

MINUTES
OXNARD CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2026

A. ROLL CALL, POSTING OF AGENDA

At 4:31 p.m., Mayor Luis A. Mc Arthur presided and called to order the regular meeting of the Oxnard City Council concurrently with the special meeting of the Oxnard Parking Authority in the City Hall Council Chambers at 305 W. Third Street, Oxnard, California. Councilmembers Gabriela Basua, Bert E. Perello, Michaela Perez, Gabriela Rodriguez*, Gabriel Teran and Luis A. Mc Arthur were present. Councilman Aaron Starr was absent. The City Clerk stated that the agenda was posted on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and the amended agenda on Friday, April 3, 2026 at the Library, City Hall kiosk, City Administrative Offices and on the website.

*Councilwoman Rodriguez participated remotely from Carnival Firenze Cruise Ship, State Room 1385.

Staff members present were Alexander Nguyen, City Manager; Ashley Golden, Assistant City Manager; Eric Sonstegard, Assistant City Manager, Stephen Fischer, City Attorney; Brenda Lopez, Housing Director and Lourdes A. López, City Clerk.

CONSIDERATION OF TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 2449

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

No public comments were received. At 4:36 p.m., the City Council recessed into a closed session.

C. CLOSED SESSION (4:30 PM)

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
Name of case: *Aldana v. City of Oxnard*
Ventura County Superior Court, Case No. 56-2020-00547139-CU-PO-VTA
Legislative Body: City Council
2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – (Government Code section 54956.8)
Property: South Plaza City/Parking Authority-Owned Parcels (Between West 5th and West 6th Streets and South B and South C Streets - 318 West Fifth St. (APN 202-0-103-210), 321 West Sixth St. (202-0-103-130), and APNs 202-0-103-115, 202-0-103-025, 202-0-103-175, 202-0-103-185, 202-0-103-225, 202-0-103-235,

202-0-103-145, and 202-0-103-205)

Agency Negotiator: Brenda Lopez, Housing Director

Negotiating Party: Brad Steinberg and JB Jonesboro, LLC

Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

Legislative Body: City Council, Oxnard Parking Authority

At 5:53 p.m., the City Council reconvened in an open session in the Council Chambers. The City Attorney announced that there were no reportable actions out of closed session.

OXNARD PARKING AUTHORITY

At 5:53 p.m., the joint meeting with the Oxnard Parking Authority concluded.

D. APPOINTMENT ITEMS (5:00 PM)

1. Cultural & Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Oxnard Public Library Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council receive the Oxnard Public Library annual report.

This item was continued to April 21, 2026.

2. Housing Department

SUBJECT: Downtown Oxnard Improvement Association Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council receive and file the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Report on the Oxnard Downtown Management District.

(This item did not originate in Committee.)

(Presentation will be live from Executive Director, Abel Magana, of the Downtown Oxnard Improvement Association)

Executive Director Abel Magana delivered a presentation outlining the services they offer, as well as the events held throughout the year. Discussion ensued among the Council and Mr. Magana. Public comments were received from Mark Spellman and Larry Stein.

This was a receive and file. No action was required.

E. OPENING CEREMONIES (6:00 PM)

At 6:17 p.m., Mayor Luis A. Mc Arthur presided and called to order the regular meeting of the Oxnard City Council in the City Hall Council Chambers at 305 W. Third Street,

Oxnard, California. Councilmembers Gabriela Basua, Bert E. Perello, Michaela Perez, Gabriela Rodriguez*, Gabriel Teran and Luis A. Mc Arthur were present. Councilman Aaron Starr was absent. The City Clerk stated that the agenda was posted on Thursday, March 26, 2026, and the amended agenda on Friday, April 3, 2026 at the Library, City Hall kiosk, City Administrative Offices and on the website.

*Councilwoman Rodriguez participated remotely from Carnival Firenze Cruise Ship, State Room 1385.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States led by Cecilia Stice, a student with the Oxnard Fire EMS Corps. Mayor Mc Arthur called for a moment of silence in recognition of the ongoing conflicts around the world.

Staff members present were Alexander Nguyen, City Manager, Ashley Golden, Assistant City Manager; Eric Sonstegard, Assistant City Manager, Stephen Fischer, City Attorney; Kenneth Rozell, Chief Assistant City Attorney; Elle McCarron, Assistant City Attorney; Jason Zaragoza, Assistant City Attorney; Andrew Gonzalez, Deputy City Attorney; Jeff Pengilly, Community Development Director; Michael Wolfe, Public Works Director; Rocky Marquez, Assistant Police Chief; Miguel Serrato, Police Commander; Brenda Lopez, Housing Director and Lourdes A. López, City Clerk.

F. CEREMONIAL ITEMS

1. SUBJECT: Presentation of a Proclamation Designating the Month of April 2026 as "Fair Housing Month."

Councilwoman Basua read the proclamation and presented to Rob Leatherwood, Director of Government Affairs with the Ventura County Coastal Association of Relators who thanked the City Council for the recognition.

2. SUBJECT: Presentation of a Commendation to the Oxnard Police Explorers' Performance at ExCon 2026.

Mayor Mc Arthur presented certificates to the Oxnard Police Explorers in recognition of their outstanding performance in the competition.

3. SUBJECT: Presentation of a Proclamation Designating April 2026 as "Arts, Culture and Creativity Month" in the City of Oxnard.

Mayor Mc Arthur presented a proclamation to Alvin Lamar Dawson, Jr., Teatro de las Americas, Open Door Studio, Chapter 30 Studios, Pipiripau and Rafael Perea de la Cabada, who thanked the City Council for the recognition.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA AND NON-ACTION ITEMS

Public comments were received from Manuel Herrera, Sarah Wilczewski, Jeanette Lopez, Eric Andrist, Larry Stein, Doug Partello, Ray Blattel, Vanessa Valdez, Deirdre Frank and Angel Garcia.

H. REPORT OF CITY MANAGER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY

The City Manager reported that: 1) April is recognized as both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month; 2) National Library Week is celebrated April 19 – 25, 2026; 3) the winners of the Wooden Gateway Sign Sweepstakes Program have been announced, and 4) Barbara Macri-Ortiz was congratulated for being named 2026 Women of the Year by State Assemblymember Steve Bennet.

I. CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

The members of the Council provided brief announcements regarding various activities.

J. REVIEW OF INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

K. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

L. INFORMATION/CONSENT AGENDA

1. City Clerk Department

SUBJECT: Approval of Oxnard City Council Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve the regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2026.

2. Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Professional Service Agreements for Environmental Services with Dudek, Michael Baker International, Environmental Science Associates, and Eyestone Environmental.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to execute Professional Services Agreements with Dudek (32600342), Michael Baker International (32600344), Environmental Science Associates (32600343), and Eyestone Environmental (32600356), for \$750,000 each with a term of 3 years with an option for one, two-year extension.

(The Community Service, Public Safety, Housing and Economic Development Committee approved 3-0 on March 10, 2026.)

3. Finance Department

SUBJECT: Monthly Investment Report for the period ending February 28, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council receive and file the monthly investment report. This is an information item.

(This item did not originate in Committee.)

4. Information Technology Department

SUBJECT: IT Position Reclassification.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt **Resolution No. 16,028** to amend Resolution No. 15,885 to reclassify six existing full time equivalent positions in City service effective April 7, 2026 in accordance with the operating and capital budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

(This item did not originate in Committee.)

5. Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Project Contingency for Agreement 32600359 with Toro Enterprises, Inc. for Emergency Water Main Break Repairs Near 800 E. Pleasant Valley Road.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve and authorize a \$10,000 project contingency for Agreement No. 32600359 with Toro Enterprises, Inc., increasing the contract amount to a new not-to-exceed total of \$270,000.

(This item is a continuation of an item previously brought to the City Council on March 3, 2026.)

Consent Item No. L-1

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, seconded by Councilmember Perello, to approve the Information/Consent Item No. L-1 as presented. VOTE: Teran, Basua, Perello, Perez and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilwoman Rodriguez abstaining. Councilman Starr was absent.

Consent Item Nos. L-2, L-3, L-4 and L-5

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, seconded by Councilwoman Basua, to approve the Information/Consent Items as presented. VOTE: Perez, Rodriguez, Teran, Basua, Perello and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

M. PUBLIC HEARINGS

N. REPORTS

1. Community Development Department

SUBJECT: The Process to Rename Cesar Chavez Drive.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Review the process for renaming a City street; and
2. Find, pursuant to City Council Resolution 13,448 (“Policy and Procedures for Street Naming”), that renaming “Cesar Chavez Drive” would serve the public interest and benefit the public welfare by addressing community concerns arising from recent revelations about Cesar Chavez, thereby authorizing the City to proceed with the renaming process for this street in a manner otherwise inconsistent with the Policy and Procedures for Street Naming; and
3. Provide direction to City Staff on the process for identifying alternative street names.

The Community Development Director explained the process, noting that approximately 39 homes would be affected by the street name change, and reviewed the costs associated with fabrication and installation. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff.

Public comments were received from Jeanette Lopez, Soledad Trevino, Barbara Macri-Ortiz, Greg Runyon, Alexis Schmidt, Vanessa Valdez and Doug Partello.

It was moved by Mayor Mc Arthur, seconded by Councilwoman Basua, to adopt the finding found in staff Recommended No. 2, along with directing staff to develop a survey and engage directly with the affected residents to inform the decision-making process. This includes conducting outreach and ensuring residents’ input regarding naming options is taken into consideration. VOTE: Rodriguez, Basua, Perello, Perez, Teran and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

2. City Manager Department

SUBJECT: Direction on the Future of the Commission on Homelessness.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Consider the future direction for the Commission on Homelessness, including (but not limited to) the following options:
 - A. Dissolve the Commission on Homelessness, or
 - B. Keep the Commission on Homelessness, or
 - C. Support the Mayor in holding informal discussion directly with residents, community members or other stakeholders on homeless issues (Homelessness Collaborative).

2. Take formal action regarding the future of the Commission on Homelessness, including (if applicable) providing direction to staff to bring back for City Council consideration any resolutions or ordinances necessary to implement the City Council's decision regarding the Commission on Homelessness.

(The Community Services, Public Safety, Housing & Development Committee voted 3-0 on February 24, 2026 to refer the item to the full Council with 3 options)

The City Manager, Assistant City Manager Golden and Assistant City Attorney Zaragoza presented and were available to answer questions. Discussion ensued among Council and staff.

Public comments were received from Larry Stein, Doug Partello, Vanessa Valdez and two additional virtual speakers.

Motion to Extend Past 10:00 P.M.

At 9:28 p.m., the City Council voted to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m., and take action on the remainder of the items on the agenda.

It was moved by Councilmember Perello, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, to continue the meeting past 10:00 p.m. VOTE: Basua, Perello, Perez, Rodriguez, Teran and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

Original Motion: *It was moved by Councilwoman Basua, seconded by Councilmember Perello, to dissolve the Homeless Commission and allow the Mayor to establish a collaborative working group. That Housing Director Lopez work with the Mayor to develop an agenda, including information on the Continuum of Care program, and to allow the Mayor to lead a robust discussion and return with feedback to Council. VOTE: Basua, Perello and Teran voted in favor; Councilwoman Perez, Councilwoman Rodriguez and Mayor Mc Arthur voted no. The motion failed. Councilman Starr was absent.*

Amended motion to the original motion: *It was moved by Mayor Mc Arthur, seconded by Councilwoman Rodriguez, to retain the Commission on Homelessness for one year, restructuring it to meet quarterly. The Commission would then be evaluated, and if found ineffective, the City would consider transitioning to a homeless collaborative at that time. VOTE: Perez, Rodriguez and Mc Arthur voted in favor; Mayor Pro Tem Teran, Councilwoman Basua and Councilmember Perello voted no. The motion failed. Councilman Starr was absent.*

Original motion: *It was moved by Councilwoman Bausa, seconded by Councilwoman Rodriguez, to pause the Commission on Homelessness, not to*

dissolve it and work to create a homeless collaborative and bring back to Council. No vote was taken.

Amended motion to the original motion: *It was moved by Mayor Mc Arthur, seconded by Councilmember Perello, to pause this item and bring it back at a future City Council meeting. VOTE: Perello, Perez, Rodriguez and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 4-2 with Mayor Pro Tem Teran and Councilwoman Basua voted no. Councilman Starr was absent.*

3. City Manager Department

SUBJECT: 2026 Update on the City’s Municipal Carnegie Art Museum.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council receive and file the 2026 Update on the Carnegie.

(The Community Services, Public Safety, Housing & Development Committee approved 3-0 on March 10, 2026.)

The City Manager and Public Works Director presented and were available to answer questions. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff.

No public comments were received.

It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, seconded by Councilmember Perello, to approve the recommended action. VOTE: Teran, Basua, Perello, Perez, Rodriguez and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

4. Police Department

SUBJECT: Oxnard Police Department "Military Equipment" Use Report for Calendar Year 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Receive the Police Department's annual report concerning its inventory and use of military equipment, in accordance with Government Code sections 7070-7075.
2. Approve the renewal of City of Oxnard Ordinance 3014, which is codified in Oxnard City Code Section 2-212 as the City’s “Military Equipment Policy” as required by Government Code section 7071 (e)(1).
3. Approve the continuing authorization for the funding, acquisition, and use of military equipment by the Oxnard Police Department’s military equipment inventory as required by Government Code section 7071 (e)(2).
4. Approve the acquisition and use of the following military equipment items:
 - a. Twenty-four (24) .223 caliber rifles
 - b. Thirteen hundred (1,300) 40mm projectile launcher Less lethal rounds

- c. Three thousand (3,000) Pepperball Projectiles
- d. Eighty (80) CS / "Tear Gas" canisters
- e. Ninety-five (95) Light, Sound, Diversionary Devices (LSDD's)
- f. Three (3) DJI Matrice 4T Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Twelve (12) Batteries for the corresponding UAV's

(This item did not originate in Committee.)

Assistant Police Chief Marquez presented and was available to answer questions. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff.

Public comments were received from Doug Partello and Ray Blattel.

It was moved by Councilmember Perello, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, to approve the recommended action. VOTE: Basua, Perello, Perez, Rodriguez, Teran and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

5. Housing Department

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Vacant Real Property Located at 5230 Cypress Road and 5208 Cypress Road and Identified with Assessor Parcel Numbers 222-0-042-120 and 222-0-042-110.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council adopt **Resolution No. 16,029** of the City Council of the City of Oxnard,

1. approving a Settlement Agreement (32600387) in the amount of one dollar (\$1) for the acquisition of unimproved real property located at 5230 Cypress Road and 5208 Cypress Road from current landowner Habitat for Humanity, Ventura County, Inc. and
2. authorizing the Housing Director or designee to execute any and all documents necessary to complete the acquisition.

(This item did not originate in Committee.)

The Housing Director presented and was available to answer questions. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff. No public comments were received.

It was moved by Councilmember Perello, seconded by Councilwoman Perez, to approve the recommended action. VOTE: Perello, Perez, Rodriguez, Teran, Basua and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

6. Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Fourth Amendment to Agreement A-8136 with Enterprise Fleet Management.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a Fourth Amendment to the Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., increasing the current agreement value by \$3,500,000 for a total not to exceed amount of \$18,813,000 and extend the term through April 18, 2027, utilizing the Sourcewell contract 030122-EFM for Fleet Management Services that includes vehicle leasing and maintenance management.

(This item did not originate in Committee as it is a continuation from an item previously taken to Council.)

No public comments were received.

It was moved by Councilwoman Basua, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, to approve the recommended action. VOTE: Perez, Rodriguez, Teran, Basua, Perello and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

7. City Attorney Department

SUBJECT: Fireworks Ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve and introduce by title only and waive further reading of an **Ordinance No. 3076** titled:

"ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 7-56 OF ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 7; REPEALING SECTION 7-147.1 FIREWORKS OF ARTICLE VIII OF CHAPTER 7; AND ADDING ARTICLE XVI OF CHAPTER 7 PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF FIREWORKS, PYROTECHNICS AND PRODUCTION EFFECTS; VIOLATIONS TO THE OXNARD CITY CODE."

(The Community Service, Public Safety, Housing and Economic Development Committee approved 2-0 on March 24, 2026.)


Assistant City Attorney McCarron, Deputy City Attorney Gonzalez and Commander Serrato presented and were available to answer questions. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff.

Public comments were received from Ray Blattel and Doug Partello.

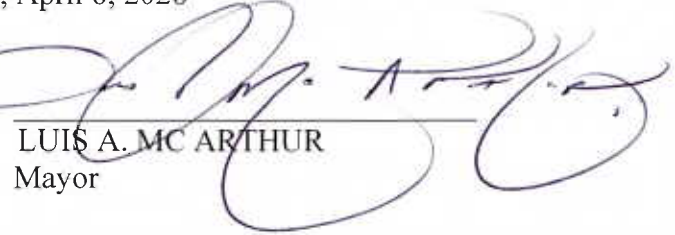
It was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Teran, seconded by Councilmember Perello, to approve the recommended action. VOTE: Rodriguez, Teran, Basua, Perello, Perez and Mc Arthur voted in favor; the motion carried 6-0. Councilman Starr was absent.

O. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business on the agenda, and without objection, Mayor Mc Arthur adjourned the meeting at 12:02 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026



LOURDES A. LOPEZ
City Clerk



LUIS A. MC ARTHUR
Mayor