

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00 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
Jim McNulty, Planning Director
Cody Mitchell, Building Official
Dustin Mouritsen, Public Works Director
Gary Hall, Power Director
Ryan VonCannon, Parks Director

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rick Rosenberg called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The mayor welcomed everyone and noted that a full council was present: Councilman Ben Shakespeare, Councilwoman Janene Burton, Councilwoman Christa Hinton, Councilman Dave Pond, and Councilman Jarett Waite.

2. Opening Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilman Waite

Opening Comments: Reverend Jimi Kestin, Solomon's Porch Foursquare Fellowship

3. Conflicts and Disclosures

No other conflicts were disclosed by council members.

4. Working Agenda

A. Public Hearing(s) 6:00 pm

1. None

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes and Claims:
 - November 12, 2025, City Council Work Meeting
 - November 12, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting
 - Claims through December 10, 2025
2. Calendar of Events:
 - December 24, 2025, City Council Work Meeting (Cancelled)
 - December 24, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting (Cancelled)
 - December 25-26, 2025, Christmas Day (Offices Closed)
 - January 1, 2026, New Years Day (Offices Closed)
 - January 5, 2026, City Council Special Meeting
 - January 14, 2026, City Council Work Meeting
 - January 14, 2025, City Council Regular Meeting

Motion: Councilman Pond moved to APPROVE the consent agenda as presented. Councilman Waite seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton – Aye and Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

C. General Business

1. Discussion and action to approve the 2026 Santa Clara Meeting Schedule. Presented by Selena Nez, City Recorder.

City Recorder Selena Nez presented the 2026 Santa Clara meeting schedule, noting that there were no changes from the 2025 meeting schedule. No questions were asked so a motion was made.

Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE the 2026 Santa Clara Meeting Schedule. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton - Aye, Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and action consider approval of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and approve Resolution No. 2025-18R. Presented by Dustin Mouritsen, Public Works Director.

Public Works Director Dustin Mouritsen requested approval of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, referring to the previous detailed discussion at a work meeting in October. He explained that the plan involves the city being put on a water budget based on annual water usage, though it may not significantly affect Santa Clara since the city only uses regional water for about four months of the year (June through September).

Mr. Mouritsen explained that if the city goes outside its water budget, costs would increase dramatically (300% to 500%). The Technical Advisory Committee (TACK) would advise the Administrative Advisory Committee (AAC) on drought stages, but the final decision on declaring drought stages would rest with the board. The plan provides guidelines rather than strict rules for water savings measures.

Mayor Rosenberg added that Santa Clara would be less impacted than neighboring communities because only 15% of the city's annual water comes from the water district. The contingency plan would primarily impact construction watering and time-of-day watering restrictions.

Motion: Councilman Shakespeare moved to APPROVE the Water Shortage Contingency Plan and approve Resolution No. 2025-18R. Councilwoman Hinton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton – Aye and Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action to consider approving a donation of \$5,000 to the Southern Utah Performing Arts Foundation. Presented by Councilwoman Hinton.

Councilwoman Hinton presented this item, explaining that the Southern Utah Performing Arts Foundation had previously made presentations to the Council regarding the renovation of a facility on the Utah Tech campus that will serve as the home for Southwest Symphony and Heritage Choir. She noted that Council had previously indicated support for the project but had not yet made a donation.

There was significant discussion among Council members regarding the proposed donation:

Councilwoman Burton shared that she had received feedback from several residents opposed to the donation, who felt tax dollars should not be used and that funding should come from private donations and business sponsorships instead.

Councilman Pond relayed that residents who contacted him felt it was a "double tax" since they already pay property taxes that support higher education, and they did not want any donation from the city.

Councilman Shakespeare supported the donation, noting that Santa Clara residents would utilize and benefit from this facility. He compared it to other regional projects the city has supported and pointed out that the bulk of funding for the renovation was coming from private donations.

Councilwoman Hinton mentioned that there was precedent for supporting organizations outside of Santa Clara, including previous funding for the children's museum in St. George and Tuacahn.

Councilman Waite supported the donation, viewing it as a sponsorship that would recognize the city's contribution, and noted that several Santa Clara residents participate in the symphony and heritage choir.

Mayor Rosenberg expressed support, stating it would be a source of pride for the community to have the City of Santa Clara recognized on the donor wall and that supporting the performing arts in the region was part of the "Dixie spirit" of communities working together.

Motion: Councilman Shakespeare moved to APPROVE to donate \$5,000 to the Southern Utah Performing arts Foundation. Councilwoman Hinton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Nay, Hinton - Aye, Burton – Aye and Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed 4-1 in a roll call vote.

4. Discussion and action to consider Proclamation proclaiming December 13 as Wreath Across America and Anton “Tony” Kuhlmann Day. Presented by Councilwoman Burton, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Councilwoman Burton asked Valerie King from the Daughters of the American Revolution to present information about Tony Kuhlmann and his contributions to the Wreaths Across America program. Ms. King shared that in 2018, Mr. Kuhlmann became interested in the program and personally led the effort to include Santa Clara Cemetery as a participating location. He personally funded all the wreaths required to cover every veteran grave at Santa Clara Cemetery until it became self-sustaining. Ms. King described him as a humble patriot who was dedicated to honoring veterans and expanding the program throughout Washington County.

Mayor Rosenberg read the proclamation declaring December 13, 2025, as Wreaths Across America and Anton "Tony" Kuhlmann Day in the city of Santa Clara. The Mayor noted that Tony was a 35-year neighbor and friend, despite having had many spirited debates with him over the years. The Mayor's wife has continued Tony's legacy by helping with additional cemeteries in New Harmony and Kanarraville.

The proclamation was presented to Tony Kuhlmann's family members who were in attendance, and Ms. King presented them with a ceremonial wreath.

Motion: Councilwoman Burton moved to APPROVE the Proclamation proclaiming December 13 as Wreath Across America and Anton “Tony” Kuhlmann Day. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton – Aye and Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action to consider approval of the Virgin River Land Trust Letter of Intent for Conservation Easement of Tuacahn Wash city owned land. Presented by Councilwoman Hinton and Mayor Rosenberg.

Mayor Rosenberg presented this item, explaining that the letter of intent would apply to city-owned property in the Tuacahn Wash. The property would remain in city ownership, but a conservation easement would be placed on it to permanently protect it as open space.

The Mayor explained that certain areas would be excluded from the conservation easement, including:

- The utility corridor in Tuacahn Wash where sewer lines are located and future utility expansions may be needed
- Areas around the trail to allow for maintenance
- Property adjacent to Pioneer Parkway that may be needed for future road widening

Councilwoman Hinton added that this initiative has been championed by Mayor Rosenberg for a long time and that it's an important piece of property to preserve for residents. She emphasized that the city would still own the land, but it would be protected from development.

Councilman Shakespeare raised the question of whether there might be financial opportunities the city could explore related to the conservation easement, such as potential tax credits, density transfer credits, or land trades. The Mayor noted they would look into possibilities, including potential wetlands mitigation credits that could be used for future projects.

Councilman Waite confirmed that the city would still own the land but would be selling the development rights, and that the city would need to keep the property inside its liability insurance coverage.

Motion: Councilman Waite moved to APPROVE the Virgin River Land Trust Letter of Intent for Conservation Easement of Tuacahn Wash city owned land. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Waite - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton – Aye and Shakespeare - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports

A. Mayor / Council Reports

Various department heads provided updates:

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon announced a new hire, Kyson Johndrow, and reminded everyone about the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday at 10 AM at the Veterans Memorial in Santa Clara City Cemetery.

Power Director, Gary Hall reported that two staff members took their second year step test, with one passing all phases. He also reported that the Veyo power plant was back online after repairs to the bearings in the generator. UAMPS will be next week.

Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen reported:

- The roundabout in South Hills was replaced with a drivable curb
- A new pump was installed in well number 7 in preparation for the January Quail Creek treatment plant shutdown
- Santa Clara was awarded \$853,000 for Hamlin Parkway phase 2 and \$347,000 for a bike lane on Pioneer Parkway
- He received disappointing news that the \$1.5 million awarded for the Western Corridor environmental process is only about half of what will be needed
- A 16-inch water main break on Rachel Drive was quickly repaired by dedicated staff
- Whitaker Construction will start a waterline replacement project in early January

Building Official, Cody Mitchell reported that building permit numbers were steady with 35 issued, 25 pending payment, and 3 in process. He also mentioned that the America 250 plaque was received and Gary Hall was working on fabricating it.

Planning Director, Jim McNulty distributed copies of the adopted general plan to Council members.

Councilman Ben Shakespeare thanked staff for the Christmas party and expressed appreciation to Mayor Rosenberg for his service to Santa Clara.

Councilwoman Janene reported on attending youth council leadership training in North Salt Lake, the fire department appreciation dinner on November 17, and the National League of Cities Conference from November 20-22. She also mentioned volunteering at the food bank with the local Rotary on November 24 and a youth council meeting with police officers on December 1. She praised the Christmas party organization and thanked Mayor Rosenberg for his service.

Councilwoman Christa Hinton reported on the Legislative Policy Committee meeting on November 17, which covered upcoming legislation on land use, housing, property tax assessment, charter schools, regional

infrastructure funding, election signs, and e-motorcycle requirements. She mentioned meetings with the Senate President and House Speaker to discuss various issues. She also commented on the Christmas party and tree lighting ceremony, and thanked Mayor Rosenberg for his service.

Councilman Dave Pond reported on attending the LPC meeting and League of Cities conference. He also mentioned the solid waste board meeting where they discussed the new road into the landfill and issues with battery disposal causing truck fires. He encouraged proper battery disposal and mentioned potential battery drop box programs. He thanked Mayor Rosenberg for his service.

Councilman Jarett Waite discussed an issue regarding the CEC (Community Education Channel) closure and options for the \$1 per cable subscriber fee currently coming to the city. He reported on the mosquito abatement meeting, noting significant issues with *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Santa Clara this year. He also attended the NLC summit, public safety work group, UMS meeting, and Utah Infrastructure Agency (Utopia) meeting. He expressed appreciation to Mayor Rosenberg for his 10 years of leadership.

Mayor Rosenberg reported on the MPO meeting where he learned about \$45 million a year in funding for the Utah Trail Network grants. He met with Black Desert regarding the PGA tournament, which had attendance of 16,000, down from the previous year. He reported on water district meetings where impact fees were increased to \$17,266 per ERC, and they secured a \$195 million loan at 0.5% interest for a 40-year term. The district approved a \$279 million budget with \$195 million in capital projects for 2026. He also reported on flood control meetings and efforts to remove flood debris above Gunlock Reservoir.

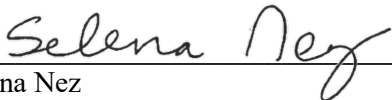
6. Closed Meeting Session

Mayor Rosenberg confirmed there was no need for a closed meeting session.

7. Adjournment

Motion: Councilman Shakespeare moved to adjourn. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.


Selena Nez
City Recorder

Approved: _____ January 14, 2026