

PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, February 2, 2026

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held Monday, February 2, 2026, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2, the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on January 29, 2026.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor McCarthy called the Regular Session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice Mayor Conna McCarthy, Councilmember Jennifer Long, Councilmember Lorrel Plimier, and Councilmember Tom Ramsey

Absent: Mayor Betsy Smegal Andersen

Staff: City Administrator Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Attorney Deepa Sharma, Finance Director Kiran Bawa, Communications Program Manager Echa Schneider, Public Works Director Daniel Gonzales, Fire Chief Dave Brannigan, Police Chief Frederick Shavies, Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, Planning and Building Director Kevin Jackson, Senior Planner Gopika Nair, Associate Planner Tiffany Edwards, and City Clerk Anna Brown

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Comment was received from:

Sonny Bostrom-Flemming spoke on the need for the city to provide infant and child swim lessons at the new Piedmont pool.

PRESENTATIONS

Black History Month Proclamation

Vice Mayor McCarthy presented the proclamation marking February 2026 as Black History Month to Violet Williams and Alexandria Wilson, members of the Piedmont High School African Affinity Student Union.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following item:

Building Inspector, Permit Technician, And Police Officer Academy Trainee Classifications

Approval of Resolutions to: (1) Approve Job Classifications and Set Compensation and Employment Terms for the New Building Inspector and Permit Technician, and add both classifications to the Unrepresented Professional, Technical and Supervisory Unit; (2) Approve Revised Job Classification for Police Officer Academy Trainee Position 0750-0582

Resolution No. 10-2026

RESOLVED, that the City Council adopts Consent Calendar as submitted.

Moved by Ramsey, Seconded by Long

Ayes: McCarthy, Long, Plimier, and Ramsey

Noes: None

Absent: Smegal Andersen

REGULAR AGENDA

Public Hearing for Piedmont Objective Design Standards

The Council considered the following items of regular business:

Planning and Building Director Jackson recapped the development and timeline of the Piedmont Objective Design Standards. The objectives were developed by the Planning Commission subcommittee, Good City Company, and Van Meter Williams Pollack. The objectives contain three policy documents: the Objective Design Standards, Piedmont Design Standards and Guidelines revisions, and Zoning Ordinance revisions.

Director Jackson noted these standards are in response to new state legislation requiring local jurisdictions to process housing projects without public input. The standards aim to be flexible and lead developers toward creating quality architecture reflective of Piedmont's current architecture. The standards can be revised in the future.

Director Jackson explained the city may be somewhat behind in approving objective design standards. The city is, however, ahead in approving one-to-four-unit design standards, as there are few examples from other cities.

Kevin Gardiner of Good City Company gave a presentation reviewing what the resolution includes, the definition of Objective Design Standards, the timeline of the resolution's development, and revisions.

Senior Planner Nair reviewed the amendments included in the resolution and amendments in response to public comments.

There was no **Public Comment** received.

Resolution No. 11-2026

RESOLVED, that the City Council:

- 1) Adopts Objective Design Standards for Accessory Dwelling Units, One-To-Four Unit Residential Developments, Multifamily Developments and Mixed-Use Developments.
- 2) Approves the Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance 788 N.S. (amending divisions 17.20 Zone A: Single Family Residential, 17.28 Zone E: Estate Residential, 17.30 Parking, 17.32 Fences; Trash Enclosures; Corner Obstructions, 17.34 Landscaping, 17.38 Accessory Dwelling Units, 17.46 Wireless Communication Facilities, 17.54 Urban Lot Splits and Two-Unit Housing Developments (SB 9), and 17.67 Ministerial Design Review Permit, to bring the City Code into compliance with the Objective Design Standards and updates clarifying maximum retaining wall height for SB 9 projects and clarifying locations where parking is prohibited on single family parcels in zones A and E.
- 3) Adopts amendments to Piedmont Design Standards and Guidelines that are related to the Objective Design Standards and updates modifying the list of projects that are exempt from needing a design review, amending the submittal checklist for all planning project types, and adding information related to water efficient landscape ordinance.
- 4) Finds that the Objective Design Standards was studied under Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Housing Element Implementation Project (SCH 2022020362) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and that the Resolutions and the Ordinance are exempt under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), the common-sense exception that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and 15183, projects consistent with a community plan,

general plan or zoning.
Moved by Plimier, Seconded by Ramsey
Ayes: McCarthy, Long, Plimier, and Ramsey
Noes: None
Absent: Smegal Andersen

**Public Hearing of
Amendments of
Accessory Dwelling
Units**

Planning and Building Director Jackson summarized that these amendments are in response to a change in state law and will make the city code compliant with those changes.

Associate Planner Edwards presented a summary of all the amendments.

Planning and Building Director Jackson explained city code does not include any recourse for a property owner placing an ADU over 800 square feet placed in front or back yards.

There was no **Public Comment** received.

Resolution No. 12-2026

RESOLVED, that the City Council Conducts First Reading and Introduces Ordinance 789 N.S. Amending Divisions 17.38 Accessory Dwelling Units, 17.62 Notice Requirements, 17.78 Appeals; Calls for Review; and 17.90 Definitions; Measurements of Chapter 17 of the Piedmont City Code and Finding that the Ordinance is Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Moved by Ramsey, Seconded by Long
Ayes: McCarthy, Long, Plimier, and Ramsey
Noes: None
Absent: Smegal Andersen

**Consulting Services
Agreement**

Planning and Building Director Jackson explained Economic & Planning Systems has aided Piedmont in several previous projects.

Economic & Planning Systems Senior Associate Ren summarized the company's involvement in the project, including aiding in creating the project's RFP and reviewing and scoring developer proposals. Their goal is to aid the city to select a developer before the end of 2026.

Public Comment was received from:

Ralph Catalano expressed a desire for a holistic approach of building a neighborhood within the Moraga Canyon area.

Director Jackson explained the project RFP will be created with a set of criteria and consultation. The Council will review major aspects of the RFP before it is published. A review committee will also review the RFP.

Resolution No. 13-2026

RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the consulting services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 with Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. (EPS) for services related to the Preparation of a Request for Proposals/Qualifications and Review of Responses for the Moraga Canyon Specific Plan area; and authorizes the City Administrator to approve budget adjustments to the scope of work as provided in Exhibit A within the not-to-exceed value of \$35,000.

Moved by Long, Seconded by Plimier
Ayes: McCarthy, Long, Plimier, and Ramsey
Noes: None
Absent: Smegal Andersen

**REPORTS AND
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Plimier announced the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on February 9, where there will be a public hearing on amendments to the Environmental Hazards Element of the General Plan to incorporate the 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Councilmember Ramsey announced the next Park Commission meeting will be held on February 4, 2026, which will include an update on the Sustainable Park Management Plan. The Park Commission is currently requesting Heritage Tree nominations, and Piedmont's annual Earth Day and Arbor Day events will be held on April 23, 2026.

Councilmember Long announced Cop on the Block dates for February 8, 12, 17, and 28. The Piedmont Recreation Department will open Summer Camp registration for residents on February 3 and for non-residents on February 10, with over 300 camps offerings for the summer. The department is also wrapping up the middle school basketball season.

Vice Mayor McCarthy commented on the passing of long time Piedmont resident and faithful community advocate, Sue Herrick.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice Mayor McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m., in honor of Sue Herrick.