

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CANYON LAKE CITY COUNCIL  
Canyon Lake City Hall  
31516 Railroad Canyon Road  
Canyon Lake, CA 92587  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

**Closed Session – 5:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith.

Absent: Council Member Welty.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments

**CLOSED SESSION**

City Attorney Pacifico requested that one item be added to the closed session agenda – significant exposure to litigation, one claim. City Attorney Pacifico noted that the item was brought to staff's attention after the posting of the City Council agenda. A roll call vote was taken, and the item was added by a vote of 4-0.

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Title: City Manager

The City Council entered Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

## **Open Session – 6:30 p.m.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was led by Mayor Smith.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

Harold Larson led the Flag Salute.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith.

Absent: Council Member Welty.

### **CLOSED SESSION REPORT**

City Attorney Pacifico reported that there was no reportable action on Item 1.

City Attorney Pacifico reported that one item was added to the closed session agenda and settlement direction was given by consensus.

### **CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Council Member Steeber recognized Heaven Hewitt as Student of the Month.

Council Member Terry recognized Logan Stuart for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mayor Smith recognized the Canyon Lake Quilters who presented a quilt to Harold Larson.

### **CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS / COMMENTS**

Council Member Steeber highlighted the Student of the Month program and noted the upcoming LEUSD articulation and state policy meetings.

Council Member Terry reported on attending Conversations at the Country Club and encouraged community participation in the monthly meetings. Council Member Steeber also highlighted recent business engagement efforts, including the Business Spotlight and new local additions like Fitness 33.

Mayor Pro Tem Castillo shared a positive visit to Sipz Bar and recommended it as a family-friendly destination for the community. Mayor Pro Tem Castillo also congratulated Terry Jarvis in his new role on the POA Board.

Mayor Smith congratulated Terry Jarvis and Bill Van Vleet on their work with the POA. Mayor Smith also provided updates on regional and local initiatives, including Measure A discussions, business outreach efforts, and recognized recent community appointments and encouraged participation in upcoming community meetings.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Director Darcy Burke provided an update on behalf of the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

Board Vice President Jeff Bill provided an update provided an update on behalf of the Canyon Lake Property Owner's Association.

President Johnny Pineda provided on behalf of the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Council Member Terry introduced the non-profit spotlight on behalf of MilVet organization.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ron Wilbur expressed concerns regarding the proposed Meadowbrook development and its potential impact on the lake's integrity. He also shared that Save Our Lakes, Inc. is in the process of becoming a nonprofit to advocate for protecting the lake from the proposed development.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Council Member Steeber pulled Item No. 3 for further discussion

Motion and second by Council Member Terry/Mayor Pro Tem Castillo to approve Consent Calendar Items 1, 2 and 4.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

1. Approve Claims and Demands of the City

Action taken: The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-12 Approving Claims and Demands of the City.

2. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes

Action taken: The City Council approved the minutes of the February 17, 2026, City Council meeting.

4. Consideration of an Agreement for Municipal Services with the City of Lake Elsinore for Public Works Services

Action taken: The City Council approved the Agreement for Municipal Services Agreement with the City of Lake Elsinore on a form approved by the City Attorney and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the transaction

**PULLED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

3. Consideration of Amendment No. 2 and Amendment No. 3 to the Professional Services Agreement with Interwest Consulting Group for Design Services for the Railroad Canyon Road Corridor Safety Improvements Project for a Combined Total of \$173,175

Council Member Steeber pulled this item for further discussion.

There were no public comments.

City Manager Brown provided a presentation on the background of the Railroad Canyon Road Corridor Safety Improvements Project and the presented amendments.

Motion and second by Council Member Steeber/Mayor Pro Tem Castillo to approve Consent Calendar Item 3.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

5. Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 271 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake, California, an Amendment to the Canyon Lake Municipal Code, Chapter 4.20: Commercial Cannabis Businesses, Section 4.20.250, Location And Design of Cannabis Businesses

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

City Attorney Pacifico provided a presentation.

There was no public testimony.

Mayor Smith closed the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

Motion and second by Council Member Terry/Council Member Steeber to adopt Ordinance No. 271 - An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake, California, an Amendment to the Canyon Lake Municipal Code, Chapter 4.20: Commercial Cannabis Businesses, Section 4.20.250, Location And Design of Cannabis Businesses.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

6. Discussion and Direction Regarding the Proposed Crescent Gardens Cemetery Project in the Meadowbrook Area of the County of Riverside

Mayor Smith provided a presentation.

Darcy Burke spoke on this item and noted the negative impact on water quality and public health.

Terry Jarvis thanked City Officials for their efforts regarding the cemetery proposal and expressed concerns about environmental impacts, emphasizing the need to comply with applicable laws due to the project's location in a sensitive watershed area.

City Attorney Pacifico suggested to the City Council that Staff prepare a request for an EIR for the Mayor's signature and submit it to the County Planning Commission in advance of the April 1 hearing.

Motion and second by Mayor Smith/Mayor Pro Tem Castillo to direct staff to prepare a request for an EIR for the Mayor's signature and submit it to the County Planning Commission in advance of the April 1 hearing.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

The Mayor requested that Item 8 be considered at this time.

The City Council took a brief recess.

8. (1) Introduction of Urgency Ordinance No. 272 - An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake, California, Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858 Establishing a Forty-Five (45) Day Moratorium on the Establishment or Expansion of Beauty Establishments Within the City of Canyon Lake; and (2) Direct the City Clerk to Place an Extension of the Moratorium on the Agenda for the Next Regular Meeting of the City Council

City Attorney Pacifico provided a presentation.

The City Council discussed studying neighboring jurisdictions, the number of property owners in the Towne Center and limiting new brick-and-mortar beauty establishments.

Mayor Smith noted that Council Member Welty expressed his support for the moratorium.

City Attorney Pacifico stated that the 45-day moratorium period would allow time for research, stakeholder outreach, and development of potential policy options, including a possible extension. He also noted that the City Council has discretion regarding the duration and potential extension of the moratorium, including consideration at a regular or special meeting.

Gus Leichti spoke in opposition to the moratorium.

Donna Ritchie expressed support for the moratorium.

Kamri spoke in opposition to the moratorium.

City Attorney Pacifico recommended amendments to the proposed ordinance to clarify that expansion is based on permitted square footage of existing facilities, not business size; allow existing businesses to transfer within the Towne Center and continue operations; and limit the moratorium to new business establishments only.

Motion and second by Mayor Smith/Mayor Pro Tem Castillo to adopt Urgency Ordinance No. 272 - An Urgency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake, California, Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858 Establishing a Forty-Five (45) Day Moratorium on the Establishment or Expansion of Beauty Establishments Within the City of Canyon Lake, with the Amendments Recommended by the City Attorney; and (2) Direct the City Clerk to Place an Extension of the Moratorium on the Agenda for the Next Regular Meeting of the City Council.

Amber Gatin commented that each chair requires its own business license and questioned how vacancies would be filled.

Motion failed 3-1 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye and Council Member Steeber voting nay.

7. (1) Consideration of Acceptance of the Grant-Funded Fire Department Water Training Trailer; and (2) Adopt Resolution No. 2026-13 Approving the Reimbursement Agreement with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Fire Chief LaTendresse provided a presentation.

There were no public comments.

Motion and second by Council Member Terry/Council Member Steeber to accept the Grant-Funded Fire Department Water Training Trailer and Adopt Resolution No. 2026-13 Approving the Reimbursement Agreement with the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

9. Discussion and Direction Regarding Potential Amendments to the Special Events Ordinance (Municipal Code Section 11.25)

City Manager Brown Provided a presentation.

There were no public comments.

Motion and second by Council Member Steeber/Mayor Smith to direct Staff to prepare a revised ordinance for introduction and first reading at the April City Council meeting.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

10. Discussion and Direction Regarding a Proposed Amendment to the Monument Sign Advertising Policy for New Business Promotional Advertising

City Manager Brown provided a presentation.

Motion and second by Mayor Smith/Council Member Terry to direct Staff to amend the Monument Sign Advertising Policy to allow newly licensed businesses to receive complimentary advertising for 60 days from the date of business license approval or issuance of a COO.

Motion carried 4-0 with Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, and Mayor Smith voting aye.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Smith announced that the next regular City Council Meeting will be held on April 14, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:56 p.m., Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheryl L. Garcia, MMC, CPM  
City Clerk