

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025
MEETING MIUNTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Work Meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 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

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
Debbie Bannon, Finance
Lance Haynie, Government Affairs Director
Jaron Studly, Police Chief
MacKenzie Peterson, Animal Control/Shelter Manager

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rick Rosenberg called the Santa Clara City Council Work Meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. Working Agenda

A. General Business:

1. Discussion regarding Animal Control Ordinance Title 6, Animals. Presented by MacKenzie Peterson, Animal Control/Shelter Manager and Jaron Studley, Police Chief.

Police Chief Jaron Studley opened the discussion by explaining that there are ambiguities between surrounding cities' ordinances and Santa Clara's ordinances. The department wanted to present potential revisions to definitions and ordinances to make enforcement consistent across jurisdictions. Chief Studley specifically mentioned that language regarding animal counts in homes had been lost from the existing ordinance and needed to be added back.

Animal Control/Shelter Manager MacKenzie Peterson presented several proposed changes to the animal control ordinance:

- Definition Changes:
- Animal at Large: Change to exempt cats from the current requirement that all animals be under control, allowing cats to roam freely, consistent with surrounding cities like St. George and county areas.
- Pet Shop: Update definition to include selling pet supplies and accessories, not just animals.

- Add "Hoarding" as a new definition to help define what constitutes a hoarding situation (excessive animals, excessive feces, inability to provide adequate care, food, or medical attention).
- Review Panel: Remove specific reference to FEAS (Friends of the Ivins Animal Shelter) which no longer exists and allow for other supporting groups to assist with review panels for shelter animals.
- Ordinance Changes:
 - Add definition for the number of animals allowed in a home (proposing 4 dogs), with exceptions for properties of 1 acre or more, or properties adjoining open space.
 - Combine two separate animal-at-large provisions into one ordinance and exempt cats.
 - Update period of impound section to remove references to FEAS.
 - Change language about female dogs in heat to apply to all animals, requiring them to be fixed or confined.

Councilmember Shakespeare asked for clarification on the period of impound rewrite. Ms. Peterson explained that the original language specified FEAS would take care of animals not placed, but since the organization no longer exists, the proposed change would have the review panel make the ultimate decision instead.

Councilwoman Burton asked about the 120-day period before animals could be euthanized. Ms. Peterson confirmed that after 120 days, a review panel would make decisions about animals that haven't been adopted but noted this is when stress-related behavior changes often appear in shelter animals. She explained that they post available animals on Facebook, Pet Finder, and at community events.

Chief Studley asked for Council direction on the proposed limit of 4 animals per household. The Council generally supported this number, with Mayor Rosenberg asking for Ms. Peterson's expert opinion. Ms. Peterson recommended 4 as appropriate, noting that St. George only allows 2 animals per dwelling, but that 4 would work well for Santa Clara's community size.

Mayor Rosenberg requested clarification on the exemption for properties adjoining open space, suggesting it should specify "private open space" to clarify that properties next to parks or BLM land would not qualify for the exemption. City Attorney Matt Ence suggested using the term "private open space" rather than "personally owned open space."

2. Discussion regarding Payment Processing Fee. Presented by Lance Haynie, Government Affairs Director.

Government Affairs Director Lance Haynie sought Council input on charging a payment processing fee for transactions other than utility billing. He explained that payment processing fees cost the city approximately \$5,000 per month, with spikes during events like Swiss Days, totaling about \$60,000-70,000 annually. Haynie noted that credit card processing rates range between 2-3% for most transactions, though utility payments are processed at a lower rate. He explained that the fees have doubled since COVID, as more people use credit cards for payments.

Councilman Waite expressed strong opposition to adding processing fees, suggesting it would be better to increase other fees to cover the cost as part of doing business. He mentioned that requiring separate processing fees often creates a barrier for people and results in them using less convenient payment methods. Councilman Shakespeare asked what types of transactions would be affected. Haynie and City Manager Jacobsen clarified this would include facility rentals, licensing, park reservations, vendor applications, and Swiss Days applications, but not utility billing.

Councilwoman Hinton said she would need to see a breakdown between utilities and other payments before deciding but was leaning toward not charging a separate processing fee. The Council generally agreed that adding a payment processing fee would be unpopular with residents and that it would be preferable to incorporate these costs into the base fees for various services instead. Haynie said he would work on gathering more detailed information about the breakdown of processing fees across different types of transactions.

3. Discussion regarding UAMPS All Requirements Membership Model. Presented by Gary Hall, Power Director.

Gary Hall introduced a new membership model being considered by Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS). Under the "All Requirements" model, the city would sign one contract with UAMPS, which would procure all resources to handle the city's power load, rather than the current approach where the city selects specific resources.

Hall explained this would be particularly beneficial if the Energy Day Ahead Market (EDAM) is implemented, as smaller utilities like Santa Clara don't have the staff resources that larger utilities have to manage complex energy markets. With EDAM, the city would need to have 115% of its load covered with resources, which is challenging given that Santa Clara's load doubles from winter to summer.

Key points discussed:

- The All Requirements model would be a 25-year commitment
- Current resources and contracts would continue until they expire
- The city's generators could potentially be scheduled by UAMPS under this model
- The model could provide economies of scale for purchasing power
- Administration fees would likely remain similar to current fees

Council members expressed concerns about losing control of the city's generators and the long-term commitment. Councilman Shakespeare emphasized the importance of calculating the full capital and operational costs of the generators if they are to be used as part of a broader market. Brock Jacobsen, City Manager, noted that this change could affect future plans for additional generators, as the city might not want to invest in equipment it may not fully control. Hall indicated that more information would be available at the upcoming UAMPS conference next week, and that there are early discussions about the model.

4. Discussion regarding allowing Shakespeare in the Park to store equipment on city property. Presented by Councilman Pond.

Councilman Pond presented a request from Shakespeare in the Park to place a storage container on city property. The organization is currently paying about \$2,500 per year in storage fees for sets and costumes and is looking for a more cost-effective solution. Councilman Pond suggested placing a container behind the wall at Swiss Memorial Pioneer Park at the bottom of the hill, which is relatively out of sight. He proposed a formal 10-year lease agreement for a nominal fee such as \$1 per year.

City Manager Jacobsen noted that while the city has allowed storage containers at other locations like Little League fields, this does technically violate the city's zoning regulations. Councilman Shakespeare suggested that the city should consider long-term storage solutions rather than adding more storage containers throughout the city. He recommended potentially building permanent CMU storage buildings at appropriate locations to address various storage needs.

The Council also discussed the possibility of relocating Shakespeare in the Park performances to Swiss Memorial Pioneer Park, which would provide better parking, access to bathrooms, and reduce traffic issues on Santa Clara Drive. Councilman Pond mentioned that one of the organizers, Heidi, had concerns about the playground, but these could potentially be addressed by temporarily fencing off the playground during performances. The Council agreed that Councilman Pond should invite the Shakespeare in the Park organizers to address the Council at a future meeting to discuss both the storage issue and the potential relocation of performances.

3. Staff Reports

Various department heads provided updates:

Police Chief, Jaron Studley reported:

They are working to fill Sergeant Bates' position with two external and two internal candidates. Testing will be conducted on August 18th. Chief Studley provided data on Suron electric motorcycles: since May 22nd, there have been 17 reports including 3 evasions and 1 car accident. SROs dedicated 4 hours per shift to enforcement and observed 10-15 violations per week. For golf carts, there were 9 incidents handled.

Government Affairs Director, Lance Haynie reported:

On upcoming discussions with the league regarding potential exemptions for non-profits. He also mentioned Senate Bill 2002-15 regarding EMS modifications, which will require the city to go through a formal bidding process for EMS services, even when bidding to itself.

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon reported:

That work on the booster pump at Gubler Park is nearly complete. The Black Rock Playground equipment has been ordered with installation expected in mid to late September. Staff are preparing fields for overseeding, which will take about three weeks. Devin Kendall completed his Eagle Scout project at the Arboretum, which included replacing a bridge that had washed away.

Power Director, Gary Hall reported:

That engineering is underway for the 69kV line to the Green Valley area of St. George, which will provide a back feed into the system. The crew has been replacing old direct-buried cable on Canyon View Drive with new conduit and cable. Transformers have been installed near City Hall and across the street at the park to power food trucks and bounce houses for Swiss Days, reducing the need for generators. Generator #2 is having detonation issues and is being troubleshooted.

Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen reported:

On a major water main break on Swiss Drive during the Fourth of July weekend. His crew spent 12 hours repairing a 12-inch water main that broke due to a 3-foot-long 2x4 that had been inside the 40-year-old pipe since construction, causing it to split. The break took out 100 feet of road from curb to curb.

Fire Chief, Dan Cazier reported:

That the wildland crews had just completed their fifth deployment and were sent out that morning to the Monroe Canyon Fire, the largest fire in the state at over 72,000 acres. He also reported on the department's summer party, which was attended by about 55 people including families. On July 24th, the department responded to a house fire caused by a barbecue and later that night to a fireworks-related fire. Six new part-time firefighters have been hired and are being oriented.

Building Official, Cody Mitchell reported:

10 new building permits sold and 16 in the review process. Two of the new permits are for single-family homes, with the rest being townhomes, indicating townhome construction is ramping up again. Code enforcement remains steady with 3-4 calls per week. The department is still searching for a part-time building inspector.

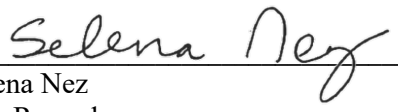
Planning Director, Jim McNulty reported:

On progress with the General Plan, stating that draft text will be sent to the steering committee on August 25th. He mentioned that Mimi and Coco Kids is planning a grand opening in late August to mid-September, and The Sharing Place will have an opening in September or early October. He is following up on the status of the dialysis center, which appears complete but is not yet occupied. Councilman Waite noted his sister-in-law is the dietitian for the facility and explained they are gradually ramping up operations, starting with one patient to prove everything works before adding more.

City Manager, Brock Jacobsen had nothing to reported:

4. Adjournment

Mayor Rosenberg adjourned the work meeting at 5:39 p.m., noting they would reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.



Selena Nez
City Recorder

Approved: August 27, 2025