CITY OF DANA POINT

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
5:00 P.M. Closed Session
6:00 P.M. Regular Business

MINUTES

Location: City Council Chamber, 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 210, Dana Point, CA 92629

Next City Council Ordinance No. 26-07

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Dana Point, California, was called to order by Mayor Gabbard at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Chamber, 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 210, Dana Point.

ROLL CALL OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

John Gabbard, Mayor
Mike Frost, Mayor Pro Tem
Jamey M. Federico, Council Member
Matthew Pagano, Council Member - ABSENT
Michael Villar, Council Member - ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Reenders, City Manager; Jeff Rosaler, Assistant City Manager; Shayna Sharke, City Clerk; Joseph Larsen, Assistant City Attorney; Captain Frank Gonzalez; Matthew Sinacori, Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Jonathan Lightfoot, Director of Community Development; Jaimie To, Economic Development & Housing Manager; Ray Oropeza, Code Enforcement Supervisor, Taelor Vonjaroschkapohl, Assistant Administrative Analyst; Ryan Haworth, Deputy City Clerk.

CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION, Government Code § 54956.9 (d)(2), (2 cases)

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION, Government Code § 54956.9 (d)(1), (3 cases):

   a. Center For Natural Lands Management v City of Dana Point, Orange County Superior Court Case No: 30-2021-01219668

   b. Center For Natural Lands Management v City of Dana Point (CEQA), Orange County Superior Court Case No: 30-2025-01524239

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c. City of Dana Point v California Coastal Commission, Orange County Superior Court Case No 30-2026-01558283

Mayor Gabbard recessed the meeting into Closed Session at 5:01 P.M. pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.

RECESS OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Gabbard reconvened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Assistant City Attorney Joseph Larsen stated there was nothing to report out from Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Frost.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Certificate of Recognition – Keone Patterson
Mayor Gabbard presented Keone Patterson with a Certificate of Recognition for his heroic actions in saving his father following a surfing accident.

Business of the Quarter – Westwind Sailing
Mayor Gabbard presented Diane Wenzel, Director of Westwind Sailing, with a Certificate of Recognition for Business of the Quarter.

READING OF ORDINANCE TITLES

City Clerk, Shayna Sharke, read two (2) Ordinance Titles.

CONSENT CALENDAR

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FEDERICO, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FROST, THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS BE ACCEPTED FOR ALL ITEMS ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Federico, Frost, Gabbard
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Pagano, Villar

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1. WAIVE THE READING OF ORDINANCES AND APPROVE READING BY TITLE ONLY

APPROVED THE READING BY TITLE ONLY OF ALL ORDINANCES AND THAT FURTHER READING OF SUCH ORDINANCES BE WAIVED.

2. CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

APPROVED THE MINUTES.

3. PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES, AUGUST 10, 2026

RECEIVED AND FILED THE MINUTES.

4. CLAIMS AND DEMANDS

RECEIVED AND FILED THE CLAIMS AND DEMANDS.

5. ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA26-0002 RELATED TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

HELD A SECOND READING AND ADOPTED **ORDINANCE 26-07** ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA26-0002 TO MODIFY THE ZONING CODE RELATED TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

6. ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA26-0003 REINSTATING SECOND DWELLING UNIT STANDARDS IN THE LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM (LCP)

HELD A SECOND READING AND ADOPTED **ORDINANCE 26-08** ENTITLED:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING ZONE TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA26-0003 TO REINSTATE SECOND DWELLING UNIT STANDARDS CONSISTENT WITH THE CITY'S CERTIFIED LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM (LCP)

7. SALARY RANGES FOR REPRESENTED AND NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATIONS; HEALTH PLAN PROVISIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2027; AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

THE CITY COUNCIL:

1) ADOPTED **RESOLUTION 26-09-15-01** ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGES FOR REPRESENTED AND NON-REPRESENTED CLASSIFICATIONS; and

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2) ADOPTED **RESOLUTION 26-09-15-02** ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, MODIFYING HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ALLOWANCES FOR ELIGIBLE REPRESENTED AND ELIGIBLE NON-REPRESENTED CLASSIFICATIONS.

3) ADOPTED **RESOLUTION 26-09-15-03** ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE CITY'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Herron (Dana Point) gave a presentation, spoke in support of Proposition 39, and provided a handout to the City Council.

Linda Pillsbury (Capistrano Beach) spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Tammy Welch (San Clemente) spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Katie (Rancho Mission Viejo) spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Stefanie (Irvine) spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Joanie Laxson (Dana Point) gave a presentation and spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Kathy Wileman (Dana Point) gave a presentation and spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Mile Kelly (Dana Point) spoke in support of Proposition 39.

Michael Wechsberg (San Clemente) gave a presentation and spoke in opposition to the upcoming closure of the Laguna Beach Hospital.

Jena Minnick-Bull (San Clemente) provided information regarding the South Coast Conservatory and its upcoming events and extended an invitation to the community to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Gabbard moved the order of the agenda to hear item 9 on New Business prior to the other items.

9. DANA POINT TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2025-2026

Jaimie To, Economic Development & Housing Manager, provided a Staff Report.

Kelly Steward, Ritz-Carlton General Manager, and Heather Johnston, Visit Dana Point President, presented an update on Visit Dana Point.

Discussion ensued.

THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVED AND FILED THE PRESENTATION.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. SHORT-TERM RENTAL UPDATE

Ray Oropeza, Code Enforcement Supervisor, provided a Staff Report.

Discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY MAYOR GABBARD, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FROST, THAT THE CITY STAFF RETURN WITH FURTHER DATA PRIOR TO ISSUING ADDITIONAL SHORT-TERM RENTAL PERMITS AND CONSULT WITH THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION REGARDING TEMPORARY SHORT-TERM RENTAL PERMITS FOR THE 2028 OLYMPICS.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Federico, Frost, Gabbard
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Pagano, Villar

Mayor Gabbard re-opened the Public Comments section.

Aarti Chopra (Irvine) spoke regarding September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and requested that the City Council issue a proclamation in recognition of the month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Gabbard moved the order of New Business to hear item 11 prior to item 10.

11. RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY

Kelly Reenders, City Manager, provided a Staff Report.

Ron Andreas (Capistrano Beach) spoke regarding the local emergency on Beach Road.

Jason Moyer (Dana Point) asked the City Council to adopt the Proclamation of Local Emergency for Beach Road.

Amy Rogers (Capistrano Beach) spoke regarding the local emergency on Beach Road.

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Discussion ensued.

IT WAS MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FEDERICO, SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM FROST, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT **RESOLUTION 26-09-15-04** ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA, PROCLAIMING EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES:	Federico, Frost, Gabbard
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Pagano, Villar

10. DAYLIGHTING AMENDMENTS TO THE DANA POINT MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO APPEAL PROCEDURES

Shayna Sharke, provided a Staff Report.

Discussion ensued.

THE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVED THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO PORTIONS OF THE DANA POINT MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO APPEAL PROCEDURES.

COUNCIL REPORTS, INCLUDING CITY RELATED MEETINGS ATTENDED

Council Member Federico stated that he has turned in his list of meetings and discussed the lengthy permitting process that can be involved when seeking emergency funding from agencies. He also spoke about proclaiming September as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

Mayor Pro Tem Frost stated that he has turned in his list of meetings and had nothing to report.

Mayor Gabbard stated that he will turn in his list of meetings, declared that September will be National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, and announced upcoming events in Dana Point.

STAFF REPORTS

Kelly Reenders, City Manager, thanked City Staff and City Council for their efforts in responding to the local emergency on Beach Road.

Joseph Larsen, Assistant City Attorney, had nothing to report.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the City Council at this session, Mayor Gabbard adjourned the meeting at 7:58 P.M. He announced that the next Regular Meeting of the City Council will be October 6, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Council Chamber located at 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 210, Dana Point, California.

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SHAYNA SHARKE, CITY CLERK
APPROVED AT THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2026.

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Meetings attended since September 2, 2026

Mayor Gabbard

09/02/2026 Ribbon Cutting Truly Gelato
09/02/2026 SCAG Executive Committee Meeting
09/03/2026 SCAG CEHD Committee Meeting
09/03/2026 SCAG Regional Council
09/04/2026 North American Real Estate Investment Forum - Costa Mesa
09/08/2026 Ribbon Cutting Acai Republic
09/08/2026 OCMVCD Joint Committee Meeting
09/09/2026 Honoring First Responders - Assemblymember Davies
09/10/2026 SCAG RHNA Subcommittee
09/11/2026 CNLM Mediation
09/12/2026 Capo Bay Homeowner Meeting
09/13/2026 Capo Bay District Emergency Closed Session

Mayor Pro Tem Frost

09/02/2026 Ribbon Cutting Truly Gelato
09/04/2026 ACC-OC
09/10/2026 TCA
09/10/2026 DP Chamber

Council Member Pagano

Council Member Federico

09/04/2026 ACC-OC Finance Ad Hoc
09/08/2026 OCTA Exec Committee
09/09/2026 OCTA Exec Briefing
09/09/2026 Legal Subcommittee
09/11/2026 Legal Mediation

Council Member Michael Villar

09/11/2026 Met with Don Russell, Capo Bay District Manager, Regarding Damage at Beach Road.

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