

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
MEETING MIUNTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Work Meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 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
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 4:04 p.m. Present from the council were Councilman Jarett Waite, Councilman David Pond, Councilwoman Christa Hinton, Councilwoman Burton and Councilman Ben Shakespeare.

2. Working Agenda

A. General Business:

1. Continued discussion regarding Liquor License/Package Agency. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.

Jim McNulty presented a draft ordinance to amend section 5.08 of the city code regarding alcoholic beverages. He explained the proposed addition of three new license categories:

- Class G - Bar Establishment License: A license for businesses primarily serving alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, with food service not required and minors not allowed.
- Class H - Type 5 Package Agency License: A license allowing manufacturers to sell sealed containers of their alcoholic beverages directly to consumers for off-premises consumption. This license requires a manufacturing license.
- Class I - Manufacturing License: A license for producing and storing alcoholic beverages within Utah, allowing direct-to-customer sales. This must be paired with a Type 5 Package Agency License.

Councilman Pond pointed out the need for consistency in terminology, changing "permit" to "license" throughout the document. Councilwoman Hinton asked about the current number of liquor licenses in

the city, noting the ordinance limits certain license classes based on population. City Manager Brock Jacobsen estimated the city currently has 3-4 licenses.

City Attorney Matt Ence clarified that license limits are arbitrary and can be structured however the council prefers. Councilman Waite requested clarification on the "direct to consumer sales" language in the manufacturing license definition.

Councilman Shakespeare expressed concern about reaching license capacity and suggested staff determine exact numbers before the ordinance returns. McNulty agreed to bring back more information in two weeks.

2. Discussion regarding Public Comments. Presented by Brock Jacobsen, City Manager.

Brock Jacobsen presented training materials on public comment policies from a city managers conference. He emphasized that public comment is not required by Utah state law except during public hearings.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Almost all speech during public meetings is protected by the First Amendment
- Only specific categories are not protected: incitement to imminent lawless action, true threats, defamation, obscenity, child pornography, and fighting words
- Cities should establish either a designated or limited public forum for public comments
- Limited public forums allow cities to restrict topics to items on the agenda or matters under city purview
- Courts have ruled public officials must have "thicker skin" and tolerate criticism, profanity, and personal attacks

Jacobsen noted that requesting addresses from speakers could violate First Amendment rights due to fear of retaliation. He recommended updating the city's policy to designate it as a limited public forum with clear guidelines.

Mayor Rosenberg suggested continuing the current plan through year-end and allowing the new council to decide how to proceed next year. Jacobsen agreed to work with Matt Ence to draft an updated policy for October consideration.

3. Discussion regarding Freemont Solar and Battery power Purchase Agreement. Presented by Gary Hall, Power Director.

Gary Hall presented details on the Fremont Solar project, a 99-megawatt solar generation facility with a 49.5-megawatt battery energy storage system in Iron County. Key details included:

- 25-year contract through UAMPS
- Commercial operation expected December 31, 2027
- Solar energy priced at \$35.45 per megawatt hour
- Battery provides 4-hour discharge capability for evening peak demand
- Includes renewable energy credits and \$10,000 annual scholarship program
- Santa Clara entitled to 3 megawatts (3.03%)

Hall emphasized the importance of acting now to secure IRA tax credits before they expire. Councilman Pond questioned the battery pricing structure of \$13.50 per kilowatt per month. Hall promised to obtain clarification on the calculation method.

Councilman Shakespeare identified the project location as Buckhorn Flat near Paragonah. Council members agreed the \$35 solar price was favorable, though combined with battery costs would total

\$69-74 per megawatt hour. Hall confirmed this helps address the city's resource shortage and will return with a resolution in two weeks.

4. Introduction of the Santa Clara Royalty and Youth Council. Presented by Councilwoman Burton.

The meeting order was adjusted to accommodate dance practice schedules. Mindy Batt, director of Miss Santa Clara Royalty, introduced this year's royalty:

- Brandee Peetel (Miss Santa Clara): Junior at Snow Canyon High, enjoys yoga, outdoors, and debate
- Taija Batt (First Attendant): Junior at Dixie High, loves singing, dancing, and tennis
- Lolly Ashton (Second Attendant): Senior at Snow Canyon High, passionate about performing arts
- Klara Frei (Miss Spirit): Sophomore at Snow Canyon High, loves dance and community involvement

The royalty shared their platform initiatives and recent achievements, including winning the People's Choice Award at the state fair and Commissioner's Choice at Dixie Roundup for their float.

Jennifer Chaffee then introduced the Youth City Council members:

- Lolly Ashton (Youth Mayor)
- Taija Batt (Mayor Pro Tem)
- Adalyn Payne (Secretary)
- Micah Merrill, Elias Chaffee, Norman Nielsen, and Ryan Stephens (Council Members)

Councilwoman Burton noted all youth participants maintain 3.9-4.0 GPAs and actively volunteer for community events. Photos were taken with both groups.

5. Discission regarding Pet Wall of Fame. Presented by Santa Clara Youth Council.

This item was tabled to a future meeting due to scheduling conflicts preventing the Youth Council from preparing their presentation.

3. Staff Reports

Various department heads provided updates:

Police Chief, Jaron Studley reported:

- Reported on Heritage Days and preparations for Swiss Days
- Assisted FBI with the Charlie Kirk assassination investigation through citizen interviews
- Attended the Governor's Law Enforcement Roundtable
- Seeking to hire a police officer, preferably a local resident

Government Affairs Director Lance Haynie had nothing to report

- Welcomed Ryan Levsey who has moved from Kentucky to Southern Utah
- Noted upcoming legislative bills related to land use, housing affordability, and public safety
- Reminded Council of National League preparations

Power Director, Gary Hall reported:

- Provided EDAM updates, noting Pacific Corp tariff approval by FERC
- Reported stable gas prices around \$2.50-\$2.60

- Noted they're running two generators and will be ramping down generation

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon reported:

- Reported on columbarium project with the Kenworthy's
- BlackRock playground equipment will be delivered next week with installation in October
- Ribbon cutting for the mural will be either October 15 or 29
- Staff is preparing fields for senior games and Swiss Days

Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen reported:

- Reported on water shortage plan discussions with the water district
- Shared that countywide average household water usage is 212,000 gallons per ERC (0.65 acre feet)
- Santa Clara residential usage is 164,000 gallons (0.5 acre feet), down from 0.89-0.9 acre feet previously
- Well #6 had dropped 200 gallons per minute; new pump being installed
- Working on Western Corridor alignment study with Sunrise Engineering

Fire Chief, Dan Cazier reported on:

- Responded to a vehicle rollover extrication on Highway 91 over Arizona border
- Attended Utah State Fire Chiefs Association fall meeting
- Completed community risk assessment
- Wildland deployment team returned, equipment being serviced
- Preparing antique fire truck for Swiss Days parade, with new front tires replacing 34-year-old ones

Building Official, Cody Mitchell reported:

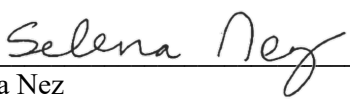
- LDS Church permit has been moved forward
- 8 permits for Santa Clara Valley Homes moved forward
- Currently at 22 homes permitted for the year with 18 more in review
- Seeking to hire a building inspector

Planning Director, Jim McNulty reported:

- State approved the city's moderate income housing plan yearly report
- First general plan update work session scheduled for October 8
- Utah chapter of American Planning Association is giving the city an award for planning implementation for the historic district design guidelines

4. Adjournment

Mayor Rosenberg adjourned the work meeting at 5:36 p.m., noting they would reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.



 Selena Nez
 City Recorder

Approved: _____ October 8, 2025