



TOWN COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM – September 08, 2026

1. OPENING

The Regular meeting of the Paradise Town Council was called to order by Mayor Crowder at 6:01 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber located at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California who led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. An invocation was offered by Council Member Bolin.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Bolin, Steve “Woody” Culleton, Heidi Lange, Ronald Lassonde and Steve Crowder, Mayor

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Town Manager Jennifer Macarthy, Town Attorney Scott E. Huber, Town Clerk/Elections Official Melanie Elvis, Assistant Town Manager Marc Mattox, Community Development Director Susan Hartman, Community Development Director Tony Lindsey, Recovery and Economic Development Director Colette Curtis, Finance Director Aimee Beleu, Project Manager Brian Solecki, Police Chief Eric Reinbold, Fire Chief Jason Finney, and Information Technology Director, Luis Marquez.

- 1e. Camp Fire Recovery Updates - Written reports are included in the agenda packet. Colette Curtis, Recovery and Economic Development Director - recovery projects, advocacy, economic recovery and development, communications, emergency operations and Housing updates. Marc Mattox, Assistant Town Manager -infrastructure updates. (110-60-062)
- 1f. Assistant Town Manager Marc Mattox provided an update on the Paradise Sewer Project. (960-70-009)

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION by Bolin, seconded by Lassonde, approved consent calendar items 2a, and 2c through 2g. Roll call vote was unanimous.

- 2a. Approved minutes of the August 10, 2026 Special Town Council meeting and August 11, 2026 Special and Regular Town Council meetings.
- 2b. REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR BY MAYOR CROWDER
- 2c. Reviewed and filed the 2026 Conflict of Interest Code Biennial Notice confirming the Town’s code of economic interest resolution is current and timely. (540-20-033)

- 2d. Approved the Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Butte County for VEOCI virtual Emergency Operations Center services to align the agreement with the intended period of performance.
 - 1. Andrew Waldrop commented on item 2d and the relationship between VEOCI and data centers. (420-50-055, 510-50-451)
- 2e. Reviewed and filed the August 2026 Quarterly Financial/HR Position Report. (385-20-056)
- 2f. Reviewed and received the FEMA/CalOES Category 4 Tree Removal Program Project Closeout Report to formally closeout the project and all associated contracts and agreements. (420-25-009, 510-20-405)
- 2g.
 - 1. Approved publication of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the HOME Infill New Construction for First-Time Homebuyers program; and,
 - 2. Adopted Resolution No. 2026-56, "A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Amending and Updating the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Infill New Construction First-Time Home Buyer Program Guidelines, Previously Adopted by Resolution No. 2025-64." (710-10-098)

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2b. Mayor Crowder removed 2b from the consent calendar and recused himself from the dais for a potential conflict of interest.

MOTION by Bolin, seconded by Lassonde, approved August 2026 Cash Disbursements in the amount of \$4,588,456.24. Roll call vote was unanimous with Steve Crowder absent and not voting. (310-10-035)

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

- 1. Brenda Narayan provided an update on PG&E undergrounding efforts and power pole removal.
- 2. Cathlene White commented on the status of a neighboring property and asked when it was going to be abated.
- 3. Doug Taylor commented on his neighbor's goats destroying his plants and property.
- 4. Christina Powell commented on Mayor Crowder's ownership of A Stitch Above on his Form 700, Statement of Economic Interest.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 5a. Recovery & Economic Development Director Colette Curtis provided an overview of the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mayor Crowder opened the public hearing at: 6:28 p.m.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Crowder closed the public hearing at: 6:28 p.m.

MOTION by Bolin, seconded by Lassonde, authorized the Town Manager to submit the CAPER to the Department of Housing and Urban Development with any public comments received. Roll call vote was unanimous. (710-10-112)

6. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- 6a. Police Chief Eric Reinbold, Recovery & Economic Development Director Colette Curtis and Project Manager Brian Solecki presented the proposed updated emergency notification system guidelines, the public communication plan for use of the Emergency Warning System Sirens and an update on the In-Home Safe Units.

MOTION by Bolin, seconded by Culleton, approved the revised Town of Paradise Emergency Notification System Guidelines. Roll call vote was unanimous. (420-30-011)

- 6b. Finance Director Aimee Belevu presented the proposed Fire Apparatus Replacement Reserve Fund.

MOTION by Culleton, seconded by Lassonde, 1. Adopted Resolution No. 2026-57, "A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Paradise Establishing the Fire Apparatus Replacement Reserve Fund and Directing Assistance by Hire revenues and Proceeds from the Disposition of Town-Owned Fire Apparatus to the Fund", and, 2. Approved the Fire Apparatus Replacement Reserve Fund Policy governing the use and administration of the Fund. Roll call vote was unanimous. (395-10-001, 440-30-007)

Council Member Bolin recused himself from the dais due to a potential conflict of interest.

- 6c. Assistant Town Manager Marc Mattox presented the second quarterly update to the 2025 Building Division Audit Corrective Action Plan.

1. Donna Vairo commented that she thought not enforcing workmanship issues feels like the Town is circumventing the law, and the Town should find a way to also hold subcontractors accountable.

MOTION by Lassonde, seconded by Culleton, 1. Received and filed the second quarterly update to the 2025 Building Division Audit Corrective Action Plan, covering the period June 1 through August 31, 2026; and,

2. Affirmed current operating procedures:

a. Limit independent review to completed projects with final approval and a Certificate of Occupancy, however, leaving an avenue open that a complaint may be escalated to the independent reviewer before being referred to staff,

b. Keep review focused on specific Building Code compliance—not workmanship, quality, private contracts, or civil liability.

c. Maintain accountability and any Strikes with the permit applicant (including Owner-Builder)—not subcontractors or other non-permit holders.

d. Confirm independent review remains visual and non-destructive, not a whole-home reinspection.

3. Direct staff require documented notice and a reasonable opportunity for the permit applicant to respond before Town intervention and review of complaint, (SB800 Law Template by Town or equivalent) for Code Compliance complaints; and,

4. Directed the Town Attorney to prepare a draft amendment to Ordinance 655 An Ordinance of the Town of Paradise Adopting New Section 15.02.065 and Making Findings of Facts Relating to Building Code Complaints and Establishing Oversight by the Building Division Corrective Action Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee for extraordinary life-safety AND/OR cumulative impact for entire project provisions, including potential “one-strike” authority with due-process protections.

Roll call vote was unanimous with Council Member Bolin absent and not voting. (740-30-013)

- 6d. Recovery & Economic Development Director Colette Curtis provided an overview of the proposed agreement with North State Planning and Development Collective to produce an updated population estimate for the Town of Paradise.

MOTION by Lassonde, seconded by Bolin, authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the North State Planning and Development Collective to produce an updated population estimate for the Town of Paradise. Roll call vote was unanimous. (510-20-516)

7. COUNCIL INITIATED ITEMS AND REPORTS

- 7a. Mayor Crowder introduced a letter of support for AB2700.

1. Tina Peszler commented on the bill's history and next steps.

MOTION by Bolin, seconded by Culleton, approved a letter of support for AB2700. Roll call vote was unanimous. (180-30-101)

- 7b. Council Members' written reports on standing, external and ad hoc committee representation were included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Crowder provided and update on the Fire Victims Trust.

Council Member Lange provided an overview of her committee attendance.

8. STAFF COMMUNICATION - None

9. CLOSED SESSION - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Crowder closed the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Date approved:

By:

Attest:

_____/s/_____
Steve Crowder, Mayor

_____/s/_____
Melanie Elvis, Town Clerk