

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL WORK MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Work Meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 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 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 Jarett Waite called the Santa Clara City Council Work Meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. Present from the council were Councilman Mark Hendrickson, Councilman David Pond, Councilwoman Christa Hinton and Councilwoman Janene Burton.

2. Working Agenda

A. General Business:

1. Continued discussion Washington County Fair Presentation by Ruffin Judd.

Representatives from the Washington County Fair presented information about the fair and requested city participation. The presenters included Ruffin Judd, Susi Lafaele, Brandon Ipson, and Commissioner Gil Aimquist.

Susi provided background on the Washington County Fair, noting that it has been running for over 165 years, making it the longest-running community event in the county. She emphasized that the fair is not just an event but a legacy that creates community, culture, and camaraderie. She shared that 25% of fair attendees come from outside Washington County, generating approximately \$5.8 million in economic impact for the community. The 2026 fair will run from April 10-18 and will celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a Colonial Village display Thursday through Saturday.

The fair was moved from August to April five years ago, which has been beneficial despite sometimes unpredictable weather. Susi highlighted several programs run by the fair, including:

- Fourth grade field trips (1,121 students attended last year to learn about agriculture)
- \$62,000 in scholarship money awarded to royalties, FFA clubs, and 4-H
- \$16,000 awarded to residents who enter items in the fair (quilts, artwork, poetry, baked goods)

Ruffin Judd specifically invited Santa Clara to participate in the community display portion of the fair. He noted that Santa Clara had won the Fair Director's Choice award for their display the previous year and mentioned that this year they would add a People's Choice award with a cash prize to create friendly competition between communities. The display space would be a 10'x10' area with power available, with setup likely on April 8th or 9th.

Susi encouraged Santa Clara's participation in additional ways, including:

- The parade on April 11th with the theme "America: Past, Present, Future"
- Encouraging residents to enter items in the home arts, fine arts, literary arts, and food categories
- Participating in the special needs rodeo on April 11th from 11 AM to 1 PM, particularly with law enforcement vehicles

Commissioner Aimquist noted that admission to the fair would be free this year to remove barriers for larger families, while ensuring the Rotary Club, which previously received funds from gate fees, would still be supported.

2. Discussion regarding Temporary Signs. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.

Planning Director Jim McNulty presented a proposed amendment to the temporary sign ordinance to allow for America's 250 celebration and similar events.

The amendment would add a new section titled "City Sponsored Events" stating: For city sponsored events, such as Swiss Days, America's 250 celebration, and similar events, temporary banners may be displayed on private or public property not to exceed 32 square feet in area or 4 feet in height and may be utilized for a period of up to 1 year in duration. Any such request will be reviewed and approved by city staff prior to temporary sign placement.

The existing language for Swiss Days would remain as item #2 in the ordinance. McNulty explained that he was planning additional cleanup of the temporary sign section, including:

- Reviewing standards for project development signs
- Considering increasing construction site sign size from 16 square feet (4'x4') to 24 square feet (4'x6') or possibly 36 square feet
- Monitoring potential state legislation that may mandate placement, size, and removal of political signs

Mayor Waite expressed concern about including "America's 250" specifically in the code since it would become obsolete soon, but McNulty and Councilman Hendrickson explained it would serve as an example of the type of event covered and could be removed later if desired.

McNulty indicated he would run this amendment as a public hearing with the Planning Commission on February 12th, with it returning to City Council on February 25th.

3. Staff Reports

Various department heads provided updates:

Police Chief, Jaron Studley reported:

- Reported an incident where Officer Peluffo, while off-duty, intervened with a suspected drunk driver who crashed into the officer's patrol car. The officer prevented potential injuries to others, but the patrol car sustained approximately \$12,000 in damage.
- Officer Gatica attended a 40-hour street drugs seminar
- Officer Whipple completed basic active shooter training
- Officers Blundell and Peluffo were selected to drive armored vehicles for the SWAT team

- Officers Heath and Whipple attended 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training
- Animal shelter has only one dog and three cats, which is unusually low during the shelter expansion
- Shared commendation letters from school administrators praising SROs Jon Ward (Lava Ridge Intermediate) and Officer Pikyavit (Vista School) for their exceptional work with students

Government Affairs Director Lance Haynie had nothing to report

- Making progress on land conveyance efforts from the federal government with support from Representative Maloy's office and Senator Curtis' office
- Representative Ward has opened a bill file for a concurrent resolution supporting the city's efforts
- Provided updates on legislative issues including property tax bills (SB97), residential property tax exemption changes, land use, and government immunity legislation
- Reported on progress with federal appropriation for the sewer line
- Noted a new bill (HP420) regarding municipal office vacancy procedures that would codify Santa Clara's current approach to filling vacancies

Parks Director, Ryan VonCannon reported:

- Tournament season has resumed with recent AFA softball tournament
- SUU baseball tournament scheduled for the upcoming weekend
- Reported that the new playground at Black Rock Park has been very successful and heavily used by children

Power Director, Gary Hall reported:

- Pool agreement approved by the Power Marketing Committee
- Planning to discuss the agreement with Council in March with approval on the 25th
- Updating the capital facilities plan and impact fees due to price escalations
- Rate increase approved previously going into effect this month
- UAMPS planning to reroute a 69kV line from Pioneer Parkway to Hassall substation, reducing the number of poles from 12 to 5

Public Works Director, Dustin Mouritsen reported:

- Vera/Cole West Residential Subdivision relocating and upsizing shared sewer line with Ivins City from 10 inches to 15 inches
- Black Desert completing upsizing project in Red Mountain, with city only paying for cost difference between 8-inch and 15-inch pipe
- Public works crew working on crack seal project for 45 more days before spring slurry seal
- Water District reducing wholesale water rate increase from \$0.13 to \$0.11
- Satellite imagery of the city's water system identified potential leaks in 8.9% of the area's 54 miles of piping

Fire Chief, Dan Cazier reported on:

- Sent crew of three to leadership training in Heber City provided by the National Fire Academy
- Participated in Winter Fire School with 1,200 firefighters taking classes
- New ambulance displayed at convention; completing final inspections and resolving issues before state inspection and service
- Radio installation for ambulance scheduled for next week

Building Official, Cody Mitchell reported:

- Issued 39 permits with 5 in review process and 16 pending payments

- Coyote Landing apartments and 3098 building (across from Merc downtown) preparing to submit applications
- LDS Church project ready to start framing
- Addressed generator issues at city building
- Code enforcement activity increasing with spring weather

Planning Director, Jim McNulty reported:

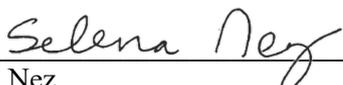
- Two projects coming to TRC tomorrow at Cole West commercial subdivision - a hotel and a retail building with two restaurants
- Brody's Mexican Restaurant planning to occupy remainder of Country Lane Commons building
- Public hearing scheduled for February 11th for Brody's liquor license to serve beer and wine by the glass
- True Grit special event and single event liquor license (16th year) also scheduled for public hearing
- Ribbon cutting for Penelope Iris women's clothing boutique scheduled for February 5th at 11 AM
- Monitoring land use items in legislative session that may require ordinance amendments in spring

City Manager, Brock Jacobsen reported:

- Planning budget retreat for third week in February
- Audit nearing completion, slightly behind schedule due to staff transition
- Working with the Trust on a new 7 Habits accountability program that could result in 5% insurance premium returns over 5 years and 20% returns in years 6-10
- Attended Water District AAC meeting:
- Discussion of ultra water efficient standards and impact fee reductions
- Water infrastructure tours available on February 10, 18, March 2 and 25
- Confluence Park pump station open house on February 2 from 2-4 PM
- San Diego reuse facility trip planned for March 23-24
- Reservoirs at 72-74% capacity, down from 92% in 2024
- Warner Valley project nearing completion
- Graveyard Wash project expected to bid in summer with fall start

4. Adjournment

Mayor Waite adjourned the work meeting at 4:56 p.m., noting they would reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the regular meeting.



 Selena Nez
 City Recorder

Approved: _____ February 11, 2026