



CITY OF CRESCENT CITY

MAYOR ISAIAH WRIGHT
COUNCIL MEMBER RAY ALTMAN
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVE SHAMBLIN

MAYOR PRO TEM CANDACE TINKLER
COUNCIL MEMBER JASON GREENOUGH

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AND
THE CRESCENT CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FLYNN CENTER BOARD CHAMBERS
981 H STREET
CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531

MONDAY

MARCH 16, 2026

6:00 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION

Call to order Mayor Wright called the closed session to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call Council Members present: Council Member Ray Altman, Council Member Jason Greenough, Council Member Steve Shamblin, Mayor Pro Tem Candace Tinkler, and Mayor Isaiah Wright
Council Member absent at roll call: Council Member Jason Greenough
Staff members present: City Manager Eric Wier, City Attorney Martha Rice, and City Clerk/Administrative Analyst Robin Altman

- **Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Gov. Code § 54957):** City Manager, City Attorney

Council Member Greenough joined the meeting after roll call at 5:31 p.m.

Closed session adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Call to order Mayor Wright called the open session to order at 6:06 p.m.

Roll call Council Members present: Council Member Ray Altman, Council Member Jason Greenough, Council Member Steve Shamblin, Mayor Pro Tem Candace Tinkler, and Mayor Isaiah Wright
Staff members present: City Manager Eric Wier, City Attorney Martha Rice, City Clerk/Administrative Analyst Robin Altman, IT/GIS Technician Taylor Patch, Finance Director Linda Leaver, Housing Authority Executive Director Megan Miller, Economic Development and Grants Manager Bridget Lacey (via Zoom), Public Works Director Dave Yeager, Recreation Director and Events Coordinator Kelly Feola, Contract Planner Bob Brown with SHN and Police Sergeant Alex Pearson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Wright

REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Rice reported no actions were taken on closed session items.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS - None

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The following residents addressed the Council:

Gloria Carone: resident of Crescent Arms Apartments and spoke of her concerns of older model RVs that park around the apartment complex. The occupants use the property's dumpsters and leave human/animal waste on the property. Asked for the parking ordinance to be amended to prohibit oversized vehicles for parking on the streets at all times, unless they are there as patrons of nearby businesses (can get a voucher from the business they are visiting).

Sam Strait: spoke about a trip he took to the transfer station and how he saw several unhoused people walking with grocery carts full of their belongings. Would like to know why there is a homeless problem when it has been said there are programs for them? Says the City is supporting a low-income society. Would like the Council to consider a change of direction that is a community based on natural resources.

Donna Westfall: spoke about the WWTP and that there is a culture of fraud in our community. Spoke about former Public Works Director Jim Barnts and his owning property within the range of projects involving the WWTP. She spoke about her history and experience as a City Council Member.

Cate Classen: spoke about the project on 3rd Street and how the Planning Commission recently approved the Architectural Design. Would like to see the Council look into how projects are chosen and City staff processes. Stated the 3rd Street project was never presented to the community for review and discussion before the project was approved.

Jim Nelson: has lived in Del Norte County 71 years. Would like to see public involvement before large projects are approved. Is concerned with a large amount of unemployed people that will be provided housing and create a burden on our public services. As a property owner who rents his properties, these large apartment complexes are competing with his rentals.

Mike Thompkins: stated that a lot of unemployed people actually are unable to work. Applauds the City Council for the work they are doing. He said it is the intent of the Council to have less homeless and more housing for those who are in need.

Alicia Williams: spoke about her experiences with Mission Possible in answering her questions about the needs for the homeless. Spoke about the need for showers and a homeless shelter. Feels the money should be invested in those items instead of other projects.

Heidi Kime: spoke about her family's commercial business and that there is not sufficient parking for the businesses downtown. Would like to see a change in the parking ordinances. Spoke about the 3rd St project and the fact that it has 42 apartments and only 2 parking spaces for the entire complex. If the project does not have adequate parking, the complex should not be built. Would like the Planning Commission to hear the need for adequate parking.

Nicholas Maietta: recently moved back to Del Norte County and spoke about how everything has changed. Spoke about how he remembers that buildings of a certain height were not allowed.

Roger Gitlin: asked the Council to slow down the progress of building. Spoke about Battery Point Apartments and that they are all Section 8 apartments. Stated that residents of LA and the Bay Area on housing assistance will come to Del Norte if their assistance in that area ceases.

Silas Cirrah: spoke in favor of balanced housing. Is a part of the True North Housing Team and they have been working on the housing problem this county has faced as well as job creation.

James Rosenberg: has only been in the community for a short time and has been accepted into the transitional housing. The lack of housing in this community is appalling; as a former unhoused person, they know this personally. Everyone deserves a home and the Battery Point project represents those homes that are needed. How can someone get a job without a home, or without an address.

Debra Lewis: member of True North and commended the Council on the resolution to end homelessness. There is a bigger need for middle-income housing than there is a need for low-income housing. Asked for RVs to be offered safe parking instead of on the streets, suggested a safe lot. Stated that the Battery Point apartment complex is not all Section 8.

Mark Bower: born and raised in Del Norte County, stated that there are no jobs here, so why is this housing being built? Spoke about the 3rd Street project being in the tsunami zone and how will they safely evacuate? There are not enough doctors, dentists, etc. Is not against development but is not in favor of the project.

Naomi Pena: would like to find out what is going on with the Battery Point Apartment Complex as it appears that work has halted and there are mechanic's liens on the property.

Mario Wesphal: stated that people want more transparency, more public input. Would like to have a joint meeting with the Council for a discussion to include question and answer session. Spoke about the volunteer fire department and the increase in calls that he has noticed.

Kathryn Murray: stated that in visiting with her neighbors, she was told that people from LA and the Bay Area were being solicited to move here. She stated that she called HA Executive Director Megan Miller explained that local preference is given, not outside residents. Vouchers are not being given to people out of town to move here.

David Garcia: watches City Council meetings regularly and has confidence in the Council and City staff. Would like to know where all of the people moving to the downtown project and Battery Point are coming from, how will they be able to charge their electric vehicles. Spoke about the benefit of owning an electric vehicle.

Dana Gill: spoke about the lack of housing in Crescent City and is grateful for City Manager Wier and HA Executive Director Miller for their work to get people homes. Quality housing is desperately needed. Battery Point Apartments are not all Section 8, it is mixed income. Is thankful the Council is committed to end homelessness.

Nick Corcovelos: spoke about the requirements for the City to follow grant rules and how important it is for them to be followed. He further stated there are quality jobs here, but they remain vacant. Stated that there is no private land for the homes to be built as another speaker suggested. Stated that speaking better about the meek and the poor is necessary, because that is not what has been happening.

Margaret Sargent: stated that the homeless need sustainability. Stated that the WWTP is facing collapse.

Reverend Rebecca Dyke: Reverend of the Church of the Nazarene, is excited for the housing projects as there is a need. Stated that the Battery Point Apartments is mixed income, not all Section 8. This project is not mostly low income, it is senior income, moderate income, working

class income apartments. This “working poor” housing includes teachers, police officers, grocery store workers, and cooks. Everyone deserves housing; we need to invest in one another.

Shawna Hyatt: stated that she has asked for additional information from City Manager Wier to help her make decisions and has still not received it. Projects are being pushed through too big and too fast and feels these projects are detrimental to our infrastructure. Expressed her dissatisfaction in her communications with City staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Warrant Claims List

- *Recommendation: Receive and file the warrant claims list for the period February 21, 2026 through March 6, 2026.*

2. Council Minutes

- *Recommendation: Approve and adopt the March 2, 2026 minutes of the City Council of the City of Crescent City.*

3. Payroll Report

- *Recommendation: Receive and file the biweekly payroll reports for the period ending March 7, 2026 paid March 13, 2026.*

4. Budget-to-Actual Summary as of January 31, 2026

- *Recommendation: Receive and file budget-to-actual summary of the City's major operating funds for Fiscal Year 2025-26 as of January 31, 2026*

5. Letter of Support for Del Norte County's Emergency Operations Center Funding Request

- *Recommendation: Ratify the City Manager's signature on the Letter of Support for Del Norte County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) funding request*

6. Approve Change Orders #2 and #3 for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Construction Project

- *Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Manager to sign contract change orders #2 and #3 with Tidewater Contractors for the HSIP Pedestrian Improvements Project*

7. 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

- *Recommendation: Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a Subrecipient Agreement with the Family Resource Center of the Redwoods for the City's proposed 2025 CDBG Food Pantry activity*
- *Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement for 2025 CDBG Funded FRC Food Pantry and Mobile Market between the City of Crescent City and the County of Del Norte*

8. Fiscal Year 2026-27 (FY27) Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Grant Applications

- *Recommendation: Approve staff's submission of a grant application in the amount of \$1,540,000 for the Crescent City Cultural Center Rehabilitation Project to Congressman Huffman, Senator Padilla, and Senator Schiff, to be funded under the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program*
- *Approve the letter of support signed by the Mayor endorsing the Crescent City Cultural Center Rehabilitation Project*

9. Budget Adjustment for Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Performed for Outside Fire Districts

- *Recommendation: Approve and adopt Resolution No. 2026-20, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET*

Sam Strait: felt that items 4-9 should have been on new business for more discussion, specifically the FRC item.

Cate Classen: spoke in support of assistance for the homeless for food and housing. Stated her issue is the scale of the building.

Alicia Williams: asked about item 7 for the funding for the FRC; stated that it is not sustainable due to our location. Encouraged more community gardens to provide to all of the local markets. Would like the Food Pantry to have the hours that working people will be able to access the food.

Jim Nelson: supports the food pantry that will help the homeless. Would like to see a work program created as he believes in people working for what they need instead of accepting ongoing handouts.

On a motion by Council Member Altman, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, and carried unanimously on a 5-0 polled vote, the City Council of the City of Crescent City adopted the consent calendar consisting of items 1-9 as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

10. Public Hearing: Signs Regulations Update (Muni Code Chapter 17.39)

- *Recommendation: Open public hearing*
- *Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Close public hearing*
- *Waive full reading, read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 861, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING CHAPTER 17.39, SIGNS, OF TITLE 17, ZONING, OF THE CRESCENT CITY MUNICIPAL CODE*

Mayor Wright opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

City Attorney Rice went over the adoption of the ordinance that has been before the Council and Planning Commission multiple times. She detailed the changes requested by the Council that have been included in the ordinance. Council Member Greenough stated he does not agree it is necessary as he does not see a LED light sign problem in Crescent City. Council Member Altman stated that this ordinance has been discussed multiple times and is the result of compromise between all Council Members and to consider that when making a motion.

Alicia Williams: is not in favor of LED signs along the freeway as she is concerned with light pollution.

Nicholas Maietta: stated that a lot of drivers are already not paying attention as they are being distracted. Does not support LED signs along the highway.

Sam Strait: stated this ordinance is invasive regulation of people trying to do business downtown.

Mayor Wright closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler stated that there have been many meetings on this topic, as well as the Planning Commission with a combined effort for the final ordinance.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried on a 4-1 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough voting no, the City Council of the City of Crescent City waived full reading, read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 861, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING CHAPTER 17.39, SIGNS, OF TITLE 17, ZONING, OF THE CRESCENT CITY MUNICIPAL CODE.

ADJOURN TO THE CRESCENT CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Minutes will be on the next Housing Authority agenda)

Mayor Wright adjourned to the Crescent City Housing Authority at 7:38 p.m.

RECONVENE THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Wright reconvened the City Council meeting at 8:32 p.m.

CONTINUING BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

13. Water Rate Study

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Approve the 2026 Water Rate Study prepared by Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)*
- *Direct staff regarding water rates to be brought back in ordinance form for Council consideration*

City Manager Wier stated that the Water Rate Study Consultant will be giving a detailed report. The water system was built in 1958 and a lot of the same components are still being used. He explained that the Water Fund is only used for the water system, nothing else and that the expenses have exceeded the revenue for the Water Fund. Samantha Ryan, of RCAC gave a presentation on the Water Rate Study Overview process and outcome. She further explained the Prop 218 process and timeline. Ms. Ryan went over the City's current rate structure and explained that projected operational revenue is expected to fall short of the level required to fully support the adopted budget. With the current rates, by 2031, the revenue will fall below the water sales and will dip below the cost of operations and maintenance. She went over the proposed rates. She showed a comparison to cities in our region which showed that Crescent City will still have the cheapest water rates amongst those cities. Council Member Shamblin asked about cheaper rates for the low-income housing; City Manager Wier stated that discounted rates cannot be offered to one group. He explained the critical project needed to protect the water main. Grant funding can be attained, however, in order to obtain that funding, the City needs to have a "shovel-ready" project. Council Member Greenough stated that no one is still running a budget based on 2017 expenses. Costs have gone up, there has been inflation, and the City has held off on increasing the rates for several years.

Sam Schauerman: agrees with the rate study as it will help with the infrastructure. This needs to be done in order for growth; Smith River doesn't have the ability to provide his project water, so he is unable to build the housing they need.

Donna Westfall: stated that one of her suggestions was to hire a company to run the WWTP; that was done and it has been successful. She asked for an oversight group to ensure that funds were appropriately spent on the WWTP.

Sam Strait: said there is a money problem all over the county and that a rate increase will be a burden to ratepayers.

Margaret Sargent: asked if Measure S funds were used for beautification; *Mayor Wright explained that Measure S funds are only for Streets, Police, Fire, and the Pool.*

Council Member Greenough stated that this has been on hold for far too long and we must move forward to increase rates.

On a motion by Council Member Greenough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, and carried unanimously on a 5-0 polled vote, the City Council of the City of Crescent City approved the 2026 Water Rate Study prepared by Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and directed staff regarding water rates to be brought back in ordinance form for Council consideration.

Council Member Greenough stated that he had to step out of the meeting temporarily to find out where he works this evening. He can only be present at the meeting for another 10 minutes.

City Manager Wier explained the full process of the water increase and when the new rates would be billed.

14. Sewer Rate Study

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Approve the Crescent City Sewer Rate Study (Willdan Financial Services, Feb. 2026)*
- *Direct staff regarding sewer rates to be brought back in ordinance form for Council consideration*

City Manager Wier gave a brief history of the sewer system. Regarding the Working Capital for the Sewer Fund, we will be below operating expenses by next year if rates are not increased. Chris Fisher, Vice President of Willdan Financial Services, gave a presentation on the Sewer Rate Study which his company conducted for the City over the last 8 months. *Council Member Greenough left the meeting at 9:20 p.m. due to work schedule conflicts.* Mr. Fisher went over the rate study goals and objectives which included the mandatory requirements. The reason a rate increase is necessary is due to ongoing rising operating costs (equipment, supplies, power, treatment, etc.) The Prop 218 public hearing notices will be sent no later than April 16th. Council Member Shamblin asked why the rates are higher in the city limits than the outside city limits? City Manager Wier stated that county sewer customers are billed for sewer collection separately with their property taxes. The City rate includes both collection and treatment. Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler asked if there are any plans to increase service in the county to contribute to the costs; City Manager Wier explained that sewer services can be provided within the Urban Services Boundary/ County Service Area. City Manager Wier stated that there is no problem with capacity for the WWTP, the issues are for large wet weather flows.

Sam Strait: stated that a lot of the questions asked at tonight's meeting were already answered in the staff report.

Margaret Sargent: stated putting this off is irresponsible.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried on a 4-0 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough being absent the City Council of the City of Crescent City approved the Crescent City Sewer Rate Study (Willdan Financial Services, Feb. 2026) and directed staff regarding sewer rates to be brought back in ordinance form for Council consideration.

Council Member Shamblin asked if the rest of the agenda can be moved to the next meeting as the time is late. City Manager Wier stated that item 15 is something that is due by the first of April and item 17 is time sensitive. The Council agreed to go forward with item 15 as Planner Brown was present.

15. General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR)

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Accept the 2025 Annual Progress Report and direct staff to submit to the State Departments of Housing and Development (HCD) and Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)*

Planner Brown gave a brief overview of the General Plan Annual Progress Report (APR).

Sam Strait: there have been statements that there has been negative growth.

Margaret Sargent: spoke about inappropriate growth.

On a motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried unanimously on a 4-0 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough being absent, the City Council of the City of Crescent City accepted the 2025 Annual Progress Report and directed staff to submit to the State Departments of Housing and Development (HCD) and Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI).

16. Kamome Festival Update

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Waive the pro-rated rental fees for the Cultural Center on the evening of April 17, 2026 for the "Taste of Japan" event hosted by the Kamome Foundation as part of the Kamome Festival, which is a shoulder season event that generates economic activity, educates and spreads awareness about disaster preparedness and diverse cultures*
- *Authorize the use of the existing "Sister City" budget to cover the estimated \$5,000 in expenses for the multiple day Kamome Festival, including marketing efforts*
- *Approve and adopt Resolution No. 2026-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING THE FY 2025-26 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY*

Recreation Director and Events Coordinator Feola briefly went over this year's event.

On a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried on a 4-0 polled vote with Council Member Greenough being absent, the City Council of the City of Crescent City waived the pro-rated rental fees for the Cultural Center on the evening of April 17, 2026 for the "Taste of Japan" event hosted by the Kamome Foundation as a part of the Kamome Festival, which is a shoulder season event that generates economic activity, educates and spreads awareness about disaster preparedness and diverse cultures, authorize the use of the existing "Sister City" budget to cover the estimated \$5,000 in expenses for the multiple day Kamome Festival, including marketing efforts and approved and adopt Resolution No. 2026-22, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING THE FY 2025-26 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY.

17. Cultural Center Entry Alterations and Chamber of Commerce Temporary Relocation

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Approve and adopt Resolution No. 2026-21, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY*

City Manager Wier stated that the Visitor Center is on the second floor and will not be accessible during these alterations, therefore they will need to be relocated. There is rental space in Mason Mall for them to use, but we will have to increase our contribution \$10k to cover that amount of time during relocation. Council Member Shamblin asked if the Chamber pays rent; City Manager Wier explained that it's an in-kind use of the Cultural Center.

Jim Nelson: asked if acoustics would be worked on for the space.

On a motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried on a 4-0 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough being absent, the City Council of the City of Crescent City approved and adopted Resolution No. 2026-21, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY.

18. Lighthouse Cove Bathroom Remodel Contract Award – Lighthouse Cove Low-Cost Accommodations Project

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Approve the Plans and Specifications for the Lighthouse Cove RV Park Restroom Remodel Project*
- *Approve and authorize the City Manager to sign a construction contract with RH Construction, the low bidder, for the Lighthouse Cove Bathroom Remodel Project*
- *Approve and authorize the City Manager to approve and sign future change orders in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30,000*

Public Works Director Yeager went over the project that has already started.

Margaret Sargent: asked why more RV parks haven't been refurbished.

On a motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler, and carried unanimously on a 4-0 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough being absent, the City Council of the City of Crescent City approved the Plans and Specifications for the Lighthouse Cove RV Park Restroom

Remodel Project, approved and authorized the City Manager to sign a construction contract with RH Construction, the low bidder, for the Lighthouse Cove Bathroom Remodel Project, and approved and authorized the City Manager to approve and sign future change orders in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30,000.

19. Appointments to County Office of Education Working Group

- *Recommendation: Hear staff report*
- *Technical questions from the Council*
- *Receive public comment*
- *Further Council discussion*
- *Mayor to make appointments to a working group created by the County Office of Education to address student achievement and engagement, family involvement and success, and enhancing pathways for economic mobility of community members*
- *Confirm the Mayor's appointments to the County Office of Education working group*

Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler gave a background on item. Mayor Wright and Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler expressed their desire to be on this 2x2; there were no objections from the Council.

On a motion by Mayor Wright, seconded by Council Member Shamblin, and carried on a 4-0 polled vote, with Council Member Greenough being absent, the City Council of the City of Crescent City confirmed the Mayor's appointments of Mayor Wright and Mayor Pro Tem Tinkler to the County Office of Education working group.

CITY COUNCIL ITEMS

- **Reports, Concerns, Referrals, Council travel and training reports – None**
- **Legislative Matters – None**
- **City Manager Report and City Council Directives –** City Manager Wier reported that there was a non-credible threat called in the DNHS and found out that it was happening all over the country.

- **Planning Commission meeting videos posted on YouTube**

The Planning Commission has been posted to YouTube; Council was in agreement to continue that practice.

Mayor asked for update on Homeless 2x2, will be discussed at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Wright adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m. to the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Crescent City on Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Flynn Center Board Chambers, 981 H Street, Crescent City, CA 95531.

ATTEST:



Robin Altman, City Clerk/Administrative Analyst