

Council Meeting Minutes

27 May 2025

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful
Community driven and focused
Trusted and reliable
Efficient and responsible
Bold and innovative
Accountable and transparent
Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

CONDUCT OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Governance/Governance-Rules>

Members of the public attending Council meetings must abide by the standards of behaviour set out in section 13.3 of the Governance Rules. Any person engaging in disruptive or disorderly behaviour may be required by the Chairperson to leave the meeting in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Chairperson:

Cr Daria Kellander (Mayor)

Altona Ward

Councillors:

Cr Rayane Hawli (Deputy Mayor)

Altona North Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

Kerry Thompson
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present

Chairperson

Cr Daria Kellander (Mayor)	Altona Ward
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Councillors

Cr Rayane Hawli (Deputy Mayor)	Altona North Ward
Cr Diana Grima	Altona Meadows Ward
Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson	Laverton Ward
Cr Kristin Bishop	Spotswood Ward
Cr Lisa Bentley	Williamstown Ward
Cr Michael Disbury	Williamstown North Ward

Officers

Ms Kerry Thompson	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Ms Allison Kenwood	Interim Director Corporate Services
Mr Matthew Irving	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Ms Marlo Emmitt	Acting Manager Corporate Integrity
Ms Beti Flaherty	Governance Officer
Miss Jessica Maunder	Proof Reading Officer and Minute Secretary

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson welcomed members of the public and acknowledged the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways.

2 Apologies

The Chairperson called for apologies received from Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

Nil

3 Disclosure of Interest

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors and staff are required to disclose a general or material conflict of interest. A conflict of interest must be disclosed in accordance with rule 15.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 29 April 2025 (copy previously circulated).

Motion

Moved Cr Rayane Hawli, seconded Cr Michael Disbury:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 29 April 2025.

Carried unanimously

5 Councillor Questions

Confidential agenda items

Cr Kristin Bishop asked what the rationale was for including the two items relating to contractual matters in the confidential section of the meeting.

Marlo Emmitt, Acting Manager Corporate Integrity, said that the items were confidential as they contain Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if released.

Power Street tennis courts

Cr Lisa Bentley asked whether there were any capital works planned to upgrade the facilities at the Power Street tennis courts in Williamstown.

Matthew Irving, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that it was not currently a funded project, but that he believed there may be a forthcoming budget submission to be considered by Council as part of their upcoming deliberations in June.

Homegrown Hobsons Bay writers program

Cr Lisa Bentley asked whether there was a possible alternative solution to “letting go” of the Homegrown Hobsons Bay authors program.

Kerry Thompson, Acting Chief Executive Officer, said that she understood there was a budget submission from the group that would be considered through the budget process.

Williamstown railway station update

Cr Lisa Bentley asked whether there had been any progress with VicTrack and other stakeholders regarding a pedestrian crossing opposite Williamstown Station and improving pedestrian connectivity.

Matthew Irving, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that Council officers are working through their investigation process, noting that it is a traffic matter. He said there may be a budget submission related to this that will be considered through the budget process.

Altona Yacht Club fence works

Cr Lisa Bentley asked whether the Altona Yacht Club has been informed about the planned fence works that they are funding, intended to begin in May before the new season starts.

Kerry Thompson, Acting Chief Executive Officer, said her understanding was that Council is working through a leasing and licensing issue with the club before the fencing could be addressed, but she would need to take the question on notice.

Newport transport hub maintenance

Cr Michael Disbury asked about maintenance plans for the Newport transport hub between Mason St and Market Street, stating that the fence opposite the bus station had been damaged and the bus station had graffiti and maintenance issues.

Matthew Irving, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said he would ensure that the damaged fence was raised as an operational request, but there was no current funded project to do work in that space. He noted that Council was currently working through its Council Plan and could consider a project as part of that process, though it would need to be balanced with other priorities.

Cr Disbury said that he did not think it needed replacing, just maintenance and cleaning.

Maddox Road safety program

Cr Michael Disbury asked whether the road safety improvement program on Maddox Road was at risk of being delayed due to the Champion Road / Maddox Road level crossing removal project.

Matthew Irving, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that the project was subject to approval from the LXP under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009* due to being set within the boundary of the works, and that Council officers were liaising with LXP to gain that approval. He said that no delays were expected in acquiring the approval, but he would report back to Council if that changed.

Report regarding trucks on Mason Street

Cr Michael Disbury asked for officers to provide a report on the steps required to introduce a vehicular weight limit on Mason Street that would reduce heavy trucks in the area and so improve air quality and safety.

Matthew Irving, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that officers would investigate and review the matter, and report back to Councillors on the feasibility of implementing such controls on Mason Street.

Emergency Services Volunteer Fund

Cr Daria Kellander referred to the Victorian Government's new Emergency Services Volunteer Fund and its expectation that councils would collect the tax on behalf of the government, and asked what the consequences would be if Council refused to collect the tax.

Kerry Thompson, Acting Chief Executive Officer, said that Council (along with other Victorian councils) had recently received advice from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) regarding the implications of councils refusing to collect the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) fees through the rate notice.

Ms Thompson said that MAV had sought legal advice from Maddocks on the collection and invoicing of the ESVF on behalf of the sector, and the advice given was that that Council is obliged to collect the levy – that if ratepayers pay less than the aggregate of a council's rate and charges and the levy, a council must proportionately allocate some of the amount paid towards the levy and that the council cannot use a separate invoice to collect the levy, which

would mean that if a ratepayer refuses to pay the levy, Council would still be required to pay that money to the government.

Ms Thompson implied that there was also an error in the calculation of the levy and that Council was liable for its correction, requiring it to withdraw the assessment notice previously given and give the ratepayer another assessment notice, which would create a large administration burden for Council.

*Note: The actual advice provided by Maddocks is that **if** there is an error in the calculation of the Levy, Council is liable for its correction.*

Ms Thompson proposed to bring a report back to the next Council meeting that would provide Councillors with the details of the possible costing of this and the full legal advice that Council has received.

6 Public Question Time

The Substation

Susan Kukucka

- Q Is the Council aware of the detrimental impact pulling funding will have on The Substation (i.e. reduced programs, reduced opening hours, reduced staffing, reduced financial stability and sustainability etc.)?**

And what additional measures is Council undertaking to ensure the unrivalled impact that The Substation makes to Arts and Culture in Hobsons Bay for the benefit of the local community, is understood and articulated for the consideration of the return of critical core funding?

- A** Council acknowledges and thanks the many community members who have made submissions and provided letters of support during the public exhibition of the Draft Annual Budget 2025-26. We have received a number on behalf of The Substation.

Council is still in the process of finalising the budget. All feedback and submissions received during the consultation period are being thoroughly reviewed and carefully weighed, including consideration of potential impacts, risks and community value, to inform Council's final decisions. The Annual Budget is scheduled to be presented for adoption at the Council Meeting on 24 June 2025.

Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club

Note: Due to similar elements across multiple questions, the answers were prepared with the questions grouped by subject rather than submitter's name, although some submitters did not attend the meeting and their questions have consequently not been included.

Regarding heritage rules

- Q Josephine Cafagna**
Do the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club redevelopment concept plans as presented to Council contravene local heritage overlay rules and will Council please release all heritage advice it has received about this project?

- A** Planning Application PA250139 for the redevelopment of the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club is currently under review by Council's Statutory Planning team, and a full assessment has not yet been undertaken but will be occurring.

The application has been accompanied by an independent Heritage Impact Statement, which will form part of the documents made available during the public notification period. As part of Council's assessment of the application, a full review against the requirements of the Heritage Overlay will also be undertaken. Residents will be given the opportunity to view plans and accompanying reports including the heritage assessment, and make submissions to the planning application when the application is on public exhibition. Residents and the community will be notified when this is on public exhibition.

Regarding the second floor balcony**Q Josephine Cafagna**

Can Council inform the public why a life-saving club needs an open-air party balcony fronting a local residential area that will cause further noise and disruption to local residents already battling severe nightly antisocial and hoon behaviour in the Club car park reported regularly and recognised by local police as a noise and hoon hotspot?

Q Paul Austin

The second storey of the proposed new Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club is largely to be a gymnasium and entertainment space. Does the council think such facilities are essential for a life-saving club, and if so, why, and if not, will Council disallow that second storey?

- A The project team has worked extensively with the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club committee to understand Club requirements for the various activities the Club provides to its membership. A variety of rooms and spaces have been incorporated into the design to cater for the various activities of the Club and its 1800 members, and the balcony adjacent to the second story active training and community rooms has been included within the concept plans to support Club activity.

The Club will be subject to a new lease agreement for the new facilities which will include clauses to restrict noise and disruption to local residents.

Council has provided two separate community consultation opportunities for the wider community to submit feedback into the project, and the concept designs have been supported by Life Saving Victoria and endorsed by Council at the 29 April 2025 Council Meeting.

Regarding other aspects of the WSLSC redevelopment**Q Josephine Cafagna**

Given that many local residents have been refused a planning permit on the grounds of height contravening the heritage overlay guidelines, can Council inform local residents of the specific height of the proposed new two-storey redevelopment of the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club and the specific height of the existing building's roofline (not including the flagpole)?

- A The project is subject to planning permit application and these elements will be assessed fully as part of that assessment process. The project has not yet progressed to a detailed assessment and is currently awaiting further information before proceeding to public notification.

Once the additional information is received, the application and all accompanying plans and documents will be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. During this time, residents will be given the opportunity to view plans and make submissions and objections to the planning application.

Q Paul Austin

What will the “substation” proposed to be built on a very prominent piece of public land on the Esplanade look like, what will be its dimensions, and has Council sought advice as to whether it could be located in a less-obtrusive place, such as within the boundaries of the expanded club?

- A The full architectural plans, including details regarding the substation, will be made available during the public notification period. Residents will be given the opportunity to view plans and accompanying reports and make submissions to the planning application when the application is on public exhibition.

Q Paul Austin

Would any or all councillors be willing to discuss this proposal further with me, at a time of your convenience, to consider my suggestions as to how to improve the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club redevelopment so the club gets the essential upgrade it needs and the heritage values of the area and the interests of residents and visitors are better catered for?

- A As this is formal planning permit application process, residents and interested parties are encouraged to submit any questions, feedback or objections through to Council's Town Planning team to ensure the current planning permit application is considered appropriately.

7 Petitions and Joint Letters

7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

No petitions or joint letters were received.

7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters

There were no responses to petitions or joint letters.

8 Business

8.1 Office of the Chief Executive

Nil reports

8.2 Corporate Services

8.2.1 Third Quarter Council Plan Initiatives Progress Report
2024-25

Directorate: Corporate Services
Responsible Officer: Acting Manager Corporate Integrity
Reviewer: Acting Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Quarter 3 2024-25 Council Plan Initiatives Progress Report FINAL
[8.2.1.1 - 12 pages]

Purpose

To provide Council with the third quarter (1 January to 31 March 2025) update on the progress of the major initiatives that are included in the annual budget to support the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson:

That Council notes the progress made on the Council Plan 2021-25 major initiatives during the third quarter of 2024-25.

Carried unanimously

8.2.2 Third Quarter Financial Report - Period ended 31 March 2025

Directorate: Corporate Services
Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer
Reviewer: Acting Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Financial Report at 31 March 2025 [8.2.2.1 - 19 pages]

Purpose

To present Council with the financial results for the period ended 31 March 2025 and the revised 2024-25 annual forecast projections following completion of the March quarterly forecast review.

Motion

Moved Cr Kristin Bishop, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council:

1. Notes the financial report for the period ended 31 March 2025.

2. Endorses the revised 2024-25 annual forecasts.

Carried unanimously

8.2.3 Council's Internal Resolution Procedure

Directorate: Corporate Services
Responsible Officer: Acting Manager Corporate Integrity
Reviewer: Acting Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Council Internal Resolution Procedure [8.2.3.1 - 8 pages]

Purpose

To present an Internal Resolution Procedure (Attachment 1) for Council’s consideration and adoption, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and *Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations).

Motion

Moved Cr Kristin Bishop, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council adopts the Internal Resolution Procedure as presented at Attachment 1.

Carried unanimously

8.3 Sustainable Communities

Nil reports

8.4 Infrastructure and City Services

8.4.1 Permanent Closure of Pier Street, Altona - Consideration for Closure

- Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services
- Responsible Officer:** Manager Capital Works
- Reviewer:** Director Infrastructure and City Services
- Attachments:**
- 1. Pier St Permanent Closure Consultation Report [8.4.1.1 - 4 pages]
 - 2. Road Closure Report - Pier Street - DTP [8.4.1.2 - 3 pages]
 - 3. Letter of Support - DTP Permanent Closure of Pier Street [8.4.1.3 - 1 page]
 - 4. Traffic Impact Assessment - Pier Street Closure [8.4.1.4 - 57 pages]

Purpose

To consider a recommendation to close Pier Street, Altona between Queen Street and Blyth Street following the consideration of submissions that were received during the recent consultation period.

Motion

Moved Cr Rayane Hawli, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council approves the permanent road closure of Pier Street, Altona between Queen Street and Blyth Street.

Carried unanimously

9 Committee and Delegate Reports

9.1 Committee Reports

Nil reports

9.2 Delegate Reports

Purpose

To consider reports by Councillors who have been appointed as delegates to Council and community committees.

Motion

Moved Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports:

- **Association of Bayside Municipalities – 2 May 2025**

Carried unanimously

10 Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were received.

11 Record of Assembly of Councillors

An internal process has been carried out and Council is required to table the record of assembly of councillors.

The record of assembly of councillors is provided as a final attachment in any agenda.

Council officers recommend that Council formally receive the relevant assembly records, as this is regarded as good governance practice.

Recommendation

That Council receives the record of assembly of councillors for:

- **29 April 2025 Councillor Pre-Council Meeting Briefing**
- **6 May 2025 Councillor Briefing**
- **13 May 2025 Councillor Briefing**

Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Rayane Hawli:

That Council receives the record of assembly of councillors for:

- **29 April 2025 Councillor Pre-Council Meeting Briefing**
- **6 May 2025 Councillor Briefing**
- **13 May 2025 Councillor Briefing**

noting a correction to the Interest Disclosure Details section of the 6 May 2025 record, replacing the name “Cr Daria Kellander” with “Cr Diana Grima”.

Carried unanimously

12 Supplementary Public Question Time

No supplementary questions were received.

13 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

14 In Camera Business

Motion

Moved Cr Michael Disbury, seconded Cr Lisa Bentley:

That Council considers the confidential reports listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as they relate to personal information (item 14.1) and Council business information (items 14.2 and 14.3):

14.1 Appointment of Independent Chair of the Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee

14.2 Contract 2024.49 Provision of Facility Maintenance

14.3 Contract 2025.35 Mixed Recycling and Glass Acceptance and Sorting

Carried unanimously

The meeting was closed to the public at 7.42pm.

The Council meeting continued in closed session.

15 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.00pm.



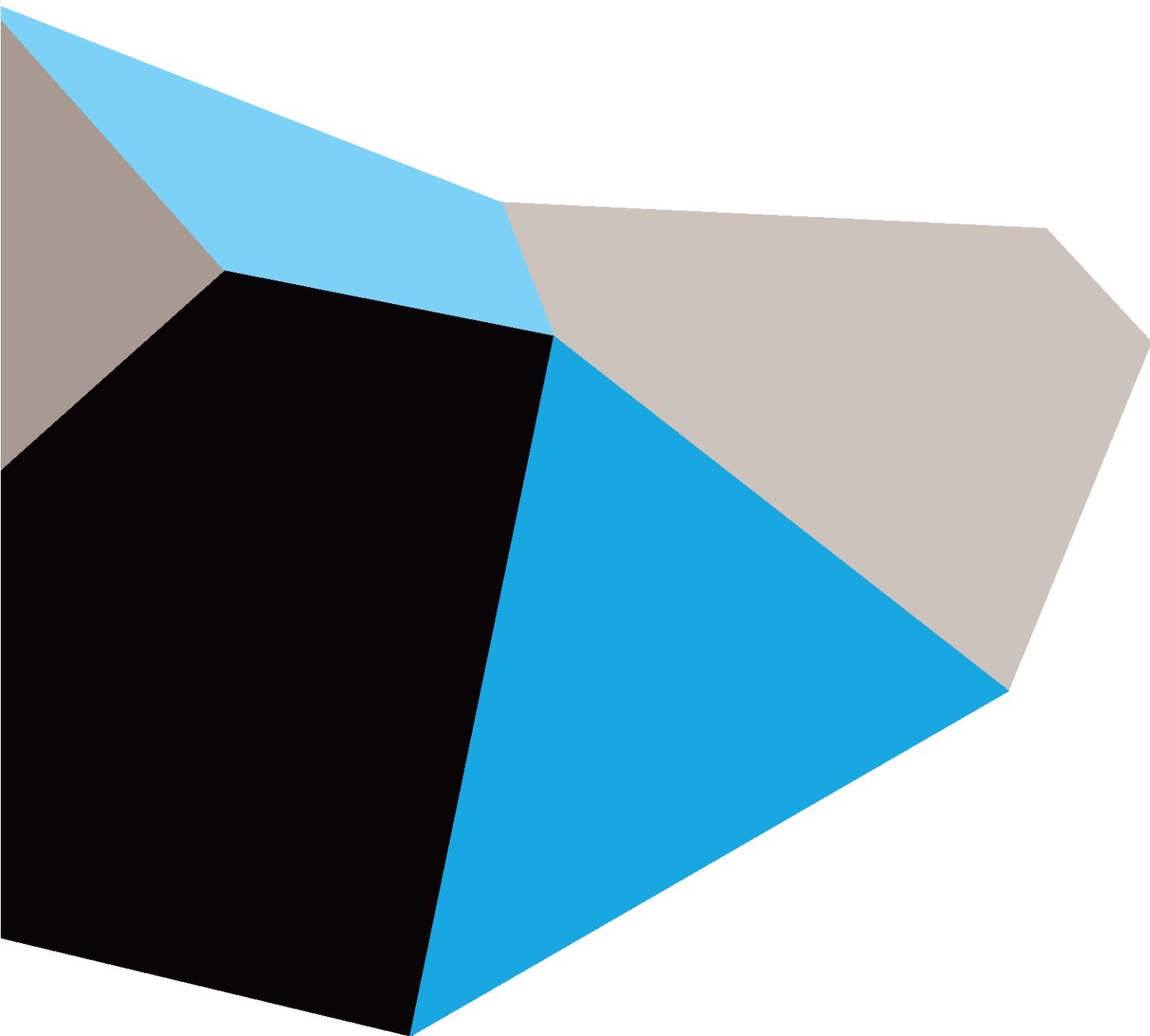
Chairperson – Cr Daria Kellander

Signed and certified as having been confirmed

23 June 2025

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL





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