

**CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK PUBLIC MEETING ROOM - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
625 N. SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD**

6:00 PM – REGULAR MEETING

THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD HAS ADOPTED BRIEF SUMMARY AND ACTION MEETING MINUTES, WHICH PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND POINTS OF DISCUSSION ONLY. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ANY ITEM SUMMARIZED IN THESE MINUTES MAY BE OBTAINED BY VIEWING THE ARCHIVED VIDEOS OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AT www.weho.org/wehotv.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Byers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Byers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmember Erickson, Councilmember Hang, Councilmember Meister, Vice Mayor Heilman, and Mayor Byers.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager David Wilson, City Attorney Lauren Langer, Director of Administrative Services Janet Jimenez, City Clerk Melissa Crowder, and Assistant City Clerk Lulu Morales.

ABSENT: *Mayor Byers excused Councilmember Meister from the City Council meeting at 7:10 p.m.*

REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA:

City Attorney Lauren Langer reported that the City Council convened the Closed Session at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the one (1) item of business listed on the posted agenda, took no reportable action, and adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

City Council Changes:

- Item F.3.: Tabled.
- Item F.6.: Moved to the Consent Calendar as Item B.15., respectively.

Motion by Vice Mayor Heilman, seconded by Mayor Byers, and approved (5/0).

*** The agenda was amended after the Public Comment period due to Councilmember Meister's excused absence from the meeting at 7:10 p.m. as follows:*

- Item C.1.: Continued to the Regular City Council Meeting of November 3, 2025.

City Council Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Page 2

- Items E.5., F.1., and F.5.: Tabled.

Motion by Vice Mayor Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Erickson, and approved (4/0).

LEVINE ACT DISCLOSURES: None.

ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS:

Councilmember Meister requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Carl Cronin and Geoff Buck.

Vice Mayor Heilman and Councilmember Meister requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Vincent "Vince" R. Wong.

Councilmember Erickson requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Diane Keaton, Dominic Gillotte, and Kevin Seidel.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur announced that at the 2025 Community Excellence Awards, Councilmember Meister was honored with the Distinguished Service in Government Award for her years of service, while Vice Mayor Heilman received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his extensive public service. Additionally, he provided a comprehensive legislative update, highlighting several key victories and protections secured over the past year despite major fiscal challenges stemming from federal policy impacts. Significant accomplishments included preserving over \$30 million in health equity funding, supporting nearly 70 organizations, many of which are LGBTQ+ led, and securing \$15 million to maintain gender-affirming healthcare coverage. Funding was also sustained for in-home supportive services (IHSS), Planned Parenthood, and affordable housing, including \$50 million in low-income housing tax credits and \$120 million for the multifamily housing program. Cuts to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems were successfully blocked, and K-12 education funding was increased. He noted several new pieces of legislation were signed into law; AB 715 addresses rising anti-Semitism in K-12 schools by enhancing anti-discrimination protections and establishing an Office of Civil Rights with coordinators for various protected communities; AB 39, the Local Electrification Planning Act, requires larger cities and counties to develop equitable decarbonization plans; AB 748, backed by Santa Monica College, streamlines the development of housing for community college students and staff to combat homelessness; AB 1184 accelerates the processing of name and gender marker change documents to support transgender and non-binary individuals; AB 309, the HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Act, was extended to preserve access to sterile syringes, while AB 478, the FOUND Act, mandates that emergency plans include procedures to protect pets during disasters. Another major legislative success was the expansion of California's film and TV tax credit program from \$330 million to \$750 million to boost the state's struggling

entertainment industry. Additional support was secured for the UCLA Center for Reproductive Health and Policy, and plans are underway to explore including West Hollywood in the Speed Safety Camera Pilot Program.

- Councilmember Erickson presented a certificate of recognition to Aithor Zabala, Chef and Owner of Somni Restaurant.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT:

MICHAEL SELDITCH, WEST HOLLYWOOD, expressed his gratitude and support for Item B.8. However, he voiced concerns about the Steering Committee's membership and opposed Item F.1.

WENDY GOLDMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in opposition to the ordinance in Item B.5. due to the removal of off-street and replacement parking for ADUs; she noted increased parking scarcity, neighborhood conflict, property damage, and negative impacts on daily life.

STEPHANIE HARKER, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke in gratitude to City staff and Councilmembers for their support of community events, arts funding, and safety improvements on Fountain Avenue, while highlighting the success of recent local activities and the need for continued attention to public safety.

TOM DEMILLE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns related to the Fountain project, urging the City to prioritize repairing broken sidewalks in high-traffic areas like the Rainbow District and Sunset Boulevard, and proposed revitalizing Sunset with music events and historical sidewalk tributes to attract visitors and support local businesses.

PAUL NICHOLLS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns related to Item F.2., and urged the Council to address unlicensed sidewalk vendors, noting serious safety, sanitation, and public nuisance issues, including blocked exits, grease hazards, illegal alcohol sales to minors, and even a vendor cart explosion near his business.

ROMY ORANTES, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns related to Item F.2. urging action on unlicensed sidewalk vendors, citing major sanitation issues, health risks, aggressive behavior, and illegal dumping that negatively impact both businesses and public safety.

KEVIN BURTON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding Carl Cronin's passing, expressed concerns about community awareness of motor vehicle accidents, and requested signage at locations with high accident rates.

LYN ETCETERA, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns with the limited number of porta-potties at the No Kings March in the City.

City Council Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Page 4

MITO AVILES, WEST HOLLYWOOD, on behalf of the ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION, spoke in support of Agenda Item B.8., and spoke regarding concerns with the trolley services.

RICK WATTS, WEST HOLLYWOOD, on behalf of the DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD, invited the Council and community to the upcoming Disabilities Advisory Board Service Awards, highlighting honoree Steven David Simon's contributions and emphasizing the importance of disability advocacy and awareness for all residents.

KYLE BRAZEAL, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on concerns with vehicular safety on Fountain Avenue.

REED DEVGENIO, WEST HOLLYWOOD, congratulated Councilmember Meister and Vice Mayor Heilman, who were recognized by Assemblymember Zbur, spoke on concerns with illegal street vending, and expressed appreciation for City leadership and their service.

DAVID ECKERT, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on concerns with vehicular safety on Fountain Avenue and suggested staff explore additional studies.

ALEC WHITE, WEST HOLLYWOOD, thanked Councilmembers for supporting the Yes on Prop 50 rally and voiced strong support for Item F.4.

ADAM ERAMIAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on concerns with Agenda Item F.2., and urged the Council to address the growing safety, health, and accessibility concerns caused by unlicensed sidewalk vendors, including illegal hot dog and alcohol sales, which obstruct sidewalks and endanger the public.

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SUNSET STRIP, invited the City Council and community to attend the family-friendly Spinning Sunset event this Saturday and upcoming Halloween activities featuring promotions, entertainment, and festivities along the Sunset Strip.

*** The City Council recessed at 7:00 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7:11 p.m.*

***Councilmember Meister was excused from the meeting at 7:10 p.m. (see amended approval of agenda).*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager David Wilson provided brief updates that included the annual Halloween Carnival scheduled for Friday, October 31st, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Rainbow District, noting Santa Monica Boulevard closures commencing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 31st, and continuing until 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 1st, to accommodate the festivities. He also announced that nominations were being accepted

City Council Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Page 5

for the 2025 Rainbow Key Awards, which recognize individuals and groups who've made outstanding contributions to the LGBTQ+ community. He requested an update from Los Angeles County Sheriff's West Hollywood Station Captain Fanny Lakin on an unscheduled undercover operation conducted on Friday night in response to reports of illegal activity.

Captain Fanny Lapkin provided an update on the operation conducted on Friday, October 17, 2025, at the Rainbow District, based on concerns raised by business owners about illegal activity.

FISCAL IMPACT ON CONSENT CALENDAR:

City Clerk Melissa Crowder stated that the fiscal impact on tonight's Consent Calendar, with the addition of Item F.6., was \$429,500 in expenditures, \$5,000 in revenues, and (\$15,760) in waived fees.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

B.1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., 15., Motion by Vice Mayor Heilman, seconded by Mayor Byers, noting Councilmember Erickson's "recusal" vote on Item B.8., and approved (4/0).

B.1. REPORT OF AGENDA POSTING [M. CROWDER]:

SUBJECT: The agenda for the meeting of Monday, October 20, 2025, was posted at City Hall, Plummer Park, and the Aquatics & Recreation Center (ARC) on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council is requested to approve the minutes of the prior City Council meeting.

ACTION: Approved the meeting minutes of October 6, 2025. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.3. APPROVAL OF DEMAND REGISTER NO. 978 [O. JONES, K. BARENG, S. HERNANDEZ]:

SUBJECT: The City Council shall receive the Demand Register for period ending October 10, 2025 pursuant to Sections 37201 to 37210 of the Government Code of the State of California.

ACTION: Approved Demand Register No. 978 and Adopted Resolution No. 25-069: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ALLOWING AND APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF DEMANDS ON DEMAND REGISTER NO. 978". **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.4. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 25-23 (2ND READING) “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5.70 (CANNABIS USES) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE TO REMOVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY GUARD PATROL REQUIREMENT FOR CANNABIS LICENSEES” [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:
SUBJECT: The City Council will waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 25-23, amending Chapter 5.70 (cannabis uses) of the West Hollywood Municipal Code to remove the neighborhood security guard patrol requirement for cannabis licensees.

ACTION: Waived further reading and adopted Ordinance No. 25-23: “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 5.70 (CANNABIS USES) OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE TO REMOVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY GUARD PATROL REQUIREMENT FOR CANNABIS LICENSEES.” **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.5. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 25-24 (2ND READING) “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD AMENDING CHAPTER 19.36 OF TITLE 19 OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND FINDING THE ACTION TO BE STATUTORILY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) UNDER PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21080.17 AND SECTION 15061(b)(3) OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES” [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will waive further reading and adopt Ordinance No. 25-24, amending Chapter 19.36 of Title 19 of the City of West Hollywood Municipal Code regulating accessory dwelling units and junior accessory dwelling units and finding the action to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Public Resources Section 21080.17 and Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA guidelines.

ACTION: Waived further reading and adopted Ordinance No. 25-24: “AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD AMENDING CHAPTER 19.36 OF TITLE 19 OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND FINDING THE ACTION TO BE STATUTORILY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) UNDER PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21080.17 AND SECTION 15061(b)(3) OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES”. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.6. COMMISSION MEETING SYNOPSES [M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive synopses from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, the Human Services Commission, the Rent Stabilization Commission, and the Women's Advisory Board regarding actions taken at their recent meetings.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.7. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025 [O. JONES, K. BARENG, S. PELOSO, S. STEPHENS]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive the Treasurer's Reports for the month ended August 2025 pursuant to Section 53646 of the Government Code of the State of California.

ACTION: Received and filed the August 2025 Treasurer's Report. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.8. 2026 ARTS GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS – ARTS PROJECT; COMMUNITY ARTS; FILMMAKERS; TRANSGENDER, GENDER DIVERSE, INTERSEX ARTS; AND WEHO ARTISTS GRANTS [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, E. ANGELOFF]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider the recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for funding the 2026 Arts Grant Program – Arts Project; Community Arts; Filmmakers; Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Arts; and WeHo Artists Grants.

ACTIONS: 1) Approved recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to award Arts Project Grants totaling \$79,700 at various funding amounts to twelve (12) nonprofit arts organizations as outlined in this staff report; 2) Approved recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to award Community Arts Grants totaling \$30,000 at various funding amounts to six (6) applicants as outlined in this staff report; 3) Approved recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to award Transgender, Gender Diverse, Intersex Arts Grants totaling \$30,000 at various funding amounts to six (6) applicants as outlined in this staff report; 4) Approved recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to award Filmmakers Grants totaling \$10,000 at various funding amounts to four (4) applicants as outlined in this staff report; 5) Approved recommendations of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission to award WeHo Artists Grants totaling \$30,000 to six (6) individual applicants, resident artists as outlined in this staff report; 6) Approved approximately \$14,560 in waived fees for city facility use fees and parking fees; 7) Waived the cost of waveguide for use in the Council Chambers for grantees limited to 4 hours, per grantee; 8) Authorized the use of city facilities by grantees in fulfillment of their Art Grant projects and an additional hour of validated parking for event participants at the West Hollywood Park 5-Story parking structure, for a total of three (3) hours, for grant funded events scheduled for the Council Chambers which exceed two (2) hours; 9) Allowed grantees to charge admission, accept donations, and sell merchandise to offset production costs for

performances or projects; and 10) Authorized the City Manager, or designee, to execute arts grant Agreements. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar, noting Councilmember Erickson's "recusal" vote.**

B.9. REJECT THE BIDS RECEIVED AND RE-ADVERTISE FOR CIP 2507, HAMMOND & ALTA LOMA BOLLARD REPLACEMENT PROJECT [H. COLLINS, J. GILMOUR]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider rejecting the bids received to construct CIP 2507, Hammond & Alta Loma Bollard Replacement Project, and authorize staff to reissue and re-advertise the bid.

ACTIONS: 1) Rejected the bids to construct CIP 2507, Hammond & Alta Loma Bollards Replacement Project, as submitted on August 14, 2025, and return the associated bid bonds; and 2) Authorized staff to reissue and re-advertise the bid solicitation construct CIP 2507, Hammond & Alta Loma Bollard Replacement Project. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.10. UPDATE ON MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION [S. CAMPBELL, A. BARTLE, R. ABRAMSON, H. COLLINS, J. GILMOUR, P. TICUN]:

SUBJECT: This is a quarterly update focused on the implementation of major Capital Improvement Projects being undertaken at City-owned properties, public parks, and other major infrastructure.

ACTION: Received an update on the City's Major Capital Improvement Projects Program. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.11. METRO K LINE NORTHERN EXTENSION UPDATE [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, F. CONTRERAS, D. FENN]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on the Northern Extension of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) K Line and consider approving an amendment to the Agreement for services with Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL) for ongoing financial analysis.

ACTIONS: 1) Received and file an update on the Northern Extension of the Metro K Line; 2) Approved Amendment No. 6 to the Agreement for Services with Jones Lang LaSalle Americas Inc. by an additional \$75,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$328,375, for additional financial services regarding the Northern Extension of the Metro K Line (Attachment A); and 3) Authorized the City Manager or designee to execute documents incident to the Amendment. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.12. SEMI-ANNUAL MANDATORY SEISMIC RETROFIT PROGRAM UPDATE [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, B. GALAN, C. ZABALA]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on West Hollywood's mandatory seismic retrofit program.

ACTION: Received and filed. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.13. 2025 HARVEY MILK DAY AND WEHO PRIDE ARTS FESTIVAL FINAL REPORTS AND 2026-2028 RECOMMENDATIONS [L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN, M. CHE]:

SUBJECT: City Council will receive final reports on the City's 2025 Harvey Milk Day event and 2025 WeHo Pride Arts Festival program and consider recommendations for 2026-2028 as proposed by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

ACTIONS: 1) Received and file the final reports for the City's 2025 Harvey Milk Day event and the 2025 WeHo Pride Arts Festival; 2) Approved the recommendations from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for the City's 2026 Harvey Milk Day event as outlined in the staff report; 3) Approved the recommendations from the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission for the 2026-2028 WeHo Pride Arts Festival as outlined in the staff report; and 4) Authorized the City Manager, or designee, to negotiate a three-year Agreement with the Los Angeles LGBT Center to host and produce the WeHo Pride Arts Festival for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028, with annual performance reviews to ensure expectations are met. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.14. STORIES: THE AIDS MONUMENT – GRAND OPENING EVENT [Y. QUARKER, C. SMITH, M. REATH, K. MCCORMACK, S. CAMPBELL, R. ABRAMSON]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving a Grand Opening Event for STORIES: The AIDS Monument to take place on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at West Hollywood Park.

ACTIONS: 1) Approved the Grand Opening Event for STORIES: The AIDS Monument on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at West Hollywood Park; 2) Approved the closure of San Vicente Boulevard between Melrose Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 16, 2025, to accommodate the event's program; 3) Approved the waiver of Special Event Permit fees, Street Closure fees, Building and Safety fees, Film Permit fees, and Encroachment Permit fees, in an amount estimated at \$5,000; 4) Approved the use of City facilities outlined in this report, as they relate to the event, waive associated fees, and the potential loss of revenue of approximately \$1,200; 5) Authorized the use of the City name and logo on invitations, programs, and other collateral materials for this event; 6) Directed the Communications Department to utilize all appropriate communication tools to promote the event, including, but not limited to, the City's website, a press release, appropriate local advertisements, and social media tools, and provide photography and videography services, as appropriate, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; 7) Approved the use of City contracted services for traffic control services (\$11,000) and public safety personnel services (\$4,500) in an amount estimated at \$15,500; 8) Authorized the

Director of Finance & Technology Services to approve the use of \$35,500 from Fiscal Year 2026 budgeted funds in the WEHO Park-AIDS Monument-Soft Cost Cont. account number 301-4-40-41-702236 for costs associated with the event; and 9) Authorized the City Manager, or designee, to approve the periodic use of STORIES: The AIDS Monument and/or other City facilities, subject to availability, for the purpose of hosting docent tours and annual events at the AIDS Monument location, as well as waive city fees related to such events held in coordination with the Foundation for the AIDS Monument (FAM) and/or the ONE Institute. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

B.15. (F.6.) APPROVAL OF THE DATES FOR THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR AND DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026 [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving the date for the election of the new Mayor and Vice Mayor as well as the date for the Installation of the new Mayor and Vice Mayor. The City Council will also consider approving the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026 including cancelling or rescheduling a few meetings throughout the year that conflict with holidays.

ACTIONS: 1) Approved to Conduct the election of the Mayor and Vice Mayor at the December 15, 2025 City Council meeting; 2) Canceled the meeting of January 5, 2026; 3) Approved the Installation/Reorganization Meeting to be held on January 12, 2026; 4) Approved to conduct a second meeting in January on January 20, 2026; 5) Rescheduled the meeting of February 16, 2026 to February 17, 2026; 6) Rescheduled the June meetings to June 15, 2026 and June 29, 2026; 7) Canceled the meeting of July 6, 2026; 8) Canceled the meeting of September 7, 2026; 9) Rescheduled the meeting of September 21, 2026 to September 22, 2026 due to Yom Kippur; and 10) Approved the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2026. **Approved as part of the Consent Calendar.**

C. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

C.1. REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION FOR CEQA ANALYSIS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT SPA 25-0001 TO THE SUNSET BOULEVARD OFF-SITE SIGNAGE POLICY [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, J. DAVIS]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will review minor amendments to Chapter 8 of the Sunset Specific Plan (SSP), which is the Billboards & Arts Advertising chapter of the SSP. This Chapter has more commonly been referred to as the Sunset Boulevard Off-Site Signage Policy ("Policy") and governs all off-site signage along Sunset Boulevard. The CEQA analysis for these amendments is an addendum to the 2019 Initial Study/Negative Declaration (ND) which was prepared and adopted for the original Policy.

This addendum to the ND includes the required analysis for any environmental impacts for the minor amendments to the Sunset Specific Plan and will meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements associated with the amendments to the Policy.

ACTION: This item was continued to the Regular City Council Meeting of November 3, 2025.

D. LEGISLATIVE:

D.1. None.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

E.1. UPDATE TO THE CITY'S FLAG POLICY [D. WILSON, A. LOVANO]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider adopting a Resolution (Attachment A) to update the City's flag policy, which outlines the requirements for the outdoor public display of governmental and non-governmental flags and the procedures for flying the Flag of the United States at half-staff at City Hall and other City properties.

City Manager David Wilson provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The City Council acknowledged the community's input and thanked staff for expeditiously addressing concerns.

ACTIONS: 1) Adopted Resolution No. 25-070: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD ADOPTING AN UPDATED FLAG POLICY"; and 2) Amended the City Policy for the Recognitions and Memorials to remove procedures for lowering the flag to half-staff. **Motion by Vice Mayor Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Hang, and approved (4/0).**

E.2. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WITH PLENARY BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE WH LLC [O. JONES, E. TSIPIIS]:

SUBJECT: End exclusive negotiations for a Public-Private partnership with Plenary Broadband Infrastructure LLC., to implement a citywide broadband network and direct staff to reassess the City's options for improving broadband in the City.

Information Technology Manager Eugene Tshipis and telecommunications consultant Joanne Hovis provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The City Council's discussion centered around the failed partnership with Plenary to develop a Citywide fiber-optic broadband network. Councilmembers expressed deep frustration over the escalating costs of

the project, which ballooned from an initial proposal of zero dollars to an estimated \$40–\$42 million. While Spectrum and AT&T already provide significant infrastructure within the City, the Council noted that their systems are outdated, relying on copper or hybrid coaxial rather than modern fiber-to-the-premises, and the quality of service is inconsistent. Some members argued that the City should have worked with existing providers to improve service rather than pursuing a costly, untested partnership with Plenary, a company with no experience delivering fiber-to-the-home projects. The failed effort was characterized as a waste of taxpayer money, with \$350,000 spent on studies and designs that, while not entirely without value, did not lead to a viable broadband solution. Despite the disappointment, there was acknowledgment of the original goal, equitable, high-quality internet access across all neighborhoods, and a continued commitment to exploring alternative ways to achieve it, possibly by pressuring existing providers or re-evaluating public-private models. The Council ultimately agreed to end negotiations with Plenary, expressing lessons learned and a desire to be more prudent in future broadband initiatives.

ACTIONS: 1) Ended exclusive negotiations for a Public-Private partnership with Plenary Broadband Infrastructure LLC., by allowing the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement to expire on 10/31/2025; and 2) Directed the City Manager or designee to reassess City’s options for improving broadband in the City. **Motion by Councilmember Hang, seconded by Vice Mayor Heilman, and approved (4/0).**

E.3. UPDATE ON PROPOSED EQUITABLE BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (EBPS) ORDINANCE AND CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION OF BENCHMARKING DEADLINES AND EXCLUSION OF CONDOMINIUMS FROM BENCHMARKING REQUIREMENTS [N. MARICICH, J. ALKIRE, F. CONTRERAS, C. SHEN, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will receive an update on the proposed Equitable Building Performance Standards (EBPS) Ordinance, consider extending the first benchmarking deadline by up to 120 days via the Administrative Guidelines to support initial compliance efforts, and consider exempting condominiums from the Ordinance.

Director of Community Development Nick Maricich and Long Range Planning Manager Francisco Contreras introduced Senior Planner Christine Shen, who provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The following speaker provided public comment:

KEVIN BURTON, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke on concerns over the removal of single-family homes, condos, and now common areas from the

ordinance, arguing that this unfairly shifts the burden to renters, many in rent-stabilized units, who will ultimately bear the costs and urged that all property types, including condos and single-family homes, be included, with financial assistance available for those in need, to truly support the city's carbon neutrality goals.

The City Council discussed the Building Performance Standards Ordinance with a focus on balancing climate action goals and the financial burden on property owners, particularly condo owners. While there was broad agreement on the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting the City's Climate Action Plan, Councilmembers were divided on how to implement the policy fairly. Some supported removing individual condo units and their common areas from the ordinance, arguing that condo owners function much like single-family homeowners and already face significant costs through HOA dues for shared infrastructure like boilers and elevators. They suggested targeting high-emission appliances at the time of replacement through updated energy efficiency standards, rather than blanket mandates. Others emphasized the need to keep condos included, at least partially due to their contribution to emissions, and felt the ordinance, as proposed (excluding individual units but regulating common areas), was a reasonable compromise. There was a consensus that any policy should consider financial support programs, incentives, and phased timelines to assist property owners with compliance. The final motion, led by the Vice Mayor, proposed an exemption of condos from performance targets, including exempting condo common areas, and directed staff to focus on voluntary programs, updated building standards, and potential funding mechanisms. However, not all members supported a full exemption, expressing concern that it would weaken the City's climate commitments, with final direction to staff to maintain benchmarking requirements for condos.

ACTIONS: 1) Received and filed an update on the proposed Equitable Building Performance Standards (EBPS) Ordinance; 2) Authorized extension of benchmarking deadline by up to 120 days via the Administrative Guidelines to support initial compliance efforts; 3) Provided direction to staff to exclude condominiums, including common areas from the Ordinance's performance targets requirements but maintain benchmarking requirements; and 4) Directed staff reintroduce the ordinance on first reading. **Motion by Vice Mayor Heilman, seconded by Councilmember Erickson, and approved (3/1), noting Mayor Byers' "no" vote.**

- E.4. CITY PLAYHOUSE UPDATE ON SITE OPPORTUNITIES [S. CAMPBELL, R. ABRAMSON, M. BARKER, L. BIERY, R. EHEMANN]:**
SUBJECT: The City Council will consider moving the current location for the City Playhouse Project at 8323-8325 Santa Monica Boulevard, the

former Coast Playhouse, to the west, one parcel, to 8327-8329 Santa Monica Boulevard (formerly Basix Café) given additional site opportunities now present.

Deputy City Manager Steve Campbell introduced UDAS Manager Ric Abramson, who provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The following speaker provided public comment:

ED HOLMAN, WEST HOLLYWOOD, spoke regarding concerns about the proposed project due to the narrow width of the street, noting there's only about 12 feet between the double yellow line and the curb, which is insufficient space for delivery trucks and through traffic. He emphasized that without a curb cutout or notch, traffic and safety issues could worsen, especially near a busy strip mall, and supported the idea of a curb extension to better separate commercial and residential sections. He also commented on ongoing parking challenges exacerbated by nearby business employees and upcoming bike lane changes.

The City Council expressed strong overall support for relocating the Playhouse to the more prominent corner location (Option B), seeing it as a significant cultural investment and a major enhancement to the City's arts and visitor experience. Councilmembers appreciated the work of the subcommittee and staff in identifying the opportunity and ensuring thoughtful planning. While some acknowledged initial concerns, such as the shift from renovation to full reconstruction, and traffic challenges near the proposed location, they ultimately agreed that the new site offers better visibility and future potential. There was consensus that proper traffic accommodations, especially a curb cutout, are essential to avoid congestion, and several members emphasized the importance of integrating community feedback. Overall, the Council viewed Option B as the right decision for the City's cultural and economic future.

ACTIONS: 1) Reviewed options, benefits, and challenges related to relocating the City Playhouse Project from its current site at 8323-8325 Santa Monica Boulevard to 8327-8329 Santa Monica Boulevard; 2) Directed staff to proceed with moving the site of the City Playhouse to the corner location at 8327-29 Santa Monica Boulevard and making the design, engineering, and public works modifications necessary; 3) Found that the proposed modifications to the previously approved design do not rise to a level of re-engaging the community outreach and Advisory Board and Commission input and review process; and 4) Authorized the City Manager's office to enter into or complete necessary actions not already in place to move the current location to the corner location [OPTION B: Corner Playhouse Design (Basix Café site)]. **Motion by Mayor Byers, seconded by Councilmember Erickson, and approved (4/0).**

E.5. ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FREQUENCY UPDATE [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider implementing a one-year pilot program beginning January 2026 to assess meeting frequency for the City's Advisory Boards. A modified monthly schedule (approximately 10 meetings per year), allowing Boards to skip one or two months as appropriate to their workload. The program is intended to balance efficient staff and Board operations with continued opportunities for public engagement and policy development. Staff will evaluate the pilot throughout 2026 and return to the City Council with findings and recommendations at year-end.

ACTIONS: This Item was Tabled.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

F.1. REMOVING INFRASTRUCTURE ROADBLOCKS [J. ERICKSON]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing Staff to develop standardized timelines and protocols for infrastructure projects – including the establishment of community engagement standards and streamlining of Commission and Council approval processes – to eliminate barriers and expedite project completion.

ACTIONS: This Item was Tabled.

F.2. ADDRESSING UNPERMITTED AND UNLICENSED SIDEWALK VENDORS [D. HANG]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing Staff to explore potential amendments to the West Hollywood Municipal Code to provide additional tools to address unpermitted and unlicensed sidewalk vendors operating in the City. The intent is to strengthen the City's ability to protect public health and safety, while ensuring fairness for properly licensed food vendors and local businesses.

Councilmember Danny Hang provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The following speaker provided public comment:

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, President/CEO and on behalf of the WEST HOLLYWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, spoke in support of the item to address unlicensed sidewalk vending, citing concerns about public health, safety, ADA compliance, and economic impacts on local businesses.

The City Council held a wide-ranging discussion focused on how to address unpermitted street vending in West Hollywood, particularly in high-traffic areas like the Rainbow District. The intent of the item was to improve public health and safety and ensure fairness for permitted vendors, emphasizing that the issue is not about immigration but about compliance with local regulations. Several Councilmembers supported reviewing enforcement options but stressed the importance of balancing regulation with compassion for immigrant street vendors, many of whom rely on vending for their livelihood. Staff explained that due to changes in state law, their enforcement tools are currently limited to civil citations rather than criminal penalties, and that unlicensed vendors often evade contact. Staff also expanded that complaints occur regularly, especially on weekends, and enforcement operations, while increased, are resource-intensive. Concerns were also raised about the potential negative message to immigrant communities, especially in light of county-level decisions to reduce enforcement during periods of immigration-related anxiety. Several members advocated for developing more supportive pathways for vendors, such as fee reductions, education, and outreach, rather than punitive measures like impounding carts. Ultimately, the Council agreed to table the item to allow staff to return with high-level options and legal assessments, with the aim of crafting a fair, comprehensive approach at a future meeting.

ACTIONS: This Item was Tabled. Motion by Councilmember Erickson, seconded by Mayor Byers, and approved (4/0).

F.3. CONVERTING EXISTING STATIC TALL WALLS TO DIGITAL SIGNAGE [J. HEILMAN]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing Staff to research and evaluate expanding the Sunset Specific Plan to provide a process for existing static tall walls to be updated and modernized into digital signage.

ACTION: This Item was Tabled.

F.4. RECONCEPTUALIZATION AND RESTORATION OF A MUSIC FESTIVAL ON THE SUNSET STRIP [J. HEILMAN, D. HANG]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider authorizing the City Manager, or their designee, to enter into negotiations with qualified music festival promoters that have established connections to the Sunset Strip music venues to develop a proposal for a music festival concept on the Sunset Strip in fall 2026.

Vice Mayor Heilman, along with Councilmember Hang, provided background information as outlined in the staff report dated October 20, 2025.

The following speaker provided public comment:

GENEVIEVE MORRILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SUNSET STRIP BID, spoke in support of the item to reinvest in a Sunset Strip music festival, emphasizing its potential to boost the local economy, celebrate the area's cultural legacy, and strengthen the business community through strategic partnerships.

The City Council generally expressed strong support for revitalizing the Sunset Strip through a music or cultural festival, but emphasized the importance of thoughtful planning, funding, and timing. Councilmembers agreed that the residential community should be included in the process and expressed enthusiasm for events that could energize the Strip and preserve its legacy. However, concerns were raised regarding the use of MEMA (Moving Image Media Art) funds, as these are currently committed to existing arts programming through 2026, and many were hesitant to divert resources from the arts budget. While some supported reallocating City funds instead, others emphasized that any new initiative must align with the existing budgeting process and staff work plans. There was debate about the proposed fall 2026 timeline, with suggestions to instead consider winter or New Year's Eve, which might better align with hotel demand and City resources. Ultimately, the Council leaned toward directing staff to explore alternative funding, engage a qualified producer, evaluate appropriate timing, and possibly stage smaller activations in the interim, all with urgency to address the Sunset Strip's economic decline without overburdening existing City commitments.

ACTIONS: This Item was Tabled. Motion by Councilmember Erickson, seconded by Mayor Byers, and approved (4/0).

F.5. REQUEST TO INSTALL A PLAQUE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE DISAPPEARED BY ICE UNDER THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION [L. MEISTER]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider directing Staff to follow the City's Memorials, Tribute Trees, and Plaques Policy Guideline to review a request to install a plaque in remembrance of those disappeared by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the Trump administration.

ACTIONS: This Item was Tabled.

F.6. APPROVAL OF THE DATES FOR THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR AND DISCUSSION OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026 [J. JIMENEZ, M. CROWDER, L. MORALES]:

SUBJECT: The City Council will consider approving the date for the election of the new Mayor and Vice Mayor as well as the date for the Installation of the new Mayor and Vice Mayor. The City Council will also consider approving the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule for

City Council Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Page 18

Calendar Year 2026 including cancelling or rescheduling a few meetings throughout the year that conflict with holidays.

ACTION: This Item was moved to the Consent Calendar.

EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS:

Councilmember Erickson reported his attendance at various City events, including the Youth Halloween Carnival, and commended the team for a wonderful Aids Walk Los Angeles event.

Vice Mayor Heilman reported his attendance at the League of California Cities Conference, the Aids Walk Los Angeles and provided a positive update regarding Councilmember Meister's health.

Councilmember Hang reported his attendance at the art reception for the unveiling of Calavera Elementos by artist Sküt, the Aids Walk Los Angeles, the West Hollywood Youth Halloween Carnival, and the National Prep Day Celebrations. He wished Councilmember Meister a speedy recovery.

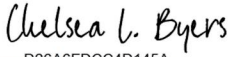
Mayor Byers reported her attendance at the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) Renter Protections and Homelessness Prevention Committee meeting, the regular Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) Board meeting, the Human Capital for the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS) meeting, and the West Side City Council of Governments. Additionally, she reported her attendance at the National League of Cities, where she was sworn in as president of the LGBTQ+ Caucus during their meeting, and served on three different panels (the Crisis Communications, the Cities' Support for Trans Community, and Child Care as Critical Infrastructure). She also attended the Aids Walk Los Angeles, congratulated her colleagues on their recognition by Assemblymember Zbur, and wished everyone a Happy Halloween.

The City Council adjourned at 9:33 p.m. in memory of Carl Cronin, Geoff Buck, Vincent "Vince" R. Wong, Diane Keaton, Dominic Gillotte, and Kevin Seidel to its next regular meeting, which will be on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers.

City Council Minutes
Monday, October 20, 2025
Page 19

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 3rd day of November 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	Erickson, Hang, Meister, Vice Mayor Heilman, and Mayor Byers.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.

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CHELSEA LEE BYERS, MAYOR

ATTEST: 
 Signed by:
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MELISSA CROWDER, CITY CLERK