

**City Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 3, 2026**

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



**Tuesday, February 3, 2026  
4:00 PM REGULAR MEETING  
(CONSENT, DISCUSSION,  
WORKSHOP)  
CLOSED SESSION  
FOLLOWING REGULAR  
MEETING**

The City of Murrieta intends to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons with special needs should call the City Clerk Department at (951) 461-6031 or email at [CityClerk@murrietaca.gov](mailto:CityClerk@murrietaca.gov) at least 72 hours in advance. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the public counter at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA during normal business hours.

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Murrieta's equipment must be submitted to the City Clerk's department 72 hours prior to the scheduled City Council meeting at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA; via email at [CityClerk@MurrietaCA.gov](mailto:CityClerk@MurrietaCA.gov) or call (951) 461-6031. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the public counter at City Hall located at 1 Town Square, Murrieta, CA during normal business hours.

**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>**

**4:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER 4:02 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Council Member Warren

**INVOCATION** Melissa Rusler, Murrieta United Methodist Church

**PRESENTATIONS** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Action: It was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Council Member Warren, to approve the Agenda for February 3, 2026.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**CITY MANAGER - ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

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

Council Member Warren: Provided attendance/reported the following:  
• Riverside Transit Agency (RTA)  
• Southwest Elected Leaders Collaborative  
• Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)

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

Council Member DeForest: Deferred Governing Body Reports to the next meeting and provided verbal announcements.

Council Member Stone: Provided attendance/reported the following:  
• Southwest Elected Leaders Collaborative  
• Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG)  
• Code Enforcement Subcommittee

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

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- Mayor Pro Tem Holliday: Provided attendance/reported the following:
- Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)
  - Code Enforcement Subcommittee
- Provided Announcements to be made part of the City’s record.
- Mayor Levell: Provided verbal Announcements.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (NON-AGENDA)**

- Kham Thai: Spoke on concerns regarding a nearby project affecting their property.
- Kim Gerrish: Presented a certificate of appreciation from Michelle’s Place.
- John Leonard: Spoke on the citizens’ Riverside election integrity commission’s findings.
- Greg Langworthy: Provided a PowerPoint presentation and spoke on the citizens’ Riverside election integrity commission’s findings.
- Carol Hanes with donated time from Barbara Tilton: Requested the XYZ lunches held at the Murrieta Senior Center be included as part of the City’s liability umbrella coverage or have the insurance cost be subsidized.

**CONSENT CALENDAR - APPROVAL OF ITEMS 1 - 8**

Action: It was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holliday to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 1-8.

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 minutes from the December 16, 2025 and January 20, 2026 Regular meeting.

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## 3. Check Register November 2025

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 26-4907 entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Ratifying the Consolidated Check Register for the month of November 2025.*

## 4. Agreement Renewal with Nearmap for Aerial Imagery Services

Recommended Action:

Approve the use of the current Products Agreement with Nearmap for a four-year renewal of aerial imagery services and associated products;

Approve the contract amount not-to-exceed \$114,450; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement with Nearmap.

## 5. Adoption of the 2026 Legislative Platform

Recommended Action:

Approve the 2026 Legislative Platform, as presented.

## 6. Authorization of Auto-Extrication Equipment Purchase

Recommended Action:

Authorize the purchase of auto-extrication equipment from L.N. Curtis, in the amount of \$119,088.25, using State of California Office of Traffic Safety grant funds through a cooperative purchasing agreement in accordance with Municipal Code Section 3.08.295; and

Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary to complete the equipment purchase.

## 7. Project Management Services for the Keller Road at I-215 Interchange Project, CIP No. 8449

Recommended Action:

Approve the Agreement for Project Management Services for the Keller Road at I-215 Interchange project, CIP No. 8449, with PrimeLine Civil Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$425,984.00;

Authorize a ten percent (10%) engineering design contingency of \$42,598.40; and

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement with PrimeLine Civil Engineering, Inc. and amendments to the Agreement not to exceed ten percent .

## 8. Approval of the Successor Memorandum of Understanding with the Murrieta Police Management Association

Recommended Action:

Adopt Resolution No. 26-4908, entitled: *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Murrieta, California, Approving, Adopting and Implementing a Successor Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Murrieta and the Murrieta Police Management Association for the Period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.*

**PULLED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS** None

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**DISCUSSION**

9. Presentation and Review of the City of Murrieta’s Fiscal Year 2024/25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Single Audit Report

Staff report and PowerPoint provided by Accounting Manager Ashley Lopez and City Consultant Jeffrey McKennan with RAMS.

Public Comments: None

Action: After discussion, it was moved by Council Member DeForest, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Holliday to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Annual Comprehensive Financial and Single Audit Reports.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**WORKSHOP**

10. Hillside Updates (DCA-2021-2396) - Workshop 6

Staff report and PowerPoint presentation provided by Senior Planner Chris Tracy.

Development Services Director David Chantarangsu, Deputy Director of Development Services Jarrett Ramaiya, GIS Analyst Cameron Butt, Fire Marshal Doug Strosnider, and a Landscaping City Consultant were available to answer questions from the City Council.

The following topics were discussed:

- Retaining walls;
- Landscaping standards;
- Fire severity zones;
- Developed and undeveloped properties; and
- Citywide standards.

Kassen Klein: Spoke on retaining wall issues, support in separating hillside and Citywide focus; tree removal credits, and definitions of undisturbed.

Alan Long: Spoke on the visual concerns of retaining walls, support in separating hillside and Citywide focus, Senate Bill 9, and insurance companies.

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- Sherrie Munroe: Spoke on conditions of approval, requirements by non-city agencies, and residential homes.
- Dennis Hollingsworth: Spoke on retaining walls.

- Action: Via consensus the City Council provided the following direction:
- Approved retaining wall types (Geogrid, Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) walls; Keystone Walls);
  - Landscaping for retaining walls to include larger plant sizes earlier in the process;
  - Review process for retaining walls that includes Director's decision and appeals to the Planning Commission;
  - Hillside Ordinance will be separate from Citywide standards;
    - Retaining walls will be a part of the Hillside Ordinance and will be brought back for further discussion at a future meeting; and
  - Clarification on the definition of undeveloped and developed land.

**RECONSIDERATION** None

**COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO ADD OR WITHDRAW ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS**

**11. Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance**

Report provided by City Manager Justin Clifton.

- Action: Based on the update provided, Council Member DeForest withdrew her request from December 2, 2025, to consider a chronic nuisance abatement ordinance.

**12. Prohibiting the Sale, Distribution and Possession of Kratom**

Report provided by City Manager Justin Clifton.

City Attorney Tiffany Israel and Police Chief Matt Henry were available to answer questions from the City Council.

Public Comment:

- Dennis Vrooman: Spoke in support of banning Kratom and noted support of Riverside County officials.

- Action: Based on the update provided, received consensus to bring back a further discussion on Kratom.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (AGENDIZED, NON-AGENDA, AND CLOSED SESSION)** 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 close session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (2), because there is a significant exposure to litigation in two (2) cases.

**CS2.** Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation

The City Council will conduct a closed session, pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 (d)(4), because the City is considering whether to initiate litigation in one (1) case.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION 7:10 p.m.**

**RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER 8:27 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION**

City Attorney Tiffany Israel reported the following Closed Session Action:

CS1. (two cases): Case 1 – Did not hear this case  
Case 2 – No reportable action

CS2.: No reportable action.

**ADJOURNMENT 8:29 p.m.**



*Cristal McDonald*

Cristal McDonald, City Clerk