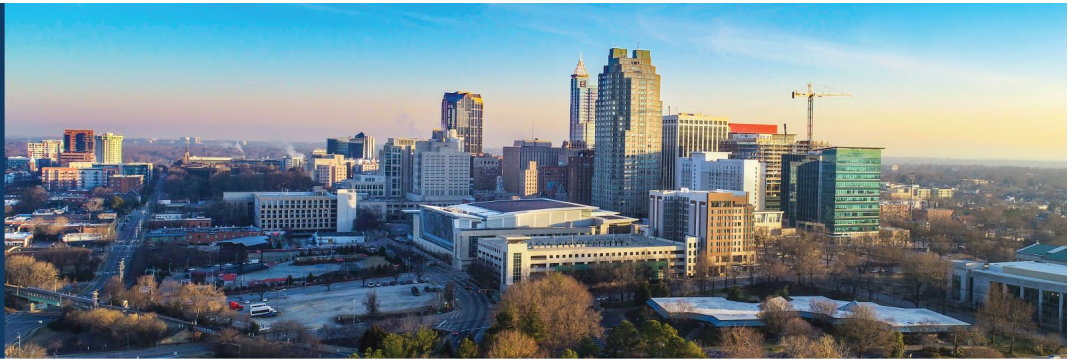


Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2026-36

September 11, 2026

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Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, September 15; Lunch Work Session at 11:30 - Lunch Will be Provided

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** in the **Council Chamber**. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the eScribe electronic agenda system:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to pull from the consent agenda for discussion, please e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. the day of the meeting.

INFORMATION:

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from August 18th Council Meeting

Data Centers (Council Members Harrison and Patton)

Staff Resource: Justin Rametta, Planning and Development, 675-5656, justin.rametta@raleighnc.gov

During the August 18th Council meeting, staff were requested to provide a summary of the process for siting data centers in Raleigh, a review of the Board of Adjustment's Special Use Permit process, and a City webpage dedicated to this information. Included with this week's *Update* materials is a staff memorandum addressing the questions raised regarding how data centers are regulated and permitted, and how the public can stay informed on this topic.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, September 11 – Thursday, September 17

City of Raleigh Special Events and Hospitality
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Hopscotch Music Festival](#)

City Plaza & Moore Square

Friday, September 11 & Saturday, September 12

Event Time: 4:00pm – 11:00pm 9-11-26; 2:30pm – 11:00pm 9-12-26

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 12:00pm on 9-9-26 until 4:00am on 9-13-26.

[Sola Hot Mini 5K](#)

Sawmill Road & Route

Saturday, September 12

Event Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: Roads will be closed from 8:20am until 10:00am. Note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event and [view the 5K route map](#) for more details.

[Canes 5K](#)

Lenovo Center & Westchase Boulevard

Sunday, September 13

Event Time: 8:00am – 11:30am

Associated Road Closures: Westchase Boulevard between Peter Karmanos Drive and Blue Ridge Road will be closed from 8:20am until 10:30am. Note that additional roads on Lenovo Center property will also be impacted by the event and [view the 5K route map](#) for more details.

Other Upcoming Events

[Activate Good's 9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance Event](#)

Friday, September 11

John Chavis Memorial Park

[NC State vs. Richmond](#)

Friday, September 11

Carter-Finley Stadium

[Staind](#)

Friday, September 11

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

[Marcus King](#)

Friday, September 11

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Air Supply](#)

Saturday, September 12

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

[The Screwtape Letters](#)

Saturday, September 12 & Sunday, September 13

Fletcher Opera Theater

BABYMETAL

Sunday, September 13
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star (Theatre for the Very Young)

Through Sunday, September 13
Raleigh Little Theatre

Rod Wave

Tuesday, September 15
Lenovo Center

Volunteer Mural Painting

Wednesday, September 16
Roberts Park

Malcolm Todd

Wednesday, September 16
Red Hat Amphitheater

Jazz in the Square

Thursday, September 17
Moore Square

Hairspray

Through Sunday, September 20
Raleigh Little Theatre

Public Resources

Event Feedback Form: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

Road Closure & Road Race Map: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

Online Events Calendar: View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dix Park.

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Justin Rametta, AICP, Zoning Administrator
Department	Planning and Development
Date	September 11, 2026
Subject	Data Center Regulations

During the Aug. 18 Council meeting staff was requested to provide a summary of the process for siting data centers in Raleigh, including a review of the Board of Adjustment's Special Use Permit process.

CURRENT CITY ZONING REGULATIONS REGARDING DATA CENTERS

The City defines a “data center” as a facility, campus of facilities or group of co-located facilities under common ownership or control used to house computer systems, servers, network equipment, and associated infrastructure for the storage, processing, or transmission of data needed for cloud services, internet applications, and artificial intelligence workloads to include, without limitation, computationally intensive applications such as cryptocurrency mining, artificial intelligence computing, genome sequencing, application hosting, cloud storage, and video and technical streaming services. Data center facilities typically include air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities and other infrastructure to support continuous operations.

Data centers are classified as a type of Utility use under the UDO and fall into one of two categories depending on scope and scale:

- **Minor Utility:** Principal data centers that are unmanned with no on-site personnel, have a combined building and land footprint of 10,000 square feet or less, and a peak electricity demand of 5 Megawatts or less. Minor Utilities are permitted by right in every zoning district.
- **Major Utility:** All other principal data centers are classified as Major Utilities under the UDO. Major Utilities are only allowed in IX- and IH after Special Use Permit Approval. A summary of this framework is provided in the table below.

Category	Description	Zoning Permission
Minor Utility	Unmanned data center with a combined building + land footprint ≤ 10,000 sq ft and peak demand ≤ 5 MW.	Permitted by right in all zoning districts.
Major Utility	All other data centers (manned or unmanned) that exceed thresholds for Minor Utility.	Allowed only in IX- and IH zones, and only with Special Use Permit approval.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT PROCESS

A data center that qualifies as a Major Utility is only allowed to locate in an IX- or IH zoning district after receiving a Special Use Permit approval by the Board of Adjustment (BOA). Approval only occurs after a quasi-judicial evidentiary hearing where the applicant has satisfied its burden of proof as required by UDO Section 10.2.9.E. Before granting a Special Use Permit, the BOA must show that all of the following are met:

1. The proposed use complies with all applicable provisions of the UDO unless otherwise expressly modified in accordance with the UDO;
2. The proposed use is allowed as a special use in the respective zoning district (see [Chapter 6. Use Regulations](#));
3. The proposed use complies with any specific use standard listed in [Chapter 6. Use Regulations](#) without the granting of any variance to the specific use standard;
4. The proposed use is compatible with adjacent uses in terms of location, scale, site design, hours of operation and operating characteristics;
5. Any adverse impacts resulting from the proposed use in the affected area will be effectively mitigated or offset or the special use is denied;
6. Access with respect to pedestrian, bicycle and automotive safety, traffic flow and emergency service is adequate;
7. Signage is suitable and appropriate; and
8. Any appropriate dedications of streets and utilities to the public will be made prior to the issuance of a building permit.

BOA meetings are open to the public, and anyone can attend. The Board typically meets on the second Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Meeting dates and agendas are posted on the City's Boards and Commissions website. Additionally, properties within 100 feet of the subject property receive mailed notice of the application. Even after receiving a Special Use Permit, a developer must still obtain site plan and building permit approvals from the City before starting construction.

CITY WEBSITE

Staff was also requested to explore the creation of a dedicated webpage featuring the information above and answers to frequently asked questions. Planning and Development and Communications staff are currently working to develop this page which will launch later this month.