at the meeting during which election results are certified.

California Government Code Section 36802 defines the roles of the Mayor and Vice Mayor (Mayor Pro Tempore): "The mayor shall preside at the meetings of the council. If he or she is absent or unable to act, the mayor pro tempore shall serve until the mayor returns or is able to act. The mayor pro tempore has all of the powers and duties of the mayor."

Attachments: Public Comments (Received After Publication of January 9th Agenda)

Fiscal Impact: None.

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager



Public Comment for Thursday agenda items

From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:04 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Capitola City Council,

Re: Agenda Item 8C - Process to Fill a Vacant Council Seat, and Agenda Item 8D - City Council Reorganization for 2025

As I will be attending the meeting remotely this week, I submit the following public comments for your consideration.

Item 8C. While an election is clearly the least controversial and most democratic approach to filling the seat, the time and budget trade-offs are not insignificant. I believe this task can be managed in a democratic way that continues the momentum of improving collaboration amongst the City Staff, City Council, and Community using a transparent process versus the swift appointment of a named person.

The time required to get this done using a process that includes the community by having them involved in a committee approach or being present for application reviews, interviews, etc. will go a long way towards building trust. It will also ensure the newly appointed member can hit the ground running having been properly vetted in a public and transparent manner.

I am confident you can define a community inclusive process that doesn't have to be a huge time sink, and that the extra effort over a mere appointment will have a great payback for all constituent groups.

8D. It struck me as odd that item 8C was to define the approach to be used to select a council member, and that item 8D was to take action and appoint Mayor and Vice Mayor seats before the new member was identified. Please consider allowing the Vice Mayor to act in the Pro Tempore capacity covering the duties of the Mayoral position until a full council is seated, and postpone this action. Given the new council member will be a vetted and deemed qualified candidate, they should be a participant in selecting governing positions.

This logic may also warrant a discussion on postponing Items 8E and 8F.

Best regards,
Leslie Nielsen



Capitola City Council vacancies-Agenda Item 8-D,E

From Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:47 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Cc Welch, Troy (TJ) (noworries4TJ@mac.com) <noworries4TJ@mac.com>

Council Members,

We recognize that Vice Mayor Joe Clark is the likely Council Member to assume the vacant role of Mayor, thereby creating a vacancy of Vice Mayor on the Council. Our concern is with the possibility that Council Member Alexander Pedersen is the nominee for Vice Mayor simply due to his tenure on the Council. In an effort to provide honesty and transparency, Concerned Citizens of Capitola believes that Council Member Pedersen should be removed from consideration for the Vice Mayor position given the number of ethical issues he presents at this time. In fact, there is a growing number of residents that is considering a recall of Council Member Pedersen because of these ethical concerns, which include:

- **Misuse of public funds**-Two months before Council Member Pedersen's appointment to the City Council, he was awarded a \$15,000. outcome based community grant from taxpayer money for his non-profit organization Blue Circle or Fair Wages. This grant was outcome or performance based specifically for improving the health and wellness in Capitola. Council Member Pedersen cashed \$5,000. Of those funds, but then decided the money does not support his non-profit organizations mission and purpose, so he did not cash the checks for the remaining \$10,000. The question that comes to mind is if that is the case why did he take the funds in the first place? and secondly why did Council Members Kristen Brown and Margaux Morgan award him the grant? The next question is, what did he do with the \$5,000 he kept that was supposed to benefit the health & wellness of the City of Capitola? That is unknown since he has not presented the required presentation yet. Letters from Council Member Pedersen to the city disclose that he asked the City to schedule his presentation at the latest date possible in June 2025. It should be noted there is nothing on his non-profit website indicating he has done anything for Capitola.
- **Use of false City address**-Aside from having a non-profit company, Council Member Pedersen also has a handyman business. A few months prior to running for Capitola City Council, Council Member Pedersen was a resident of Aptos. However, he used a residential address on Fanmar Way in Capitola as his business address. An address that he never resided at or ran his business from.
- **Intentionally violating Capitola Municipal Code**-Council Member Pedersen is our representative to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), and in his capacity on the RTC is has voted for and approved motions that are in direct violation of Capitola Municipal Code 8.72-The Greenway code. This code was established in 2016 after Capitola residents overwhelmingly passed Measure Y. He should be removed as the City of Capitola RTC representative.
- **Stockton Bridge**- In addition to intentionally violating Municipal code 8.72 on the RTC, Council Member Pedersen has also made the request to widen the historic Stockton bridge to accommodate the RTC bicycle pedestrian path, again in direct conflict of City municipal code 8.72.

- **Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) investigation**-Council Member Pedersen is currently being investigated for ethical violations by the FPPC.

Item 6 B.

Due to these ethical concerns, Concerned Citizens of Capitola respectfully request that Council Member Alexander Pedersen not be considered for the position of Vice Mayor.

In addition, since he has not kept his sworn oath to uphold Capitola City law, we believe he should also be removed from the appointment to the RTC and replaced with a Council Member that will uphold Capitola law and the will of the people.

Respectfully,
TJ Welch on behalf of
Concerned Citizens of Capitola

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 16, 2025

From: City Manager Department

Subject: 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.

Background: City Council Members sit on several County and Multi-Jurisdiction boards, of which certain appointments need to be reviewed and updated. With the resignation of Mayor Brooks, the City Council will need to review the nominations for appointment to regional boards and committees (Table 1). These nominations will be brought to the City Selection Committee meeting on January 27, 2025.

In addition to the nominations for the City Selection Committee meeting, staff recommends the City Council review Council representation on City advisory bodies to address vacancies created by Mayor Brooks' resignation (Table 2).

In addition, staff recommends the Council review current County and regional board appointments (Attachment 1). Attachment 1 lists the current appointments, expiration dates, and groups that will be requiring appointments due to the City Council vacancy.

Discussion: Staff recommends Council review the following nominations for appointment to regional boards and committees before the City Selection Committee meeting on January 27, 2025.

Table 1: County/Multi-County and Regional Boards

Name of Board – Meeting Information	Capitola Representative(s)	Action Required
Central Coast Community Energy Policy Board <i>(Meets: Meeting dates are variable, virtual option in SC County)</i>	<i>Shared seat with Scotts Valley, Chosen by City Selection, No Term Limits. Terms last 2 years.</i> Yvette Brooks (Nomination Dec. 24, as non-voting representative)	<i>Optional. City Council may nominate a member for City Selection appointment as non-voting member on Jan. 27, however voting position is scheduled to rotate to Scotts Valley</i>

<p>LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) ▲ ◆ <i>(Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month except for July, at 9 AM in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz)</i></p>	<p><i>Share voting seat with Scotts Valley. Ex-officio when not holding voting seat. 2-year terms. Capitola reassume voting seat Jan 2025,</i> Yvette Brooks (Nomination Dec. 24)</p>	<p><i>Yes, nominate Councilmember for City Selection appointment on Jan. 27</i></p>
<p>Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) ▲ <i>(Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM at the District Office: 24580 Silver Cloud Ct., Monterey)</i></p>	<p><i>Chosen by Selection Committee, rotates between all cities in County. Council should review and recommend every 2 years.</i> Gerry Jensen (Nomination Dec. 24)</p>	<p><i>No, Councilmember Jensen is current nominee</i></p>

In addition to the City Selection Committee, staff recommends reviewing Council representatives on City advisory bodies.

Table 2: City Advisory Bodies		
Name of Board – Meeting Information	Council Representative(s)	Action Required
Art and Cultural Commission	Joe Clarke	
Finance Advisory Committee	Yvette Brooks Alexander Pedersen	<i>Yes, must replace Mayor Brooks.</i>
Commission on the Environment	Melinda Orbach	

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:

1. County and Regional Board Appointments
2. Public Comments (Received After January 9th Agenda)

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager

2025 COUNTY/MULTI-COUNTY BOARDS CAPITOLA REPRESENTATIVES LIST

Name of Board – Meeting Information	Capitola Representative(s)	Action Required
Advisory Council of the Area Agency on Aging -Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties <i>(Meets: 2nd Wednesday of each month except for August and December, at 10 AM in Aptos)</i>	<i>No Alternate, No Term Limits. Recommended to review appts. every 2 years.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Brooks (Appt. Jan. 24) 	Yes, due to resignation of Mayor Brooks.
Arts Council Santa Cruz County <i>(Meeting dates are variable; Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 PM)</i> <i>Not a dedicated Capitola seat</i>	<i>No Alternate. No Term Limits</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roy Johnson (A&C) (Appt. Jan. 24) 	No
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) ▲ ◆ <i>(Meets: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 PM in Monterey)</i>	<i>No Term Limits. Recommended to review appts. every 2 years.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Brooks (Appt. Dec. 24) • Melinda Orbach (Alternate) 	Yes, due to resignation of Mayor Brooks.
Bicycle Advisory Committee of the SCCRTC (Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission)	<i>2-year term, expires 2025</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Bradley (Appt. Feb. 24) <i>Recruited through RTC, City Council reviews applications and provides nomination.</i>	No
Capitola Community Safety Foundation	<i>No Alternate, No Term Limits, no fixed term</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Clarke (Appt. Dec. 24) 	No. <i>Councilmember Jensen currently serves on the Foundation Board in a personal capacity.</i>
Central Coast Community Energy Policy Board <i>(Meets: Meeting dates are variable, virtual option in SC County)</i>	<i>Shared seat with Scotts Valley, Chosen by City Selection, No Term Limits. Terms last 2 years.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Brooks (Appt. Dec. 22) • Vacant (Alternate) 	Yes, City Council may nominate a member for City Selection appointment on Jan. 27
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County <i>(Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:15 PM)</i>	<i>2-year terms</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Pedersen (Appt. 2024) 	<i>The City Council may choose to appoint a member of the public to this body.</i>
Community Television of Santa Cruz County Board of Directors <i>(Meets: Monthly at 5:30 PM)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chloe Woodmansee, Assistant to the City Manager 	No

<p>Criminal Justice Council of Santa Cruz County ♦ <i>(Meets: Quarterly at 3 PM)</i> 2 seats, 1 Council and 1 Council, CM, or ACM</p>	<p><i>Review following seating of new Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Clarke (Appt. Dec 24) • Gerry Jensen (Appt. Dec 24) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) ▲ ♦ <i>(Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month except for July, at 9 AM in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz)</i></p>	<p><i>Share voting seat with Scotts Valley. Ex-officio when not holding voting seat. 2-year terms. Capitola reassume voting seat Jan 2025,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Brooks (Appt. 2024) currently ex-officio 	<p>Yes, nominate Councilmember for City Selection appointment on Jan. 27</p>
<p>League of California Cities <i>(Meets: Monterey Bay Division meets on the 1st Monday of every other month at 7 PM at various locations.)</i></p>	<p>Open to All Council Members</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) ▲ <i>(Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM at the District Office: 24580 Silver Cloud Ct., Monterey)</i></p>	<p><i>Chosen by Selection Committee, rotates between all cities in County. Council should review and recommend every 2 years.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerry Jensen (Nomination Dec. 24) 	<p>Yes, nominate Councilmember for City Selection appointment on Jan. 27</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Children’s Network <i>(Meets five times a year at noon in the County Office of Education)</i></p>	<p><i>No Term Limits. Council should review and recommend every 2 years.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yvette Brooks (Appt. 2019) 	<p>Yes, due to resignation of Mayor Brooks.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council <i>(Meets: Last Wednesday at 3:00 PM every other month except for November when meeting is TBD, at Goodwill Industries, 350 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz)</i></p>	<p><i>Chosen by City Selection Committee, rotates between Cap, Wat, SV. Council should review and recommend every 2 years.</i></p> <p>Not currently Capitola</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>Santa Cruz County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Zone 5 ▲ ◆ <i>(Meets: Quarterly on the 4th Tuesday at 10 AM in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street)</i></p>	<p><i>Council to review appointments annually</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Clarke (Appt. Dec. 24) • Melinda Orbach (<i>Alternate</i>) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Hazardous Materials Advisory Commission <i>(Meets: 4th Wednesday of every other month at 9 AM at Capitola City Hall Community Room)</i></p>	<p><i>Four-year term expires in April 2027</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicholas Brown (Appt. Apr. 23) • 	<p>No</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Library Financing Authority ◆ <i>(Meets: Semi-annually, in January and June, Main Library)</i></p>	<p><i>Council to review appointments annually</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melinda Orbach (Appt. Dec. 24) • Joe Clarke (<i>Alternate</i>) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz Public Libraries Library Advisory Commission <i>(Meets: Monday evenings, various branches)</i></p>	<p><i>4-year term, expires March 2027</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Termini (Appt. Jan. 23) <i>Recruited through Library, City Council reviews applications and provides appointment.</i> 	<p>No</p>
<p>Santa Cruz Public Libraries Joint Powers Authority Board ▲ (LJPA) <i>(Meets: 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Main Library Community Room)</i></p>	<p><i>City Manager is appointed by JPA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Goldstein 	<p>No</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force <i>(Meets: Quarterly)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Senyk (Appt. Dec. 24) • Alexander Pedersen (<i>Alternate</i>) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCRTC) ▲ ■ <i>(Meets: 1st Thursday of each month except for July, at 9 AM at various locations)</i></p>	<p><i>No Term Limits. Council should review and recommend every 2 years.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Pedersen (Appt. Dec. 24) • Joe Clarke (<i>Alternate</i>) 	<p>No.</p>

<p>Santa Cruz County Sanitation District ▲ ◆ <i>(Meets: 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:45 PM at the East Cliff Pumping Station on Lode St., Santa Cruz)</i></p>	<p><i>Council to review appointments annually</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Clarke (Appt. Dec. 24) • Gerry Jensen (Alternate) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Board ▲ ■ <i>(Meets: 3rd Friday of each month at 8:15 AM at various locations)</i></p>	<p><i>Four-year term, expires December 31, 2028</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melinda Orbach (Appt. Dec. 24) • Alexander Pedersen (alternate) 	<p>No.</p>
<p>Santa Cruz Regional 911 Board ▲ <i>(Meets: Every other month at 1:30 PM)</i></p>	<p><i>City Manager is appointed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamie Goldstein, City Manager 	<p>No</p>
<p>Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board</p>	<p><i>Two-year term, rotates with Scotts Valley, term expires Fall 2026</i> Not currently Capitola</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Santa Cruz County Animal Services Agency</p>	<p>Chief Ryan</p>	<p>No</p>

- ▲ = Members are required to File Statements of Economic Interest, Form 700
- = Members are required to complete AB 1234 Ethics Training
- ◆ = Council Member appointment required

Revised: 12/30/2024 JG



Jan 9th City Council Meeting Agenda Items 8...

From Kevin Maguire <kmaguire831@gmail.com>

Date Mon 1/6/2025 6:47 PM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello Council Members.

Please take to heart the community voice and the majority of opinions on the follow:

A. The Monte Foundation Fireworks 2025 Recommended Action -

Replace gunpowder fireworks with Drones, or maybe the Monte Foundation could hosts a Free picnic BBQ instead of polluting our Marine Sanctuary! Beach Clean up and Tacos, that would be an Epic way to get the community together!

Fireworks shows are considered significantly bad for the environment, contributing to air pollution by releasing large amounts of particulate matter, heavy metals, and chemicals like perchlorates, which can contaminate water sources and harm wildlife; they also generate noise pollution and leave behind debris that can litter the environment and harm animals if ingested

C.. Fill the Vacate seat with Mr. Enrique Dolmo, or have a Special Election. Or send out an online Survey/mailer / Special Council meeting where members of the community can vote. There should be ways to hear the voice of the community that doesnt cost a lot. Even in the case of a Special Election, that is better than putting a former incumbent in that didn't try hard on her campaign, and barley beat out Enrique. As the incumbent, it is typically a shoe in. While exact probabilities depend on the specific circumstances, studies suggest that incumbents in local elections have a re-election success rate of **70–90%**.

The people dont want Margauex. Mr Dolmo has the heart and character our city would benefit from. Passion for making Capitola safer, and friendly for the youth and elderly. He has continued to serve our community, New Brighton Middle School, and has fresh ideas for vacated spaces.

We dont want any Termed out old council members. I have heard Susan Westman name mention as well, that sounds like it could be a good option.

E. City Council Representation on Regional Boards & City Advisory Bodies Recommended

Action: Many residents are on record for their concerns about Mr Pedersen. His Blue Dot Non-Profit taking money from our City. His behavior and voting against Measure L, and conflicts being on the RTS, and service the residents wishes.

Remove Pedersen from RTC! Listen to the people and Measure L, and the Costal Commission about no passenger Rail service should be active again in Santa Cruz.

Headways for a Choo-Choo would be once an hour, or maybe twice? How will trains pass each other with one track?

No Parking at proposed Stations? Speed limits of 25MPH due to setbacks next to a trail (8 foot from center line) The Choo-Choo will take over 30 minutes to get to Watsonville from Capitola, with the 4-6 stops in between.

Farebox recovery rate is 20-30%. So tax payers will have to subsidise the rest.

The "Trail" Thru the Village is not Safe!!

If you care about Safety and the health and well-being of the residents and people visiting. We need a Trail on the Trestle, or PROTECTED Bike Lanes. Lets Remove all Parking from the Village!!

We need to put Safety First, Safety above all else!

Thank You

Kevin Maguire

Capitola Resident since 1974!



Planning Commission Appointment

From John <jxmulry@gmail.com>

Date Tue 1/7/2025 10:23 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Hello Neighbors

As you know Yvette Brooks chose to use her planning commission appointments to empower special interests, continuously appointing a non resident developer representative. (Might I add I love Fuse and they do excellent work for our city).

This is a deep betrayal of our community by someone we now know was always in this for their own self enrichment, as she abandons her Mayoral term no less for a payday. Whoever replaces Yvette should commit to appointing a Capitola resident not a developer representative to the planning commission.

I know all 4 of you who are in this for our community agree with me. You don't have to be afraid of the bullies Kristen or Yvette anymore (as hard as it is to mess up a United Way CEO position I admit her lack of credentials or necessary experience might prove me wrong here). I'm still here. Now that Yvette has the money she desired we will never hear from her again. Kristen I'm hoping runs again but this time with me not Yvette as her campaign manager so I can guarantee her election. Still can't believe how badly Yvette blew that. Even my modeling showed beating Kristen was impossible. Such incompetence. Meh.

These are my thoughts.

God Bless JM



Capitola City Council vacancies-Agenda Item 8-D,E

From Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>

Date Wed 1/8/2025 10:47 AM

To City Council <citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us>; Gautho, Julia <jGautho@ci.capitola.ca.us>

Cc Welch, Troy (TJ) (nowworries4TJ@mac.com) <nowworries4TJ@mac.com>

Council Members,

We recognize that Vice Mayor Joe Clark is the likely Council Member to assume the vacant role of Mayor, thereby creating a vacancy of Vice Mayor on the Council. Our concern is with the possibility that Council Member Alexander Pedersen is the nominee for Vice Mayor simply due to his tenure on the Council. In an effort to provide honesty and transparency, Concerned Citizens of Capitola believes that Council Member Pedersen should be removed from consideration for the Vice Mayor position given the number of ethical issues he presents at this time. In fact, there is a growing number of residents that is considering a recall of Council Member Pedersen because of these ethical concerns, which include:

- **Misuse of public funds**-Two months before Council Member Pedersen's appointment to the City Council, he was awarded a \$15,000. outcome based community grant from taxpayer money for his non-profit organization Blue Circle or Fair Wages. This grant was outcome or performance based specifically for improving the health and wellness in Capitola. Council Member Pedersen cashed \$5,000. Of those funds, but then decided the money does not support his non-profit organizations mission and purpose, so he did not cash the checks for the remaining \$10,000. The question that comes to mind is if that is the case why did he take the funds in the first place? and secondly why did Council Members Kristen Brown and Margaux Morgan award him the grant? The next question is, what did he do with the \$5,000 he kept that was supposed to benefit the health & wellness of the City of Capitola? That is unknown since he has not presented the required presentation yet. Letters from Council Member Pedersen to the city disclose that he asked the City to schedule his presentation at the latest date possible in June 2025. It should be noted there is nothing on his non-profit website indicating he has done anything for Capitola.
- **Use of false City address**-Aside from having a non-profit company, Council Member Pedersen also has a handyman business. A few months prior to running for Capitola City Council, Council Member Pedersen was a resident of Aptos. However, he used a residential address on Fanmar Way in Capitola as his business address. An address that he never resided at or ran his business from.
- **Intentionally violating Capitola Municipal Code**-Council Member Pedersen is our representative to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), and in his capacity on the RTC is has voted for and approved motions that are in direct violation of Capitola Municipal Code 8.72-The Greenway code. This code was established in 2016 after Capitola residents overwhelmingly passed Measure Y. He should be removed as the City of Capitola RTC representative.
- **Stockton Bridge**- In addition to intentionally violating Municipal code 8.72 on the RTC, Council Member Pedersen has also made the request to widen the historic Stockton bridge to accommodate the RTC bicycle pedestrian path, again in direct conflict of City municipal code 8.72.

- **Fair Political Practice Commission (FPPC) investigation**-Council Member Pedersen is currently being investigated for ethical violations by the FPPC.

Item 6 C.

Due to these ethical concerns, Concerned Citizens of Capitola respectfully request that Council Member Alexander Pedersen not be considered for the position of Vice Mayor.

In addition, since he has not kept his sworn oath to uphold Capitola City law, we believe he should also be removed from the appointment to the RTC and replaced with a Council Member that will uphold Capitola law and the will of the people.

Respectfully,
TJ Welch on behalf of
Concerned Citizens of Capitola

CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

JANUARY 16, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDS CITY COUNCIL:

- Review nominations for City Council representatives on regional boards for the City Selection Committee meeting on January 27, 2025.

COUNTY & MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL BOARDS:

- The City of Capitola is represented on various Multi-Jurisdictional advisory bodies by members of City Council. These boards/committees are established by other codes or bylaws.
- Certain of these boards require appointment by the City Selection Committee; Capitola City Council may provide nominations.

Name of Board – Meeting Information	Capitola Representative(s)	Action Required
<p>Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) Policy Board (Meets: Meeting dates are variable, virtual option in SC County)</p>	<p>Shared seat with Scotts Valley, Chosen by City Selection, No Term Limits. Terms last 2 years. Yvette Brooks (Nomination Dec. 24, as non-voting representative)</p>	<p>Optional. City Council may nominate a member for City Selection appointment as non-voting member on Jan. 27, however voting position is scheduled to rotate to Scotts Valley</p>
<p>LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) ▲ ◆ (Meets: 1st Wednesday of each month except for July, at 9 AM in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz)</p>	<p>Share voting seat with Scotts Valley. Ex-officio when not holding voting seat. 2-year terms. Capitola reassume voting seat Jan 2025. Yvette Brooks (Nomination Dec. 24)</p>	<p>Yes, nominate Councilmember for City Selection appointment on Jan. 27</p>
<p>Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD)▲ (Meets: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM at the District Office: 24580 Silver Cloud Ct., Monterey)</p>	<p>Chosen by Selection Committee, rotates between all cities in County. Council should review and recommend every 2 years Gerry Jensen (Nomination Dec. 24)</p>	<p>No, Councilmember Jensen is current nominee</p>

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 16, 2025

From: City Manager Department

Subject: 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.

Background: At the City Council meeting on January 9, 2025, Council continued this item due to the vacancy created by former Mayor Brooks' resignation from Council. Due to upcoming meeting schedules, staff recommends Council consider appointing representatives to City Boards and Commissions, most particularly Art and Cultural. Council could leave some appointments vacant at this time and could consider finalizing the appointment process once a replacement Councilmember is established.

Members of the public are appointed to serve in a voluntary capacity on the City's advisory bodies for terms, some of which expired in December 2024. This necessitates that the Council make reappointments or new appointments for the next term.

Applications for membership on advisory bodies are accepted year-round and are valid for one year. Members who are currently serving on advisory bodies were notified of their term expiration and invited to reapply to be reappointed.

As a part of the advisory body appointment process, staff published a regular vacancy notice on the City website and through social media, and an unscheduled vacancy notice in the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

Discussion: Each of the City's advisory bodies is governed by relevant bylaws, which outline information about the appointment process of the group. More information concerning each group is listed below. Attachment 1 outlines the current composition of each group, applicants seeking reappointment, new applicants, and the next meeting date for all groups with current vacancies. Attachment 2 includes a link to all applications for appointment or reappointment on file with the City Clerk's office received on or before the printing of this agenda packet.

In January, the Art and Cultural Commission is scheduled to meet on January 14 and the Commission on the Environment on January 15. The Finance Advisory Committee and Museum Board are not scheduled to meet in January.

Art and Cultural Commission: The Art and Cultural Commission (Commission) was originally established in 1997 and advises the City Council as to the allocation of public funds for the support and encouragement of existing and new programs in the arts, and for the acquisition of works of art, and to enhance the cultural climate of the City and foster public interest in the arts. Commission Bylaws (Resolution No. 3326) state that the Commission is composed of nine members: one City Council Member (Vice Mayor Clarke), one Planning Commissioner [respectively chosen by a majority vote of each body], one artist or arts organization representative, one arts professional, and five at-large members. The Bylaws state that the Commission must review applications and provide a recommendation to the City Council for appointment. There are currently fifteen applications on file. In addition to the reappointment of returning commissioners, the Commission has recommended the appointment of Roy Holmberg (artist), Tara Hunt, Jill Payonzeck Lengre, Esther Sylvan, Karin Anderson, Thomas Pederson, Kristina McCann and Helyne Nourishad.

Commission on the Environment: The Commission on the Environment (COE) was originally established in 2005 and provides advice and recommendations to the City Council on policy and funding matters

relating to sustainability, environmental protection, climate action plan implementation and resource enhancement which benefit the City. COE Bylaws (Resolution No. 4373) state that the COE is composed of five members: a member of the City Council and four members appointed by the four City Council members who do not serve on the COE. On December 12, 2024, the City Council appointed Melinda Orbach to serve as the City Council representative. There are currently six applications on file.

Finance Advisory Committee: The Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) was originally established in 2000 and advises the City Council on financial matters pertaining to the governing of the City, as well as on the use of fiscal resources. FAC Bylaws (Resolution No. 4365) state that the FAC is composed of seven or eight members: the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, three at-large members appointed by the City Council, and one or two business representatives recommended by the Chamber of Commerce and appointed by the City Council. On December 12, 2024, the City Council appointed Mayor Brooks and Councilmember Pedersen to serve as Council representatives to the FAC. There are nine applications on file.

Historical Museum Board: The Historical Museum Board (Board) was originally established in 1992 and promotes a program that will bring about better understanding and appreciation by the Capitola community of its history, architecture, culture, technology, and its creative and natural environments. Board Bylaws (Resolution No. 4099) state that the Board is composed of seven members. The Bylaws state that the Commission must review applications and provide a recommendation to the City Council for appointment. There is one unscheduled vacancy and there are currently two applications on file. The Board has not made any recommendations at this time.

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Bicycle Advisory Committee: The RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee currently has one Capitola representative on it (Paula Bradley). The RTC received an application for another Capitola resident to serve as an alternate (Attachment 3). The City Council may vote to appoint Christopher O'Connell as an alternate to the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Attachments:

1. Advisory Body Composition
2. Advisory Group Applications:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/fz7gttmk1ubx1tal7icwa/ABeBTms6St-musROjybP57s?rlkey=b5wxl9umzsyfo0ur1512stih&st=cr2mrnbu&dl=0>
3. Public Comments (Received After Publication of January 9th Agenda)

Report Prepared By: Julia Gautho, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager

Capitola City Council

Attachment to Agenda Report

Meeting: January 9, 2025

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Appointments to City Advisory Bodies – Attachment 1



Arts & Cultural Commission

The Arts and Cultural Commission is composed of 5 “at large” members, 1 artist, and 1 art professional. These members each serve a two-year term. The Commission also has one representative from the Planning Commission and one representative from the City Council. The next meeting of the Commission is January 14th, 2025.

Commissioner Name	Appointed Date	Term Expiration	
Council Member Clarke	12/12/2024	12/31/2026	
Courtney Christiansen (Planning Commission Representative)	12/8/2022	12/31/2024	
Mario Beltramo (At Large)	9/14/2023	12/31/2024	
Jennifer Pepiot (nee Major) (At Large)	7/27/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Mary Beth Cahalen (At Large)	12/8/2022	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Laurie Hill (At Large)	1/27/2022	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
James Wallace (At Large)	1/27/2022	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Roy Johnson (Art Professional)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Vacant (Artist)	N/A	N/A	
Jill Payonzeck Lengre (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
John Mulry (Artist and At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Karin Anderson (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Kristina McCann (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Roy Holmberg (Artist)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Tara Hunt (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Esther Sylvan (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Helyne Nourishad (Artist, Arts Pro., At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Thomas Pedersen (Artist, Arts Pro., At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant

Commission on the Environment			
<p><i>The Commission on the Environment is composed of 4 members, each appointed by a City Council Member, and one City Council representative. These members each serve a two-year term. The Commission also has one representative from the City Council. The next meeting of the Commission January 15th, 2025.</i></p>			
Commissioner Name	Appointed Date	Term Expiration	
Council Member Orbach	12/12/2024	12/31/2026	
Jason Shepardson (Brown)	3/24/2022	12/31/2024	
Peter Wilk (Pedersen)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	
Anthony Lacenere (Clarke)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Michelle Beritzhoff-Law (Brooks)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Dennis Norton	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Michael Maroney	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Neal Savage	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
John Mulry	N/A	N/A	New Applicant

Finance Advisory Committee

The Finance Advisory Committee is composed of 3 members appointed by the City Council and two business representatives who are nominated by the Capitola Chamber of Commerce and appointed by the City Council. These members each serve a two-year term. The Commission also has two representatives from the City Council. The next meeting of the Commission is February 18th, 2025.

Commissioner Name	Appointed Date	Term Expiration	
Mayor Brooks	12/12/2024	12/31/2026	
Council Member Pedersen	12/12/2024	12/31/2026	
Laura Alioto (Clarke)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	
Anthony Rovai (Keiser)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Michelle Coffman (Brooks)	1/12/2023	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Anthony Guajardo (Business Rep.)	6/27/2024	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Matt Arthur (Business Rep.)	6/27/2024	12/31/2024	Seeking Reappointment
Leslie Nielsen (Business Rep.)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Keith Cahalen (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
John Mulry (Business Rep. and At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Emeline Nguyen (At Large)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Daniel Castagnola (Business Rep.)	N/A	N/A	New Applicant

Historical Museum Board

The Historical Museum Board is composed of 7 members. These members each serve a three-year term. The next meeting of the Commission is February 6th, 2025.

Commissioner Name	Appointed Date	Term Expiration	
Emmy Mitchell-Lynn (President)	6/9/2022	6/30/2025	
Roger Wyant (Vice President)	7/25/2024	6/30/2027	
Gordon van Zuiden	6/9/2022	6/30/2025	
Enrique Dolmo	1/12/2023	6/30/2025	
Antonia Alldredge	7/25/2024	6/30/2027	
Brian Legakis	7/25/2024	6/30/2027	
Vacant	8/25/2022	6/30/2025	
Amanda Dover	N/A	N/A	New Applicant
Helynn Nourishad	N/A	N/A	New Applicant

Key

Applicants Seeking Reappointment
Applicants Leaving Office (Not Reapplying)
New Applicants
City Council Representatives

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) Bicycle Advisory Committee

The Bicycle Advisory Committee consists of eleven seats: one for each city within Santa Cruz County, one for each of the county supervisorial districts, one representing the Bike to Work program, and one representing the Community Traffic Safety Coalition. Each has an alternate member appointed in the case that the primary member is unable to attend a meeting.

Meetings are usually held the second Monday of the month, up to 8 times per year, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission conference room, located at 1101 Pacific Avenue Ste. 250 in downtown Santa Cruz. One or two meeting per year are typically held in mid- or south-county. Please refer to the Committee description and bylaws for more information: <https://sccrtc.org/meetings/bike-committee/>.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, we recommend reviewing the by-laws and attending a meeting to familiarize yourself with the committee process. After doing so, please complete this application and email a signed copy to ttravers@sccrtc.org or return a printed copy to the RTC office.

Name:	Christopher O'Connell
Home address:	[REDACTED] Capitola, CA 95010
E-mail:	smokinoke@gmail.com
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Length of residence in Santa Cruz Co.:	14 years

I am applying to represent:

- City of Capitola
- City of Scotts Valley
- Other: ___Capitola___ Yes, would consider a different position _____

I would consider a different position

- Yes
- No

Previous experience on a government commission or committee: (Please describe the committee/commission's purpose and your role.)

[Empty text box for previous experience]

Other Relevant Work or Volunteer Experience

Organization	Location	Position	Dates
SC Friends of the Rail Trail	Santa Cruz, CA	Board Member	2013-2017
ABC Masconomet	Topsfield, MA	Board Member	2004-2008
Topsfield Linear Common Rail/Trail	Topsfield, MA	Board Member	2000-2004

Statement of Qualifications: Please describe why you are interested in serving on this committee and why you are qualified for the appointment. If you have served on this committee in the past, please summarize your accomplishments on the committee and indicate which of the committee's potential future endeavors most interest you.

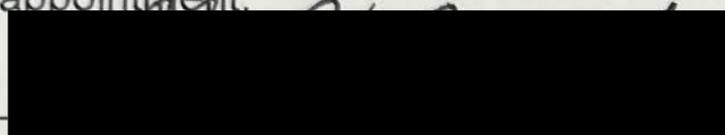
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[Empty text box]

Lifelong cyclist and cycling advocate. Lengthy experience moving biking projects forward from start to finish.

Diversity of Representation: Please describe whether you are someone whose background or community is not well represented in local government and decision-making. For example, non-white, young adult, senior over 75, immigrant, very low income, unhoused, disabled, or of marginalized gender or sexuality:

Certification: I certify that the above information is true and correct and I authorize the verification of the information in the application in the event I am a finalist for the appointment.



Signature

10/14/2024

Date

Return Application to: SCCRTC Attn: Tommy Travers
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Questions or Comments: Contact Tommy Travers at (831) 460-3200 or by email at ttravers@sccrtc.org.

Gautho, Julia

From: John <jxmuly@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 10, 2025 2:16 PM
To: City Council; Gautho, Julia
Subject: Regarding Appointments

Hello Neighbors

I heard mention at last nights meeting that the Commission on the Environment hasn't had a quorum last few months. I applied and will attend the meetings with my constant focus on budgets, economic accessibility, quality of life and the rest of my brand always prioritizing neighbors and community over cars. Housing of the kind we are missing especially horizontal and gentle density incrementally in our communities like we used to have traditionally, and still do in my neighborhood thankfully. Dense housing on arterials with connected and protected bike lanes and robust public transit. Less parking more people. I wax on. I specialized in poetry in college. I'm such an odd lad. I play nice with others in person as you all know. Do it. Another fun fact. All 4 of you have been to my house. One of even had dinner over with their partner. I've been in one of your houses for drinks. Only Melinda didn't sit at my table because we walked.

We need me here. People like me are ever the drivers of progress. Behaviorism is real. God laughed and the world was made.

Grace and Peace JM

APPOINTMENTS TO CITY ADVISORY BODIES

JANUARY 16, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDS:

- 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.
- Due to upcoming meeting schedules, staff recommends Council appoint representatives to City Boards and Commissions, most particularly Art and Cultural. Council could leave some appointments vacant at this time and could consider finalizing the appointment process once a replacement Councilmember is established.

BACKGROUND

- Members of the public are appointed to serve in a voluntary capacity on the City's Advisory bodies for terms, some of which expired in December 2024. This necessitates that the Council make reappointments, or new appointments for the next term.

ART AND CULTURAL COMMISSION:

- Arts and Cultural Commission is composed of 5 “at large” members, 1 artist, and 1 art professional. The Commission also has one rep from the Planning Commission and one rep from the City Council.
- These members each serve a two-year term, with terms expiring December 2026.
- Next meeting is January 21st, 2025.

ART AND CULTURAL COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS:

Seat	Appointee
Council Representative	Clarke
Planning Commission Representative	Appointed by the Planning Commission
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
Artist	
Art Professional	

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT:

- The Commission on the Environment is composed of 4 members, each appointed by a City Council Member, and one City Council Representative.
- These members each serve a two-year term, with terms expiring December 2026.
- The next meeting of the Commission is January 15th, 2025.

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT APPOINTMENTS:

Seat	Appointee
Council Representative	Orbach
(TBD) Appointee	
Clarke Appointee	
Jensen Appointee	
Pedersen Appointee	

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- The Finance Advisory Committee is composed of 3 members appointed by the City Council and 2 business representatives who are nominated by the Capitola Chamber of Commerce and appointed by the City Council. The Committee also has two representatives from the City Council.
- These members each serve a two-year term, expiring December 2026.
- Next meeting of Committee is February 18th, 2025.

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Seat	Appointee
Council Representative	Brooks (TBD)
Council Representative	Pedersen
Regular	
Regular	
Regular	
Business Representative	
Business Representative	

HISTORICAL MUSEUM BOARD:

- The Historical Museum Board is composed of 7 members. These members each serve a three-year term, expiring June 2027.
- The next meeting is of the Board is February 6th, 2025. There is one unscheduled vacancy which necessitates an appointment, the term will expire June 30th, 2025.