

SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Work Meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 2603 Santa Clara Drive, Santa Clara, Utah. The meeting will be broadcasted on our city website at <https://santaclarautah.gov>.

Present: Mayor Rosenberg
Councilman Jarett Waite
Councilman Dave Pond
Councilwoman Christa Hinton
Councilwoman Janene Burton
Councilman Ben Shakespeare (via Zoom)

Staff Present: Brock Jacobsen, City Manager
Selena Nez, City Recorder
Matt Ence, City Attorney
Jim McNulty, Planning Director
Cody Mitchell, Building Official
Dan Cazier, Fire Chief
Dustin Mouritsen, Public Works Director
Gary Hall, Power Director
Ryan VonCannon, Parks Director
Lance Haynie, Government Affairs Director
Jaron Studly, Police Chief

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rick Rosenberg called the Santa Clara City Council Work Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Working Agenda

A. General Business:

1. Update on Cox Auditorium Renovation. Presented by Lowry Snow.

Former State Representative, Lowry Snow, presented an update on the Cox Auditorium renovation project. He shared detailed information about the scope of the changes, including a new rehearsal hall on the upper level and a redesigned foyer area on the lower level.

During the discussion, Councilwoman Burton asked if the project had been included in the budget. Mayor Rosenberg explained that while it was not specifically in the budget, the Council had previously expressed consensus about wanting to participate and support the renovation. He noted that the city would need to work with City Manager Brock Jacobsen to determine an appropriate amount for contribution.

Councilwoman Hinton asked if the City could split their donation across multiple fiscal years. Mr. Snow confirmed this would be possible.

Councilwoman Burton inquired about ways to inform Santa Clara residents about opportunities to donate privately to the project. The Council agreed to include information in the city newsletter to encourage community support.

2. Discussion Regarding Playground Equipment for Black Rock Park. Presented by Ryan VonCannon, Parks Director.

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon, presented an updated playground equipment design for Black Rock Park. He explained that the initial version had been priced at \$75,000, but the revised design now costs just over \$116,000.

Mr. VonCannon detailed the features of the new playground, explaining that they were maximizing the available space based on required clearances for each piece of equipment. The design includes:

- A cone climbing structure that spins
- A green spinning post in the corner
- Three toddler swings placed under the main playground structure
- A climbing hut structure that replaced a previously proposed extension with climbing chains
- Reoriented swings to accommodate clearance requirements

Ryan mentioned that the current swing configuration would not pass inspection today due to insufficient clearance. Mr. VonCannon also noted that playground equipment costs have increased significantly over the past five years, citing that the Swiss Pioneer Memorial playground built in 2020 for \$75,000 would cost \$400,000-\$500,000 today.

The Council expressed their approval of the design, particularly the addition of the toddler swings, and gave a thumbs up to proceed with the project.

3. Discussion Regarding Development Fee Schedule. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.

Planning Director, Jim McNulty, presented proposed changes to the City's development fee schedule following a previous discussion on June 11th. He highlighted several proposed fee adjustments:

- Administrative Appeal: Maintain as 100% of the Administrative Law Judge fee at \$350 per hour, based on recent experience where a case costs over \$3,000.
- General Plan Amendment: Reduce from \$1,000 to \$750, plus acreage fees.
- Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU): Keep at \$100 instead of raising to \$150 to encourage ADU development.
- Special Event Permit: Maintain at \$150 for standard events but increase to \$300 for events with 500+ attendees.

Mr. McNulty also discussed additional fee considerations:

- Adding a fee to set power meters for events.
- Charging for use of city facilities during events.
- Adding Park usage fees to special event permits.
- Increasing commercial business license fees from \$50 to \$150.
- Increasing liquor license fees for single events and on-premises licenses.

Mr. McNulty emphasized that the proposed fees were designed to cover the costs of staff time and consultants, not to generate profit. He noted that he would bring the fee changes back for council adoption by ordinance in August.

Councilman Pond asked about the on-premises liquor license and whether it covered grocery or convenience store sales. Mr. McNulty and City Attorney Matt Ence clarified that the state handles different types of establishments with separate license classifications, and they would look at potentially adding different categories to the fee schedule. The Council expressed general support for the proposed fee changes.

4. Discussion Regarding Turf Buy Back Program. Presented by Dustin Mouritsen, Public Works Director.

The Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen, presented a proposal to use \$82,000 in excess water use surcharge funds for a turf buyback program. He explained that Washington County Conservancy District was offering this money back to Santa Clara, but it must be used for water conservation projects.

Mr. Mouritsen proposed partnering with the Conservancy District to enhance their existing turf buyback program. The District would handle all administrative aspects including accounting, inspections, and payments. The partnership would:

- Offer an additional \$500 per property (approximately \$1 per square foot up to 500 square feet).
- Be promoted through social media, newsletters, and the city website.
- Include joint branding with both the city and district logos.

Mayor Rosenberg noted that the incentive would help residents who might be on the fence about removing turf, particularly those using culinary water for irrigation. Mr. Mouritsen confirmed that funds must be allocated to a project by December 2026.

After discussion, the Council reached consensus to proceed with the \$500 per property incentive (calculated as \$1 per square foot up to 500 square feet maximum). This approach would allow approximately 160 homes to participate in the program.

3. Staff Reports

Various department heads provided updates:

Police Chief, Jaron Studley reported:

- Officer Katie Whipple is two weeks from working independently.
- Officer Brian Peluffo is attending advanced accident reconstruction training.
- Detective Trevor Muse solved a case using the newly implemented license plate reader technology.
- The department conducted mass casualty incident training at Lava Ridge.
- Four officers assisted with a critical incident in St. George involving over 100 law enforcement officers.
- The department is actively enforcing regulations on golf carts, having impounded two in the previous month.

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon reported:

- Hired Logan Marshall for an open field position.
- Reopened the pickleball courts after resurfacing four courts instead of the originally planned three.
- An Eagle Scout is working on a project in the arboretum.
- The booster pump for Gubler Park is awaiting electrical parts and should be installed the following week.

Power Director, Gary Hall reported:

- Three recently hired employees are doing well, with two starting apprenticeships in August.
- Staff has been replacing old poles.
- Experiencing ongoing issues with generators 1 and 4.

Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen reported:

- Completed the city's consumer confidence report with no violations.
- New striping on Pioneer Parkway has improved traffic flow.
- Hired a part-time street sweeper operator.
- Sent out an RFP for the Western Corridor alignment study.

- Leased new equipment including a hydro excavating vac trailer.
- Successfully implemented automated notifications for constant water usage through MyMeter and Yopify.

Fire Chief, Dan Cazier reported:

- Staff returned from the Forsyth fire deployment on July 4th.
- The department deployed again to Sonoma, California.
- Had about half a dozen small fires on July 4th, primarily in garbage cans and dumpsters.
- Participated in mass casualty incident training focused on schools.
- Filled two open positions with Logan Costello (Engineer Paramedic) and AJ Weir (Firefighter).

Building Official, Cody Mitchell reported:

- The department ended the fiscal year near projections.
- Currently has 10 permits in process.
- Has an open building inspector position with multiple applicants.
- Building improvements including carpet base replacement and carport construction.

Planning Director, Jim McNulty reported:

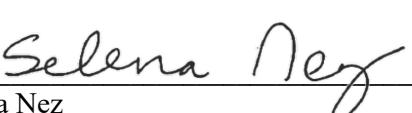
- Held a General Plan Update steering committee meeting.
- Provided updates on several local businesses:
- Mimi and Cocoa kids project expects a ribbon cutting in August/September.
- A Korean skincare business is moving into a space (previous Blow Dry Bar) on Pioneer Parkway.
- A potential ice cream shop is being considered for the previous Thrive drip spa location.

City Manager, Brock Jacobsen reported:

- Working on fiscal year-end wrap up and audit preparation.
- Met with Black Desert group regarding construction activities.
- Planning to distribute binders of bison artist options for council review.
- Announced the National League City Summit in Salt Lake City from November 19-22.
- Planning to create informational videos featuring different city departments.

4. Adjournment

Mayor Rosenberg adjourned the work meeting at 5:20 p.m., noting they would reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.



Selena Nez
City Recorder

Approved: _____ August 13, 2025 _____