

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CANYON LAKE CITY COUNCIL
Canyon Lake City Hall
31516 Railroad Canyon Road
Canyon Lake, CA 92587
Wednesday, September 9, 2026**

Closed Session – 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CLOSED SESSION

1. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: Title: City Manager
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION - Anticipated Litigation, Significant Exposure Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d): One (1) case

The City Council entered Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

Regular Session

INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Mayor Smith.

FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Terry led the Flag Salute.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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 on Item 2 the City Council gave settlement direction by consensus. There was no other reportable action.

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS / COMMENTS

Council Member Steeber reported attending the LEUSD Student of the Month event and noted an upcoming Southwest Communities Financing Authority (SCFA) Special Meeting. He invited residents to attend the Canyon Lake Fire Department's training pump pod ribbon cutting on September 28, 2026, and highlighted an upcoming Veterans Day event hosted by Debby Gagnon at the Canyon Lake Towne Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Castillo invited the community to attend the September 11 remembrance event at the Canyon Lake Fire Station and recognized the Canyon Lake Police Department's first month of service

Council Member Terry recognized the Canyon Lake Police Department's first month of service and introduced Chief LaTendresse, who invited the community to attend the September 11 remembrance event at the Canyon Lake Fire Station.

Mayor Smith thanked Darcy Burke for her work regarding the cemetery and announced the Canyon Lake Car Club's car show on October 3, 2026.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Council Member Terry recognized resident Joan Ke.

Council Member Steeber recognized Trinity Wheelock as Student of the Month.

PRESENTATIONS

Council Member Terry introduced the non-profit spotlight on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

President Johnny Pineda and Vice President/Director of Events Rick Tobin provided an update on behalf of the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Vice President Lainie Cooney provided an update on behalf of the Canyon Lake Property Owner's Association.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Calais Faagata presented a proclamation on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints; a commemorative proclamation in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence.

Tim O'Marra provided information regarding the Measure E Facebook page, availability of yard signs, and planned town hall meetings. He also announced upcoming community events, including the Canyon Lake Car Show, Parade of Frights, Rocktoberfest, and Pumpkin Bash.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council Member Steeber pulled Item No. 1 for further discussion.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, second by Council Member Steeber to approve Consent Calendar Items 2-4.

AYE: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, Mayor Smith

4 - 0 Carried - Unanimously

2. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes

Action taken: The City Council approved the minutes of the August 5, 2026, City Council meeting.

3. Receive and File the Monthly Public Records Request Report

Action taken: The City Council received and filed the monthly Public Records Request Report.

4. Adopt a Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Special District Risk Management Authority and Authorizing Participation in the Employee Benefits Program

Action taken: The City Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-44 approving the form of and authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Canyon Lake and the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) and authorizing the City's participation in SDRMA's Employee Benefits Program for dental, vision, and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits.

PULLED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

1. Approve Claims and Demands of the City

Council Member Steeber pulled this item for further discussion.

Council Member Steeber requested clarification regarding the legal costs associated with the City Attorney's preparation of the letter requesting further environmental review, including preparation of a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for the proposed Crescent Gardens Cemetery project and the impact on the City's legal services budget.

City Attorney Pacifico addressed the legal services costs and stated that the letter contributed to the County conducting further environmental review.

Mayor Pro Tem Castillo commented on community concerns regarding the proposed cemetery and environmental impacts.

Mayor Smith referenced the City Council's prior unanimous direction to the City Attorney to prepare the letter seeking further environmental evaluation of the cemetery project.

Motion by Mayor Smith, second by Council Member Terry to approve Consent Calendar Item 1.

AYE: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, Mayor Smith

4 - 0 Carried – Unanimously

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

BUSINESS ITEMS

5. Approval of a Resolution of Intent, Contract Amendment and Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the City's Contract with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)

Administrative Services Senior Analyst Hernandez provided a presentation.

There were no public comments.

Motion by Council Member Terry, second by Council Member Steeber to (1) Adopt Resolution No. 2026-45 giving notice of intent to approve an amendment to the contract with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS); (2) approve the amendment to the contract with CalPERS; (3) introduce and conduct the first reading of Ordinance No. 283 – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake, California, Authorizing an Amendment to the Contract Between the City Council of the City of Canyon Lake and the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System; and (4) authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to effectuate this transaction.

AYE: Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Council Member Steeber, Council Member Terry, Mayor Smith

4 - 0 Carried – Unanimously

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Brown invited Community Engagement Coordinator Gonzalez to provide an update.

Community Engagement Coordinator Gonzalez announced that the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan survey is available on the City's website and provided information on upcoming events, including Pumpkin Bash, the Battle of the Cities Golf Tournament, and the State of the City Address.

Police Chief Rayls provided an update on the Police Department's first month of service, thanked City staff for their assistance, and reported receiving positive community feedback.

Fire Chief LaTendresse announced the September 11 remembrance event, National Preparedness Month, Fire Prevention Month, upcoming community education activities, the training pump ribbon cutting, firefighter live-fire training, and the Department's planned assistance with the March 26–28, 2027 air show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular City Council Meeting will be held on October 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Castillo, Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting in honor of Canyon Lake resident Margie Zingg at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl L. Garcia, MMC, CPM
City Clerk