



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



December 2025

## Highlights from the 2026 Budget Deliberations Meeting held on Monday, December 1, 2025

### Budget Deliberations

Humboldt City Council has approved the 2026 operating and capital budgets following a full day of deliberations. The approved budget includes a property tax increase of approximately 5.01% and a utility rate increase of approximately 5.19%.

In a special meeting held on Monday, December 1, 2025, Mayor Rob Muench guided Council and Administration through all operating cost centres, capital projects for 2026, and future capital project priorities.

The 2026 capital plan includes several roadway projects, water main replacements, as well as airport runway improvements. Many of the projects will proceed only if the City receives grant funding. Council also approved additional equipment and fleet purchases to support municipal operations.

A change in how interest revenue is recorded has influenced the City's taxation outlook. In previous years, interest earned on funded reserves was allocated to general operating budgets, helping to limit tax increases. Moving away from this approach allows the City to return interest earnings to the reserves, strengthening growth and supporting long-term, stable funding for future capital projects.

Higher contracted maintenance costs, operating expenses tied to the new Wastewater Treatment Facility, and an additional utility operator role within the city contributed to the utility increase.

Many of the approved 2026 capital projects will be funded through a combination of City reserves and anticipated grant funding from Provincial and Federal programs.

### Cost Increases

The 2026 consolidated budget was built upon three core segments - taxation, utilities, and land development.

The total 2026 budget includes over \$24 million in revenues, \$17.2 million in operating expenses and nearly \$8.2 million in capital spending.

### Approved Capital Projects

#### Wastewater Treatment Plant:

The upgraded plant requires the City to add a utility operator position plus higher contracted maintenance and operating costs amounting to an increase of \$155,760.

#### Roadway and Water Main Replacement Projects:

Council approved several roadway projects, water main replacements, street reconstruction, and airport runway improvements.

- 13th Street water main and road reconstruction (5th Ave. to 8th Ave.): \$1.16 million in 2026, \$483,000 in 2027.
- 10th Street paving (9th Ave. to 12th Ave.): \$456,100.
- Airport runway improvements, conditional on a CAP grant: \$176,000 total, city share \$88,000.

#### Fleet and equipment upgrades:

- Municipal video inspection system - \$120,000
- Sewer jetting unit - \$432,000
- Replacement tractor - \$265,000
- Asphalt and concrete crushing - \$156,800

#### Projects conditional on external funding:

- Urban Highway Connector Program resurfacing for Kruse Road and Andreason Road (\$569,000, city share \$65,000).
- 9th Street water main and road reconstruction, linked to the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.(city share \$490,480)



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## Proposed Capital Projects

A proposal for a paving project on the Golf Course Road from 8th Avenue to Water Ridge Crescent was discussed by City Council and Administration with Council determining to not approve the project at this time. The project came forward after residents raised concerns. The project may return in 2026 depending on local improvement petition support from property owners.

Council's decision not to include the project in the 2026 budget does not impact the budget's tax or utility increases.

## Funding Projects

Many capital projects planned for 2026 will be funded from reserves by the City in combination with grant revenue that the City anticipates from Provincial and Federal programs.

To view the  
Approved 2026 Consolidated Budget  
go to [humboldt.ca](https://humboldt.ca)

**"Council Highlights" are published once a month following each City Council Meeting.**

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<https://humboldt.ca/council-highlights/>

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## LIVE STREAMING

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<https://humboldt.ca/city-council-meetings/>

**Next City Council Meeting:**  
Monday, January 26 at 5:30 p.m.



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