

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
CITY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 3, 2025**

**TOUR OF INSPECTION - 3:30 p.m.**

Prior to calling the meeting to order, the Council conducted an on-site tour of inspection of the property listed below:

- A. Southwest Corner of Santa Rita and 1st Street, Carmel (PERM EN 250005 - Salehi)
- B. Santa Lucia Avenue, 2 Northeast of Scenic, Carmel (APP 25-032 - Jensen)

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Byrne called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll call: Councilmembers Jeff Baron, Hans Buder, Alissandra Dramov, Mayor Pro Tem Delves, and Mayor Dale Byrne were present.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

James Whittman  
Gary Richard Arnold  
Ken Spilfogel

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion by Councilmember Baron to approve Consent Agenda items #1-6, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Delves, and approved 5-0-0-0 by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**Item 1 - February 3 & 10, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes and February 4, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes - *Approved 5-0-0-0***

**Item 2 - January 2025 Monthly Reports - *Approved 5-0-0-0***

**Item 3 - January 2025 Check Register Summary - *Approved 5-0-0-0***

**Item 4** - Resolution 2025-020 Amending City Council appointments to the Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) Board of Directors, and the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors - **Approved 5-0-0-0**

**Item 5** - Resolution 2025-021, authorizing the serving of alcohol on public property, and the erection of tents on public property for the Carmel Culinary Week - **Approved 5-0-0-0**

**Item 6** - Resolution 2025-022, authorizing the serving of alcohol and public property for the Carmel Public Library Foundation's Donor Salute event Sunday, March 9, 2025, and the Sterling Circle event, Sunday, June 8, 2025 - **Approved 5-0-0-0**

## **ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

**Item 7** - Receive Presentation from the Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) on the Scenic Road Pipeline Replacement Project and Authorize Issuance of an Encroachment Permit with Special Conditions of Approval

Patrick Treanor, CAWD Engineer, presented on the Scenic Road Pipeline Replacement Project, which involves replacing aging sewers along Scenic Road from Ocean Avenue to Santa Lucia Avenue. He stated that CAWD will mitigate impacts to Scenic Road access and keep the public informed.

The Council emphasized minimizing Scenic Road closures and requested that CAWD schedule the work on Scenic Road for January - February 2026, avoiding major events such as the AT&T golf tournament, and to allow cars to pass through the construction area if possible.

Public comment:  
James Whittman  
Brian Sours  
Mel Ahlborn  
Nancy Twomey

The Council discussed minimizing road closures, particularly on Scenic Road. They requested that CAWD schedule work for January–February 2026, avoiding major events like the AT&T golf tournament and allowing vehicle access when possible. Mr. Treanor confirmed that the project will require partial closures on Scenic Road for about 20 weekdays, from 8 AM to 5 PM.

**Motion by Councilmember Buder to authorize the issuance of an encroachment permit with special conditions for the CAWD Scenic Rd Pipeline Replacement Project presented by staff, adding two additional conditions:**

- 1) Schedule the work on Scenic Road during January-February 2026 for the stretch from 8th to Santa Lucia, avoiding major events like the AT&T golf tournament.**
- 2) To the extent possible, leave room for cars to pass by during construction from Scenic to Santa Lucia.**

**Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Delves, and approved 5-0-0-0 by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**Item 8** - Resolution 2025-023, authorizing the City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt & Nichol, Inc. for coastal engineering and environmental services related to the Carmel Beach Coastal Protection and Access Improvement Projects, with a not-to-exceed budget of \$399,013

Project Manager Javier Hernandez presented the item regarding a Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt & Nichol, Inc. for coastal engineering and environmental services.

Councilmember Dramov questioned the delay in repairing the stairs damaged in storms from 2 year ago.

Public comment:

Brian Sours

James Whittman

Teresa Buccola

Charles Najarian

Shirley Moon

The Council agreed that 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Street stairways are a high priority project and discussed including the 8th Ave ramp and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue outfall in the CIP budget. Councilmember Baron emphasized regular sand maintenance and supported a “like-for-like” stair replacement to avoid delays, while Councilmember Buder suggested considering stone stairs for durability. Mayor Pro Tem Delves stressed the need for a clear implementation plan, and Mayor Byrne and Councilmember Dramov called for less spending on studies and more focus on actual construction.

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Delves, authorizing the City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt & Nichol, Inc. for coastal engineering and environmental services related to the Carmel Beach Coastal Protection and Access Improvement Projects, to include 4th Avenue outfall, 8th Avenue ramp and erosion conditions, 10th and 12th Street stairways, with a not-to-exceed budget of \$399,013, and come back with a request to increase the amount of the contract if necessary due to the increased scope of the project, seconded by Councilmember Dramov, and approved 5-0-0-0 by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: None**  
**ABSTAIN: None**

**RECESS**

Council took a recess at 6:27 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

**Item 9** - Resolution 2025-024, authorizing the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Advance Design Consultants, Inc. for Electric Panel Upgrades and Electric Vehicle Charging related projects, for a not-to-exceed fee of \$58,020

Project Manager Javier Hernandez presented the Professional Services Agreement with Advance Design Consultants for electric panel upgrades and electric vehicle (EV) charging related projects which would install electrical equipment in the Vista Lobos parking lot and the Sunset Center North parking lot.

Councilmember Buder inquired about alternative locations for EV charging stations and data on their usage and cost recovery. Mr. Hernandez said that he can provide data to Council on how the EV charging stations could potentially be a revenue source for the City. Chip Rerig said that having EV charging stations is part of the city's climate control plan.

Public comment:  
Donna Jett

**Motion by Councilmember Baron authorizing the City Administrator to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Advance Design Consultants, Inc. for Electric Panel Upgrades and Electric Vehicle Charging related projects, for a not-to-exceed fee of \$58,020, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Delves, and approved 5-0-0-0 by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne**  
**NOES: None**  
**ABSENT: None**  
**ABSTAIN: None**

**Item 10** - Resolution 2025-025, Adopting Policy 2025-01 "Social Media Policy" establishing guidelines and procedures for the City's participation in social media and authorizing the City Administrator to administer the City's social media program

Administrative Analyst Emily Garay gave a presentation on the proposed Social Media Policy which would establish guidelines for the City's use of social media platforms.

Public comment:  
Gary Richard Arnold

Teresa Buccola  
Rebecca Kumar  
Donna Jett  
Nancy Twomey

Councilmember Baron questioned Section P of the policy, which restricts Councilmembers from engaging with City social media posts due to Brown Act concerns. City Attorney Pierik provided legal clarification, citing the relevant Government Code. suggested revising Section P to a simpler statement, such as: “City Council, Board, and Commission members should be cognizant of the Brown Act”, arguing that certain interactions, like resharing public updates, are useful. Councilmember Dramov agreed, emphasizing the importance of timely information. Councilmember Baron suggested revising Section P, with the City Attorney reviewing which actions—such as liking, commenting, or resharing—are permissible.

**Motion by Councilmember Baron to direct the City Attorney to revise Section P of the policy regarding Councilmember interaction with City posts, reviewing what is permissible for Councilmembers without violating the Brown Act. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Dramov and approved 5-0-0 by the following roll call vote:**

**AYES: Councilmembers Baron, Buder, Delves, Dramov, and Mayor Byrne**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

Resolution 2025-025 did not pass, the Social Media Policy item will come back at the next Council meeting with an amendment.

**Item 11** - Discuss City Policy C89-02: City Council Meetings/Orders of Council/Agenda Packets/Minutes of Meeting and Agenda Distribution and provide direction to City Administrator

Item tabled to next month due to the lateness of the meeting.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Pierik read the Closed Session agenda titles.

Public comment:  
James Whittman  
Gary Richard Arnold  
Michael McWalters  
Teresa Buccola  
Donna Jett  
Anthony X  
Catherine  
Karen Ferlito

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957; Title:  
City Administrator

B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957; Title:  
City Attorney

C. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6: Agency Designated Representatives: City Attorney Brian Pierik, Assistant City Administrator Brandon Swanson, Senior HR Analyst Marisa Bermudez, Police Commander Todd Trayer, and Police Chief Paul Tomasi Employee Organization: Carmel Fire Ambulance Association

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned to Closed Session at 7:56 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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Dale Byrne, Mayor

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Nova Romero, MMC, City Clerk