

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 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 Jarett Waite
Councilman Janene Burton
Councilwoman Christa Hinton
Councilwoman Dave Pond
Councilman Mark Hendrickson

Staff Present: Brock Jacobsen, City Manager
Selena Nez, City Recorder
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 Jarrett Waite called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m., noting it was his first city council meeting as mayor. He introduced the council members present: Councilman Mark Hendrickson, Councilman Dave Pond, Councilwoman Christa Hinton, and Councilwoman Janene Burton, with one vacant council position.

2. Opening Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilwoman Burton

Opening Comments: Rabbi Helene Ainbinder, Beit Chaverim Jewish Community of Greater Zion

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:
 - December 10, 2025, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
 - January 5, 2026, City Council Special Meeting
 - Claims through January 14, 2026
2. Calendar of Events:
 - January 19, 2026, Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Offices Closed)
 - January 28, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
 - February 11, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting

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

C. General Business

1. Fire Department Swearing In and Promotion Recognition. Presented by Dan Cazier, Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Dan Cazier introduced two new firefighters, Hugo Sanchez and Isaac Parthun, along with firefighter Brendan Castillo (who had been with the department for almost two years but had not yet been formally recognized due to his deployment), and Captain Ryan Moore who was recently promoted. The four were sworn in and had their badges pinned by family members. Chief Cazier invited those present to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Waite expressed appreciation for the fire department staff and the excellent job they do protecting the community.

2. Discussion and action to consider Appointing Rick Rosenberg to the Santa Clara City Hillside Review Board. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.

Planning Director Jim McNulty presented former Mayor Rick Rosenberg for consideration to serve on the Hillside Review Board. McNulty noted that Rosenberg has been a resident of Santa Clara since 1989 and previously served as mayor for 18 years.

When asked about the duties of the position, Rick Rosenberg explained that the Hillside Review Board reviews proposed development or disturbance within the defined hillside overlay zone of the city. He mentioned the possibility of expanding the board's role to include floodplains and other sensitive land areas. Rosenberg described the board as comprised of professionals with experience in land development, engineering, grading, and real estate, providing resources to the city planner and floodplain administrator for reviewing projects in sensitive areas.

Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE Appointing Rick Rosenberg to the Santa Clara City Hillside Review Board. Councilman Hendrickson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Burton - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action consider approval of adopting Large Water User Policy and approve Ordinance No. 2026-01. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.

Jim McNulty explained that this ordinance would add language to Chapter 17.92.010 of the city code concerning water efficiency. The Washington County Conservancy District Administrative Advisory Committee recently adopted a large users policy requiring proposed connections to the regional system with estimated demands of 9 million gallons per year or more to receive advance approval from the AAC.

McNulty noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 11, 2025, and forwarded a recommendation of approval to the City Council. The amendment would add a paragraph stating that applications under this chapter are required to comply with the Washington County Water Conservancy District large users policies.

Mayor Waite added context from a recent training at the Water Conservancy District, explaining that this policy might preclude certain high-water-use facilities like data centers but would still allow important facilities like hospitals, providing more oversight for extremely large water users.

Motion: Councilwoman Burton moved to APPROVE adopting Large Water User Policy and approve Ordinance No. 2026-01. Councilman Hendrickson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Burton - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and action to consider approval to adopt the 2006 Wildland-Urban Interface Code and approve Ordinance No. 2026-02. Presented by Dan Cazier, Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Dan Cazier presented on the 2006 Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Code, explaining it identifies areas of the city that interface with natural vegetation. He noted that House Bill 48 went into effect on January 1st, which published a high-risk map for the state of Utah that includes parts of Santa Clara.

Chief Cazier explained that the city must adopt the 2006 WUI Code to stay compliant with state requirements. Without adoption, if a fire occurred in the city, the state would not recognize Santa Clara as a participating entity and would bill the city for state services. The code establishes minimum regulations to protect property from wildland fires by creating buffer zones and protection zones.

The Chief clarified that the code would not be retroactive to existing homes but would apply to new construction and significant additions. Annual inspections will be required for properties with structures in high-risk zones, with scores determining their hazard classification (moderate, high, or extreme). These inspections would cost between \$20-100 per structure, with the fees going toward implementation of the program.

Using a map, Chief Cazier showed the high-risk areas within Santa Clara, which include sections near Tuacahn Wash and Black Desert, noting that these red zones have actually decreased in size recently, which is a positive sign.

Motion: Councilman Pond moved to APPROVE to adopt the 2006 Wildland-Urban Interface Code and approve Ordinance No. 2026-02. Councilwoman Hinton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Burton - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and action to consider approval of Washington County Flood Control Project and approve Resolution No. 2026-02R. Presented by Dan Cazier, Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Cazier presented a flood control project in collaboration with the Washington County Water Conservancy District and Washington County. The project involves mitigation work at the bridge where Santa Clara crosses as you enter Gunlock, as well as another bridge just below Shem on the reservation.

The Chief explained that recent rains have caused flooding in Gunlock, and this project aims to remove trees and debris that have washed down the river and become caught at these bridges. He noted that due to the sensitivity and timing of the project, they had consulted with the city attorney and had already begun some work, but needed formal approval from the council.

Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE the Washington County Flood Control Project and approve Resolution No. 2026-02R. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Burton - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports

A. Mayor / Council Reports

Councilwoman Janene Burton reported on her involvement with the 250th anniversary committee for America's birthday celebrations, noting that flags are flying and activities are planned throughout the year, including a lecture scheduled for that evening. She also mentioned working with the Youth Council in preparation for Government Official Day the following week.

Councilwoman Christa Hinton reported on attending the League Policy Committee (LPC) meeting where they discussed multiple bills related to property taxes, with a legislative push to reduce or remove cities' ability to increase property taxes. She mentioned five bills targeting this issue. She also noted discussions about local land use bills, including HB 184 which would define "starter homes" as 5,400 square foot lots and require cities to allow IADUs and ADUs on those properties, with 30-day approval timelines. Hinton mentioned that the League is currently opposing this bill as drafted. She added that the city hosted newly elected mayors and council members with the League president and encouraged more staff availability in Southern Utah.

Councilman Dave Pond also attended the LPC meeting and added that the tax limitation efforts would affect all taxing entities, not just cities, and were partially motivated by large increases proposed by some school districts.

Councilman Mark Hendrickson attended the Utah Alliance for Economic Development, noting that he has participated in this organization for 16-17 years and his company is a platinum sponsor. He mentioned that the breakout sessions discussed development and how cities and developers should work together early in the process rather than later, noting that Santa Clara is ahead of the curve in this regard.

Mayor Jarett Waite reported on attending the UAMPS annual meeting where he was recognized as the elected official of the year. He attended the DTEC meeting where projects including widening Santa Clara/Pioneer Parkway were discussed. At the Washington County mayor's meeting, he was appointed to the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee, replacing Mayor Hart. He mentioned discussions about representation on the UDOT transportation commission, with concerns about Southern Utah losing representation to Utah County. He noted that the east entrance of Zion will be closed to oversized vehicles in June 2026. The Mayor has been attending director meetings on Wednesday mornings to stay informed and participated in a service project cleaning planters on Santa Clara Drive with Terry Rosenberg, who proposed monthly service projects.

The Mayor distributed sheets to council members regarding their current assignments and preferences for future assignments, noting that council assignments would be redistributed after the vacant council position is filled.

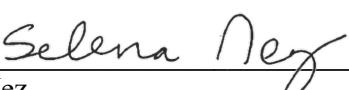
6. Closed Meeting Session

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

7. Adjournment

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

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Selena Nez
City Recorder

Approved: January 28, 2026