

City Council

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2025

**CITY OF MURRIETA
Council Chambers
1 Town Square
Murrieta, CA 92562**



**Tuesday, December 16, 2025
3:30 PM WORKSHOP
5:00 PM CLOSED SESSION
6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

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**Jon Levell
Mayor**

**Ron Holliday
Mayor Pro Tem**

**Lisa DeForest
Council Member**

**Lori Stone
Council Member**

**Cindy Warren
Council Member**

**Justin Clifton, City Manager
Tiffany Israel, City Attorney
Cristal McDonald, City Clerk**

**MURRIETA CITY COUNCIL (CC)
MURRIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT (CSD)
MURRIETA FIRE DISTRICT (FD)
MURRIETA LIBRARY BOARD (LB)
MURRIETA REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY (RSA)
MURRIETA HOUSING AUTHORITY (HA)
MURRIETA FINANCING AUTHORITY (FA)**

**YOU MAY VIEW THE MEETING LIVESTREAMED VIA THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT
<https://murrieta.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>**

3:30 PM WORKSHOP

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Jon Levell
Mayor Pro Tem Ron Holliday
Council Member Cindy Warren
Council Member Lori Stone
Council Member Lisa DeForest

Absent: None

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WORKSHOP

WS1. Town Square Park Ad Hoc Subcommittee: Policy, Fees, and Signature Events Discussion

Staff report and PowerPoint presentation provided by Special Events Supervisor Laura Frasso and Special Events Coordinator Nadine Kotob.

Assistant City Manager Kristen Crane and Community Services Director Brian Ambrose were available to answer questions from the City Council.

The Town Square Park Amphitheater Subcommittee, comprised of Council Member Holliday and Mayor Warren, provided their rationale and overview of the proposed policy.

The following topics were discussed:

- Purpose statement;
- Fee escalator;
- In-kind support;
- Murrieta Valley Unified School District partnership;
- Cost recovery;
- Seed to Succeed;
- Event types;
- Field maintenance; and
- Security.

Public Comments:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Kassen Klein: | Spoke on lawn maintenance, City Council priorities, private event enforcement and fee escalator. |
| Brandon S.: | Spoke on the cost to non-profits to hold events and the impact of in-kind donations. |
| Veronica Griffin: | Inquired about the process for in-kind donations. |

Action: The City Council provided support for the proposed policy with consensus on addressing the items as discussed to include field maintenance, pricing, and a cost escalator.

RECESS 4:34 p.m.

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5:00 PM CLOSED SESSION

CALL TO ORDER 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Lisa DeForest
Council Member Lori Stone
Council Member Ron Holliday
Mayor Pro Tem Jon Levell
Mayor Cindy Warren

Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS - CLOSED SESSION ITEMS ONLY None

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

City Clerk Cristal McDonald announced the following Closed Session items:

CLOSED SESSION

CS1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code sections 54956.9(d)(2), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in four cases.

CS2. Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), to confer with legal counsel regarding litigation to which the City is a party. The title of such litigation is as follows: City of Murrieta vs. Koroush Khalighi; Case Number CVME2512084; Riverside County Superior Court, Menifee Justice Center.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION 5:01 p.m.

6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER 6:04 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION

City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported the following Closed Session Action:

Closed Session Item No. CS1 -

No reportable action.

Closed Session Item No. CS2 -

A unanimous vote on a purchase price of \$42,300 for an easement.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Cindy Warren
Mayor Jon Levell
Mayor Pro Tem Ron Holliday
Council Member Lori Stone
Council Member Lisa DeForest

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Kyle and Emma Warren

INVOCATION

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: Update on Tourism - Explore Murrieta

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action: It was moved by Council Member Stone, seconded by Mayor pro Tem Levell, to approve the Agenda for December 16, 2025.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: DeForest, Stone, Holliday, Levell, Warren
Noes: None
Absent: None

CITY MANAGER - ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

**GOVERNING BODY COMMISSION/COMMITTEE/BOARD (CCB)
REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council Member DeForest: Deferred Reports to the next meeting.

Provided verbal Announcements.

Council Member Stone: Provided attendance/reported the following:
• Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)

Provided verbal Announcements.

Council Member Holliday: Provided attendance/reported the following:
• Town Square Park and Amphitheater Subcommittee

Provided Announcements to be made part of the City's record.

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Mayor Pro Tem Levell: Provided verbal Announcements.

Mayor Warren: Provided attendance/reported the following:

- Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)

Provided Announcements to be made part of the City's record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)

Philip O'Reilly: Spoke on concerns over the Jefferson Avenue arterial project.

Catherine Barrett Fischer: On behalf of the Community Alliance for Riverside's Economy, displayed a handout and poster, and spoke on concerns over the proposed gateway aviation project.

Connie McConnell: Provided seasonal updates on Murrieta Market Nights.

Tammy Demchuk: Spoke on safety concerns over Warm Springs Park and Reserve.

REORGANIZATION

SELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

City Clerk McDonald provided instructions on the process for the selection of presiding officers and deemed all City Council Members on an equal basis.

City Clerk McDonald opened the floor for nominations.

Council Member Stone nominated Council Member Levell for Mayor.

Council Member Levell accepted the nomination.

Action: It was moved by Council Member Holliday, seconded by Council Member Warren to close nominations for Mayor.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Holliday, Levell, Warren, Stone, DeForest

Noes: None

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Action: It was moved by Council Member Holliday, seconded by Council Member Warren to appoint Council Member Levell as Mayor.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Holliday, Levell, Warren, Stone, DeForest
Noes: None

The City Clerk continued presiding over the selection of Mayor Pro Tem. Council Member Warren nominated Council Member Holliday for Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Holliday accepted the nomination.

Action: Without other nominations, it was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Mayor Levell, to appoint Council Member Holliday for Mayor Pro Tem.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Holliday, Warren, Stone, DeForest, Levell
Noes: None

Public Comments:

Casey Jurado: Thanked the City Council for their support of Market Nights, Murrieta Arts Council and Main Street Murrieta. Congratulated Mayor Levell.

Robert Frederick: On behalf of Waste Management, thanked Council Member Warren for her leadership and congratulated Mayor Levell.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR EXTENDED TO OUTGOING MAYOR
Council Member Warren provided her remarks.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR EXTENDED TO INCOMING MAYOR

Mayor Levell provided his remarks.

RECESS TO RECEPTION 7:05 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR - APPROVAL OF ITEMS 1 – 16

Action: It was moved by Council Member Stone, seconded by Mayor Levell to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1-16 with the exception of Item No. 14 which was pulled for discussion by Mayor Pro Tem Holliday.

Mayor Pro Tem Holliday and Mayor Levell recused themselves from Item No. 8 due to owning property within 1,000 feet of the project.

Council Member Stone recused herself from Item No. 13 due to owning property within 500 feet of the project.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Warren, DeForest, Stone, Holliday, Levell
 Noes: None
 Absent: None

1. Waive Reading of All Ordinance Adoptions on the Agenda and Read by Title Only

Recommended Action:

Waive reading, by title only, of all Ordinances and Resolutions. Said Ordinances and Resolutions which appear on the public agenda shall be determined to have been read by title and further reading waived.

2. Minutes

Recommended Action:

Approve the December 2, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting minutes.

3. Check Register October 2025

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 25-4901 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Ratifying the Consolidated Check Register for the month of October 2025.*

4. Monthly Investment Transaction Report for October 2025

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the Monthly Investment Transaction Report for October 2025.

5. Amending and Restating the Comprehensive Pay Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025/26

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 25-4902 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Amending and Restating the Comprehensive Pay Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025/26.*

6. Donation Acceptances for FY 2025/26 Community Services Programs

Recommended Action:

Amend the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Operating Budget as referenced in the Fiscal Impact statement; and

Accept donations from various entities totaling \$12,200, for multiple events and programs provided by the Community Services Department and the Murrieta Library.

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7. Murrieta Housing Authority SB 341 Annual Report for FY 2024/25

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the Murrieta Housing Authority SB 341 Annual Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25;

Direct staff to file the document with the State Department of Housing and Community Development and place it on the City's website; and

Find that these actions are not a "project" as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378.

8. Authorize the City Manager to Approve Two Amended Purchase Orders and Change Orders for the Murrieta Innovation Center Project

Recommended Action:

Authorize the reallocation of funding within the current budget for project completion, specifically for construction and construction management; and

Authorize the City Manager to approve an amended purchase order and task budget for RWBID Construction Management LLC, as well as a change order and a purchase for the general contractor, Optima RPM, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem Holliday and Mayor Levell recused themselves from Item No. 8 due to owning property within 1,000 feet of the project.

9. Introduction of Assembly Bill 1600 Annual Report of Development Impact Fee Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024/25

Recommended Action:

Receive an introduction of the Assembly Bill (AB) 1600 Annual Report of Development Impact Fee expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024/25.

10. Agreement with Chandler Asset Management for Investment Advisory Services

Recommended Action:

Approve a three-year agreement in the amount of \$260,000 with Chandler Asset Management for investment advisory services with the option of two (2) one-year extensions; and

Authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.

11. Agreement with Hinderliter de Llamas (HdL) for Business License Software Services

Recommended Action:

Retroactively approve a three-year agreement in the amount of \$47,800 with Hinderliter de Llamas (HdL) for business license software services, with the option of two (2) one-year extensions;

Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and all other necessary documents; and

Waive the competitive bidding requirements in accordance with the Murrieta Municipal Code § 3.08.280(G).

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12. Notice of Completion - California Oaks Sports Park Tennis Court Lighting Project

Recommended Action:

Accept the public improvements for the California Oaks Sports Park Tennis Court Lighting Project, Capital Improvement Project No. 22017; and

Authorize the City Clerk to record a Notice of Completion and release bonds in accordance with State law and City ordinances.

13. Acceptance of Public Improvements in Parcel Map 38160

Recommended Action:

Accept the Public Improvements in Parcel Map 38160 located at 24960 Adams Avenue; and

Authorize the Municipal Services Department to perform continued maintenance of the aforementioned public improvements in conformance with the City of Murrieta's maintenance standards.

Council Member Stone recused herself from Item No. 13 due to owning property within 500 feet of the project.

15. Quitclaim Deed to Reserve a Public Right-of-Way Easement for Monroe Avenue

Recommended Action:

Approve a Quitclaim Deed to reserve a right-of-way easement on Monroe Avenue over a portion of the parcel granted to the City of Murrieta on document No. 2011-0150720;

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Quitclaim Deed of Easement; and

Direct the City Clerk to record the Quitclaim Deed upon approval by the City Attorney.

16. Grant Deed of Easement to Southern California Edison

Recommended Action:

Approve the Grant Deed of Easement to Southern California Edison for a portion of the parcel granted to the City of Murrieta on document No. 2011-0150720; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Grant Deed of Easement.

PULLED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

14. Agreement Amendment with Contech Engineered Solutions for Hayes Avenue Bridge at Miller Canyon Creek

Staff report provided by City Engineer Jeff Hitch.

Director of Public Works Bob Moehling was available to answer questions from the City Council.

Public Comments: None

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Action: It was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Council Member Warren to Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Contech Engineered Solutions for the additional amount of \$130,500, to purchase a precast concrete arch culvert system for the Hayes Avenue Bridge at Miller Canyon Creek without Notice for Bids pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 1102, 20168, and 22050, which includes a 15% contingency in the amount of \$20,000, in the event of change orders or price fluctuations; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to the Agreement and future amendments up to the contingency amount.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Warren, DeForest, Stone, Holliday
Noes: Levell
Absent: None

RECONSIDERATION None

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

Council Member DeForest: Council Member DeForest requested to consider a policy or ordinance banning Kratom 7-OH, similar to Huntington Beach and to expedite the item.

Consensus was received.

Council Member Stone: None

Council Member Warren: None

Mayor Pro Tem Holliday: None

Mayor Levell: None

ADJOURNMENT 7:35 p.m.



Cristal McDonald

Cristal McDonald, City Clerk