

CITY OF ALISO VIEJO
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2026
Council Chambers, City Hall, 12 Journey
Aliso Viejo, California

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Duncan called the Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Aliso Viejo to order at 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT
Pursuant to Government Code Subsection 54957(b)
Title: Interim City Manager

Mayor Duncan reconvened the Special Meeting at 7:06 p.m.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Scott Smith stated no reportable action was taken.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: MAYOR MAX DUNCAN
 MAYOR PRO TEM MIKE MUNZING
 COUNCILMEMBER TIFFANY ACKLEY
 COUNCILMEMBER GARRETT DWYER
 COUNCILMEMBER TIM A. ZANDBERGEN

STAFF PRESENT: ANN EIFERT, ACTING CITY MANAGER/FINANCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR
 SCOTT SMITH, CITY ATTORNEY
 HONGDAO NGUYEN, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
 KATHY BAILOR, INTERIM CITY CLERK
 SO KIM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
 CORA SWANSON, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
 ISAAC AZIZ, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER
 CAPT. RYAN BUHR, CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Duncan led the pledge of allegiance.

1. **COMMUNITY INPUT:**

None.

2. **DISCUSSION:**

2.1 **CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE PROFESSIONAL CITY MANAGER RECRUITER AND/OR FOLLOW-ON DUTIES**

Acting City Manager Ann Eifert introduced City Attorney Scott Smith. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the options available for the recruitment of City Manager.

Councilmember Zandbergen Councilmember Dwyer, and Mayor Duncan supported establishing an Ad Hoc Committee. Councilmember Ackley supported using the City's Human Resources Department for this recruitment.

Motion: Mayor Duncan moved and Councilmember Dwyer seconded to establish an Ad Hoc Committee with Councilmember Dwyer and Councilmember Zandbergen serving as the City Council representatives. Motion carried 3-2, with Mayor Pro Tem Munzing and Councilmember Ackley dissenting.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS / CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

The Mayor and Councilmembers expressed their sorrow over the loss of City Manager Mitzi Ortiz. Councilmembers Ackley requested support from the City Council to place an item on the January 21, 2026, agenda allowing the public to express their appreciation for Ms. Ortiz's efforts on behalf of the community of City of Aliso Viejo.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Duncan adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. to the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of January 21, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:



KATHY BAILOR
INTERIM CITY CLERK



MAX DUNCAN
MAYOR