



# MONTHLY MATTERS

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## March 2025 Agenda Topics

**Study Session - Mar 4 (4 pm)**  
**Joint Meeting with Park & Recreation Committee - Mar 4 (5:30 pm)**  
**Regular Meeting - Mar 18 (6 pm)**

### Tentative Agenda Topics -

- FY 2026/27 Budget Kick Off (Mar 4)
- PD Annual Audit Reports (Mar 4)
- HCD Annual Report (Mar 18)
- Inclusionary Fee Resolution (Mar 18)
- Consideration of Funding Support for Menlo College Conceptual Plans (Mar 18)
- 2nd Reading and Adoption of Development Standards under SB 79 (Mar 18)
- Brightview Electric Landscape Services Report (Mar 18)

### On The Horizon

- FY 2026/27 Operations Budget (Apr 1)
- Police Department Annual Performance Report (Apr 1)
- Peninsula Clean Energy Annual Report (Apr 15)
- 1st Reading and Introduction of Heritage Tree Ordinance Revisions (Apr 15)

## Budget & Earth Day 2026

The Council kicked off February with a Study Session Report on the Town's Budget at Mid-Year and a Report on Earth Day 2026. Here's a [LINK](#) to the online Agenda. The Town's mid-year budget review for FY 2025/26

shows a healthy fiscal position, with projected revenues of \$27.72 million outpacing expenditures of \$22.74 million. Revenues were driven by stronger ERAF returns and building permit activity. This is partially offset by a \$419,000 property tax shortfall tied to ongoing State Vehicle License Fee underpayments. Mid-year expenditure adjustments cover increased building contract costs, tree removal at Holbrook Palmer Park, and technology upgrades to Council Chambers and the Park Pavilion. The Town projects a year-end fund balance of \$10.51 million inclusive of all mandatory reserves.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 26 and in the afternoon bring the whole family to Holbrook Palmer Park for Atherton's 2026 Earth Day celebration, "Our Power, Our Planet – Take Action!" This free event will feature an incredible lineup of hands-on activities and engaging vendors, including educational booths from leading regional organizations spanning clean energy, conservation, cycling, civic engagement, and more. Local nonprofits and mission-driven vendors will also offer sustainability-themed items for sale. Volunteers are needed and welcome; register via the Town's [website](#) or by



## Charter City Discussion Resources

**J**oin us as we embark on an exploration of becoming a charter city. Currently, Atherton is a General Law City, meaning our governance is largely dictated by state statutes. A Charter City operates under its own local charter. A charter establishes a framework for how a city governs its municipal affairs, as allowed under the California Constitution.

**T**hus far, the Town has hosted two (2) Community Workshops. During the month of March, if you are interested in hosting a neighborhood meeting to discuss the possibility of becoming a charter city, please reach out to me. A charter must be approved by the voters and at this time, no decision has been made to put the matter on the ballot.

For more info, visit the Town's [Charter City website](#).

contacting Management Analyst, Christabel Soria-Mendoza. This is a rare opportunity to connect with neighbors, discover local environmental resources, and take meaningful action for our planet right here in Atherton.

**T**he February 18 Regular Meeting (link [HERE](#)) featured two significant items. The first was a public hearing on a proposed ordinance responding to Senate Bill 79, a new state housing law taking effect July 1, 2026. SB 79 requires cities to permit high-density residential development near transit stops without CEQA review. Seven Atherton properties fall within the qualifying quarter-mile radius of the Menlo Park Caltrain station. The law sets floors the Town cannot restrict below. These include density up to 120 units/acre, heights up to 75 feet, and a floor area ratio of 3.5. SB 79 leaves a few development standards to local discretion but the Town cannot impose standards that prevent the underlying development potential. Staff introduced amendments to the Municipal Code to establish local standards. The Town's ordinance must be approved by the State Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure it takes effect before the law does. The Town's recently adopted 20% inclusionary housing requirement applies to SB 79 projects.

**T**he second major item was approval of a new event management vendor for Holbrook-Palmer Park. Following the 2023 departure of prior vendor Catered Too, the Town operated without a permanent vendor while staff put out requests for proposals to qualified vendors. After a search, two vendors submitted proposals for consideration. Staff and a Council subcommittee recommended Cheat A Little Catering of Burlingame, whose philosophy of treating park events as a community amenity rather than a primary revenue source aligned with the Town's priorities for the Park. The three-year agreement (extendable to six years) includes a \$3,000/month startup fee for the first three months, then \$1,625/month plus 35% of rental revenue. Renters may use their own preferred caterer, as no exclusive catering provision is included.

For more information on any of the above items, contact the City Manager at 650-752-0504 or via [email](#); or visit the Town's [Website](#).

