

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Redlands held in the Council Chambers, Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street, on March 18, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.

Present: Mario Saucedo, Mayor
Marc Shaw, Mayor Pro Tempore
Paul Barich, Council Member
Eddie Tejeda, Council Member
Denise Davis, Council Member

Staff: Charles M. Duggan, Jr., City Manager; Yvette M. Abich Garcia, City Attorney; Jeanne Donaldson, City Clerk; Phillip Doolittle, City Treasurer; Janice McConnell, Assistant City Manager; Chris Boatman, Assistant City Manager; Carl Baker, Public Information Officer; Danielle Garcia, Management Services/Finance Director; Brian Desatnik, Development Services Director; John Harris, Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director; Rich Sessler, Fire Chief; Rachel Tolber, Police Chief; Tabitha Crocker, Facilities and Community Services Director; Robert Mateau, HR/Risk Management Director

Mayor Saucedo called the meeting to order and explained that comments could be presented in-person, via Zoom, via cell phone or landline. He offered the public an opportunity to provide comment on any item on the agenda for the closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None forthcoming

CLOSED SESSION

Conference with Legal Counsel: Initiation of Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(4) (City Attorney Garcia)

One (1) Case:

Conference with real property negotiators - Government Code §54956.8
(Assistant City Manager Boatman)

Property:	APN: 0292-481-93-0000 and 0292-481-94-0000
Agency Negotiators:	Charles M. Duggan, City Manager; Christopher Boatman, Assistant City Manager
Negotiating Party:	Venkateswara R. Paladugu and Geetha K. Paladugu, Trustees of the Paladugu Family Trust
Under Negotiation:	Terms of payment and price for possible purchase of property by the City.

Conference with real property negotiators - Government Code §54956.8
(Assistant City Manager Boatman)

Property:	APN: 0171-191-30-0000
Agency Negotiators:	Charles M. Duggan, City Manager; Christopher Boatman, Assistant City Manager
Negotiating Party:	Char Burgess, President, Redlands Historical Museum Association
Under Negotiation:	Terms of possible transfer of the property.

Conference with legal counsel: Existing Litigation - Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)
(City Attorney Garcia)

One (1) Case:

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 6:07 P.M. with an invocation by Council Member Tejeda. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by Mentone Elementary School students.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

City Attorney Garcia announced there was no reportable action taken during Closed Session for Item C.1, C.2. and C.3. Regarding Item C.4, she reported the City Council approved an agreement to settle pending litigation of Milton Price v. City of Redlands. The settlement includes a payment to Mr. Price in the amount of \$75,000 in exchange for a full release and waiver of liability as to the City of Redlands. The settlement was unanimously approved, with motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Shaw and seconded by Council Member Tejeda. Once fully executed, the agreement will be on file in the City Clerk's office.

PRESENTATIONS

Retirement Recognition

Council Members offered their praise and appreciation of the contributions of Multimedia Production Coordinator Cheryl Williams, who will be retiring next week. She has brought her passion and enthusiasm to her daily duties, always ready to offer an encouraging word and smile to everyone. She was thanked for her diligence and dedication to filming all City Council and Planning Commission meetings, and she will be greatly missed.

Trinity Community Foundation

Emma Osterberg, Executive Director of Micah House, expressed her deep appreciation and gratitude for the ongoing support the City has provided over the years and presented a plaque to the Council. The Trinity Community Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on promoting healthy child development and connecting families to resources, with a mission to bring love, play, and connection to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mall Site Facing Foreclosure - Dennis Bell commented on the sad state of the mall site and thought the City missed an opportunity to purchase it when it went into bankruptcy for the first time several years ago, and he saw it as failed leadership when the parking lot across from the Frontier building was sold.

Aggressive Tow Trucks - Michael Paisner raised concerns about recent activity of aggressive tow trucks patrolling the downtown area and towing cars. He suggested the City be proactive in ensuring the signage downtown is clearly marked and is visible and easy to understand.

Autism Acceptance Month - Maia Pawooskar requested the City consider declaring the month of April 2025 as National Autism Acceptance Month.

SCAQMD Rules 1111 & 1121 - Gregory Brittain thought the pending rules proposed by SCAQMD would be outrageously expensive and a huge burden on the public. If implemented, he was worried the grid capacity would be taxed and unable to handle the power needs of the community in the future.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Minutes

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the regular meeting minutes of March 4, 2025.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Proclamation March 31, 2025 Cesar E. Chavez Day

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the issuance of a proclamation declaring March 31, 2025, as Cesar E. Chavez Day.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Adopt Ordinance No. 2979

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Ordinance No. 2979 amending Chapter 5.04 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Business Licenses, standardizing business license payment schedules to align with the calendar year and clarifying ambiguous language.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Adopt Ordinance No. 2980

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Adopt Ordinance No. 2980 to amend and restate Chapter 5.08 of the Redlands Municipal Code relating to Business Licenses,

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

2024 Annual Progress Reports General Plan & Housing Element

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously agreed, by roll call vote, to receive and file the 2024 Annual Progress Reports for the General Plan and the 2021-2029 Housing Element. Staff completed the 2024 Annual Progress Reports and will submit each to the State as required by law.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

NPDES Common Interest, Joint Defense, And Confidentiality Agreement

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, the Mayor to execute the San Bernardino County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Common Interest, Joint Defense, And Confidentiality Agreement Among Permittees on behalf of the City of Redlands.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8670 EECBG Grant Acceptance

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously accepted, by roll call vote, the U. S. Department of Energy Office of State and Community Energy Program EECBG funding for the amount of \$133,300; authorized an additional appropriation in the amount of \$133,300; and adopted Resolution No. 8670 authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute the U. S. Department of Energy Office of State and Community Energy Programs Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) Agreement and all other related documents necessary for the grant.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Resolution No. 8668 Time Extension CRA 938 & CUP 1187

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8668, approving a one-year Extension of Time to the expiration date of Commission Review & Approval No. 938 and Conditional Use Permit No. 1187 for the construction of a 181,100 square-foot warehouse building with 4,000 square feet of office space on a 9.44-acre project site is located at 350 Iowa Street (APN: 0292-158-16-0000).

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Traffic and Parking Commission Annual Report

Municipal Utilities and Engineering Director Harris announced the Annual Report for the Traffic and Parking Commission (TPC) summarizing the Commission's accomplishments for the previous year, in compliance with Chapter 2.48 of the Redlands Municipal Code, was attached to the staff report. As public comment, Andy Hoder stated the TPC chose to submit a written report, rather than address the Council in person. As a Commissioner himself, he described a sense of discord or dissension within the group. Due to this tension, he felt compelled to submit his resignation, with a formal letter to follow.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously agreed, by roll call vote, to receive and file the Annual Report of the Traffic and Parking Commission as prepared for the staff report.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COMMUNICATIONS

New Hire Onboarding Video

Human Resources/Risk Management Director Meteau, HR Manager Kisha McDonald, HR Analyst Marina Walker, and HR Specialist Angie Vizcarra unveiled the New Hire Onboarding Video, which will serve as a strategic tool in providing new employees with a warm welcome while ensuring they receive an overview of the City's mission and workplace culture.

Library Board Annual Report

Board President William Hatfield provided the annual report of the Library Board of Trustees with an update of accomplishments and activities over the past year. Some highlights included increased circulation, especially in the e-Library program, the increasing popularity of a wide range of entertainment and educational programming, Smiley Live!, a series of monthly musical concerts that offer a wide range of musical styles. The adult literacy program has continued to grow and have a positive impact, garnering state funding and recognition. Smiley Heritage Tours showcase Redlands cultural sites for all RUSD fourth graders. The policy of doing away with late fees has proven to be a success. The Redlands Museum is on the verge of becoming a reality, with an anticipated opening sometime this fall. Mr. Hatfield did point out the 127-year-old library building does face certain infrastructure needs. They were grateful the boiler system was replaced last year in October, with staff thrilled to have heat again, and they looked forward to seeing work begin soon on the lower-level elevator. He thanked the City for their support. Council Members extended their sincere appreciation of the Board's dedication towards fulfilling the Smiley Brother's vision.

Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee Annual Report

Vice Chairman Scott Welsh presented the annual report of the Measure T Citizens' Oversight Committee for FY 2024. The Committee provides oversight of Measure T sales tax revenue, and the Report covered the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. During FY 2024, the City received a total of \$20,194,305 in Measure T sales tax. This was roughly \$241,305 higher than the budget estimate provided at mid-biennium (November 2023). This overperformance of a little

more than 1% indicates a stable local economy. In FY 2023, sales tax exceeded budgeted figures by over 10%. Moving forward, future budgets are more likely to reflect conservative estimates for sales tax revenues as the City remains braced for economic uncertainty.

Measure T enabled investment into enhancing and restoring certain “quality of life” amenities and services for the community. Some examples of this include: Animal Shelter Improvements, Parks Master Plan, Homelessness Solutions, the Library, Park Infrastructure, improvements to the Joslyn Senior Center, and recreational and downtown programs. Measure T remains essential for funding city services and infrastructure projects and the local revenue from Measure T, combined with economic growth, helps maintain the services and infrastructure that Redlands residents rely on. The Committee recognizes that Measure T reflects commitment from Redlands residents and believes the funds are being used as intended. The Members recommended they be given an opportunity to offer input during the budgetary process before the budget is adopted, as this will allow the Committee to perform their oversight duties more effectively.

Other Committee Members present included Chairwoman Toni Momberger, Ruth Cook, Ed Millican and Don Young. Ms. Momberger announced her goodbyes and explained that, due to council member redistricting, she no longer lives in District 4. She said it was her honor to serve on the committee and thanked her colleagues, City staff and the Council Members for their trust.

Resolution No. 8663 Policy for Proclamations, Certificates, & Awards

Mayor Saucedo opened the discussion relating to Resolution No. 8663, establishing a policy for proclamations, certificates, and awards. The City routinely issues awards, certificates, and proclamations to recognize outstanding service or achievements by organizations, individuals, or important community events, as well as cultural celebrations. He pointed out that currently, there is no formal policy establishing guidelines for the issuance of proclamations, certificates, and awards, nor is there a policy of formal procedures for requesting recognition by the City Council.

The general provisions of the proposed policy include: 1) All forms of recognition are signed solely by the Mayor on behalf of the entire City Council. 2) The Mayor, or in the Mayor’s absence the Mayor Pro Tempore, will present recognitions on behalf of the City Council. Alternatively, the Mayor may designate a Council Member or city official to present a recognition. 3) Commissioners/Board Members/Committee members may not issue any official recognition on behalf of the City or in their official capacity as commissioners or members of any board or committee. 4) Recognition may only be issued where there is a clear nexus or connection to the community of Redlands. Recognitions, when applicable, will only be presented at one City Council meeting. 5) Recognition will not be issued for campaigns or events contrary to city policy, matters of politics, or for personal ideological or religious beliefs.

As public comment, Michael Paisner, Valerie Taber, David Armstrong, Roux Whitmore, and Julie Houston raised questions regarding the proposed policy, suggesting the process for submitting a request to issue a proclamation was not clear, and the proposal lacked clearly defined terms. Terminology, they said, was vague and uncertain, included language such as “matter of politics” and “personal ideological or religious belief”. There was concern the mayor was assigned too much power in making the final decisions, as all requests would be filtered through the mayor, and they wondered why this policy was even necessary, when the current process appeared to be working fine.

Council Members discussed the merits of the proposed policy at length. Mayor Saucedo stated that much of what was included in the proposal was currently in practice and the policy would provide guidelines which would be helpful for staff. Council Member Davis was concerned about the language in Sections 2 and 3, which seemed to limit council members' ability to participate in the process and make presentations during a meeting. She thought the terms "nexus to Redlands" and "personal ideological" were vague, and she asked for clarity. Council Member Barich recommended the item be tabled so that staff could revise certain sections. Overall, Council Member Tejeda supported the policy. Mayor Pro Tem Shaw pushed his colleagues to find common ground and suggested that, by amending certain verbiage in Sections 2 and 3, a compromise could be had. Council Members ultimately agreed to revise Section 2.b and Section 3.d of the exhibit to Resolution No. 8663.

A motion was made by Council Member Tejeda to adopt Resolution No. 8663 in its current form. Motion failed with no second.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Marc Shaw, seconded by Mayor Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, to amend the Exhibit to Resolution No. 8663, to include the following revisions: Section 2 language changed to: Section 2.b "The sponsoring Council Member will present recognitions on behalf of the City Council, except when absent, the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem will perform the duties." ; and Section 3 language changed to: Section 3.d "Requests for proclamations must be made to the City Manager's office."

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Mayor Mario Saucedo, the City Council unanimously approved, by roll call vote, amended Resolution No. 8663, establishing a policy for proclamations, certificates, and awards.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1111 & Rule 1121

Mayor Pro Tem Shaw reviewed his request for Council to consider taking action regarding South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Proposed Amended Rule 1111 (Reduction of NOx Emissions from Natural Gas-Fired Furnaces) and Proposed Amended Rule 1121 (Reduction of NOx Emissions from Residential-Type, Natural Gas-Fired Water Heaters). Representing SCAQMD, Michael Krause reported on the recent revisions made to Rule 1111 and Rule 1121 and attempted to dispel any misunderstandings that existed. He said the rules will allow consumers to choose between gas units and zero-emission units and manufacturers can continue to offer consumers gas units or zero-emission units. He added the proposed rules are expected to achieve a reduction of 6 tons per day of NOx emissions from residential building appliances. These proposals have been in development for over two years, during which time, SCAQMD has held more than 100 stakeholder meetings. Mr. Krause clarified that the target deadlines for transitioning are directed at the manufacturers and not at the consumer.

As public comment, Dale Broome and Rachel Eugley were opposed to SCAQMD's proposed rules, even with the revised language. Their concerns focused on grid reliability, the lack of consumer options, and they thought the premise of the rules was based on false science. In support of the proposed rules, Michael Paisner, Jennifer Cardenas, of the Sierra Club, Yarli Olazabal and Andrea, of PCEJ spoke to the need to push for programs that can reduce NOx emissions, stating the threat of

climate change is real. SCAQMD efforts are vital for the overall well-being of the community and will bring about cleaner air.

Council Member Barich raised questions about the true value and benefit of the proposed rules. Council Member Davis stated that because this region has the worst air pollution in the nation, action must be taken, and she requested to see the most recent revisions in order to make an informed decision. Mayor Pro Tem Shaw agreed to table the matter and possibly revise the letter.

On motion of Council Member Paul Barich, seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Marc Shaw, the City Council unanimously agreed, by roll call vote, to table the matter in order to provide additional time to review the revised versions of SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1111 and Proposed Rule 1121.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

Mid-Year General Fund Budget Review for Fiscal Year 2025

Management Services/Finance Director Garcia gave a broad overview of the Mid-Year General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. She explained the review provided an opportunity to evaluate the City's financial performance in the current fiscal year relative to the Adopted FY 2025 Budget, using actual results from the first seven months of FY 2025. The presentation reviewed the recommendations, analyzed the financial outcomes from FY 2024, assessed the City's current fiscal standing, and considered the broader economic conditions and other key factors that may influence the General Fund going forward.

Based on this assessment, the City Manager and staff recommended targeted, additional appropriations for FY 2025 to fund projects/expenses that 1) Increase revenue, 2) Represent critical department needs, 3) Increase risk management reserves. She detailed the recommendations, with funds going towards projects such as the 6th Street Parking Structure Repairs, Fire Department command and support vehicles, Police Department in-car radio replacements, and expanding Recreation contract classes (100% revenue offset). She listed several significant capital projects for FY 2025, including the construction of Fire Station 262 retrofit and enhancements, the initiation of a design and construction management services agreement for the new Safety Hall, and funding for various improvements to public infrastructure.

Several financial risks could impact the City's budget, particularly as they are not currently included in the financial forecast. These risks include future MOU negotiations in FY 2026, the Class and Compensation Study, construction contingencies for Safety Hall, costs associated with the operation of the Museum of Redlands, the construction & staffing of new fire stations, and the Step Up In Redlands Supportive Housing Project. While the fiscal impact of these factors remains uncertain, they have the potential to disrupt the structural balance of the budget. Given these uncertainties, careful monitoring and strategic financial planning will be essential to mitigate potential long-term budgetary impacts. While the City's budget remains resilient, these external variables warrant continued monitoring to ensure fiscal sustainability and adaptability in the face of evolving economic conditions.

She announced the next major budget discussions would occur in May and June 2025, when the City Council will receive the City Manager's recommendations for potential revisions or adjustments to the adopted biennial budget for FY 2025 and 2026. As public comment, Dennis Bell voiced various concerns, including why the state's grant funding for the Museum had not been released yet. He was

worried the Museum would become an albatross hanging over the taxpayer. He wasn't convinced that repair work on the 6th Street Parking Structure was money well spent, he questioned why facility maintenance was not addressed in the budget, and he urged the City for more transparency in the budgeting process. Council Members thanked Director Garcia and her staff for their hard work.

On motion of Council Member Eddie Tejeda, seconded by Council Member Denise Davis, the City Council unanimously agreed, by roll call vote, to approve additional appropriations and adjustments as outlined in Attachment A-1: FY 2024-25 Mid-Year Adjustments for the General Fund; waived the addition to the four (4) General Fund Reserve categories per Resolution No. 7346 in favor of other, more targeted adjustments; and moved to receive and file this report.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Resolution No. 8669 TVSP Amending Sign Regulations

Mayor Saucedo declared the meeting open as a public hearing and called on Senior Planner Kevin Beery for a report on Resolution No. 8669 for Amendment No. 2 to the Transit Villages Specific Plan (Specific Plan No. 65) to update the sign regulations within the Transit Villages Specific Plan. The updated regulations include the following items: 1) Require uniform sign programs for multi-tenant developments that meet specific criteria; 2) Allow freestanding multi-tenant signs in unified centers under defined conditions; 3) Remove a restriction on building sign location; 4) Remove certain restrictions and review procedures applying to murals; and 5) Other minor text edits to improve clarity and consistency.

The Transit Villages Specific Plan (TVSP) (Specific Plan No. 65) was adopted on October 22, 2022, and the accompanying Environmental Impact Report was also certified and adopted on October 22, 2022. The entire TVSP area covers approximately 947 acres (or 1.5 square miles). The proposed amendment focuses on changes to sign regulations which would apply throughout the specific plan area. Additionally, the proposed text amendment includes minor edits to Chapter 4 to improve clarity and consistency. These edits do not change existing regulations. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 28, 2025, and recommended that the City Council approve the proposed amendment with no modifications.

No written comments were received and with no further discussion, Mayor Saucedo closed the public hearing. Mr. Beery pointed out a typo was found in the Resolution and Section 4.b should be removed. The paragraph to be removed reads as: 4.b. "In order to avoid sign-clutter, signage shall only be allowed on facades that have building entrances."

On motion of Mayor Pro Tempore Marc Shaw, seconded by Council Member Paul Barich, the City Council unanimously adopted, by roll call vote, Resolution No. 8669, approving Amendment No. 2 to the Transit Villages Specific Plan, with an amendment to remove Section 4-b from Resolution No. 8669; and determined that the proposal is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Vote: 5 - 0 Passed

COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Community Day of Service - Council Members participated in the Day of Service, hosted by the Redlands Service Club Council. A big thanks went to every volunteer and the Mayor offered recognition to all those involved in the coordination and planning of the event and gave special thanks to the Facilities and Community Services staff.

Mayor Saucedo attended the Omnitrans meeting, the Redlands Community Hospital Radiation Therapy groundbreaking activity, participated in a transportation forum hosted by Cal State San Bernardino, and represented the City at grand openings for Big Design, Embroidery & Printing and Charming Massage Therapy.

Mayor Pro Tem Shaw spoke at the Redlands Chamber Rise and Shine, participated in the recent RCRC gathering, and attended his first Library Board meeting. He and City Manager Duggan presented at Leadership Redlands.

Council Member Barich attended the SBCTA meeting, the Redlands Community Hospital Radiation Therapy groundbreaking event, was pleased to have nominated Pat Williams, of Angels Closet, as a Woman of Distinction, and enjoyed the annual Redlands Bowl event announcing the upcoming summer program.

Council Member Davis participated in another Blue Zone Walk, hosted this year's "wrap-up" Youth Council meeting, attended Redlands Community Hospital Radiation Therapy groundbreaking event, and enjoyed the University of Redlands "All In Giving Day" held on March 18.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further action required the meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands City Council will be held on April 1, 2025.