

**City of Gilroy  
Planning Commission  
Minutes  
Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

**1. OPENING**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bhandal at 6:00 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Bhandal led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. REPORT ON POSTING THE AGENDA AND ROLL CALL**

The agenda was posted on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 3:02 p.m.

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Attendee Name</b>
Present	Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez Planning Commissioner Monica Valdez Vice Chair Stefanie Elle Chair Manny Bhandal
Absent	Planning Commissioner Brian Dauenhauer

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Bhandal opened public comment.

With no speakers, Chair Bhandal closed public comment.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**5.1. April 2, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
Motion**

Approve the consent agenda.

**RESULT: Passed**

**MOVER:** Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson

**SECONDER:** Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez

**AYES:** Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson, Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh, Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez, Planning Commissioner Monica Valdez, Vice Chair Stefanie Elle, Chair Manny Bhandal

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** Planning Commissioner Brian Dauenhauer

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**6.1. Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Modify Chapter 30, Article II and XIX of the Gilroy City Code Relating to Tobacco Retailers and Smoke Shops**

Community Development Director, Sharon Goei, provided a report and presentation.

Chair Bhandal opened the public hearing.

With no speakers, Chair Bhandal closed the public hearing.

**Motion**

Recommend the City Council, based on its independent analysis, find that approval of the Gilroy City Code (Zoning) amendment is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) for the adoption of an ordinance regarding tobacco retailers and smoke shops.

**RESULT:**           **Passed**

**MOVER:**           Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson

**SECONDER:**      Vice Chair Stefanie Elle

**AYES:**            Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson, Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh, Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez, Planning Commissioner Monica Valdez, Vice Chair Stefanie Elle, Chair Manny Bhandal

**NAYS:**            None

**ABSENT:**         Planning Commissioner Brian Dauenhauer

**Motion**

Recommend that the City Council adopt an Ordinance (Z 26-01), to approve amendments to the Gilroy City Code, Chapter 30 (Zoning), Article II (Definitions) and XIX (Commercial Tables) relating to tobacco retailers and smoke shops.

**RESULT:**           **Passed**

**MOVER:**           Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson

**SECONDER:**      Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh

**AYES:**            Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson, Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh, Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez, Planning Commissioner Monica Valdez, Vice Chair Stefanie Elle, Chair Manny Bhandal

**NAYS:**            None

**ABSENT:**         Planning Commissioner Brian Dauenhauer

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1. Planning Commission Review of a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Gilroy Requesting the Allocation of Fiscal Year 2027 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Pedestrian/Bicycle Project Funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

City Engineer, Nisha Patel, provided a report and presentation.

Chair Bhandal opened public comment.

With no speakers, Chair Bhandal closed public comment.

**Motion**

Receive a report, provide feedback, and recommend that the City Council adopt a resolution to approve the Transportation Development Act Article 3 grant funding request from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for Fiscal Year 2027.

**RESULT:**       **Passed**

**MOVER:**        Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson

**SECONDER:**   Chair Manny Bhandal

**AYES:**         Planning Commissioner Patricia Bentson, Planning Commissioner Payman Khodabandeh, Planning Commissioner Martha Martinez, Planning Commissioner Monica Valdez, Vice Chair Stefanie Elle, Chair Manny Bhandal

**NAYS:**         None

**ABSENT:**       Planning Commissioner Brian Dauenhauer

**7.2. Civic Center Master Plan Presentation**

Public Works Director, John Doughty, provided a presentation.

**8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**8.1. Planning Division Staff Approvals**

One staff-level architectural and site review approval was issued since the last report provided to the Planning Commission at its April 2, 2026 meeting.

**9. PLANNING DIVISION REPORT**

No report.

**10. ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

No report.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Bhandal adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.