

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 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 Justin Caplin
Councilwoman 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
Casey Stratton, Public Works Director
Ryan VonCannon, Parks Director
Lance Haynie, Government Affairs Director

Other Present: Wendell Gubler

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jarett Waite called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The mayor welcomed everyone and noted that a full council was present: Councilman Justin Caplin, Councilwoman Janene Burton, Councilwoman Christa Hinton, Councilman Dave Pond, and Councilman Mark Hendrickson.

2. Opening Ceremony

Pledge of Allegiance: Councilwoman Hinton

Opening Comments: Jim Ence, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

3. Conflicts and Disclosures

No other conflicts were disclosed by council members.

4. Working Agenda

A. Public Hearing(s) 6:00 pm

1. Public Hearing to receive public comments regarding the FY2026-2027 Final Budget.

City Manager Brock Jacobsen presented the FY2026-2027 Final Budget, noting that it was identical to the tentative budget approved two weeks prior, with no changes having been made.

The General Fund budget totals \$12,034,290, representing a notable increase over the prior year's budget of approximately \$4.7 million. City Manager Jacobsen walked through the major revenue drivers, including modest increases in sales tax and property tax, the newly passed 0.33% EMS tax, increased business license fees and building permits, and higher ambulance charges and wildland crew revenues. Intergovernmental revenue also increased slightly, largely due to fire budget growth reimbursed by Ivins City under the public safety agreement.

On the expenditure side, City Manager Jacobsen reviewed each department. The City Council budget remains relatively flat, with the majority of costs related to memberships and conference travel, including accommodations for Councilwoman Hinton's travel as president of the Utah League of Cities. The City

Manager's budget saw a slight decrease due to the reallocation of IT services into a newly created IT department, which carries a budget of \$549,000. The Justice Court budget increased slightly, driven by a higher caseload which, under state statute, determines the judge compensation range. The Administration budget declined primarily due to the absence of an election this year and the IT services reorganization.

The Fire Department budget reflects the largest single increase in the General Fund, rising from approximately \$3.3 million to \$4.3 million. The primary factors are the budgeting of three new firefighters, with the expectation of pursuing a SAFER grant that could yield six firefighters at a lower net cost, and the expansion of wildland fire crews from one to two. City Manager Jacobsen noted that wildland costs are fully offset by corresponding revenue. Police services through Ivin's City are budgeted at just over \$1,750,000, including the School Resource Officer at Snow Canyon High School through St. George City. The Building Department is budgeted at \$473,000. Streets came in at just over \$1,000,000, with no capital equipment, though annual crack and slurry seal maintenance continues. Parks and Trails includes \$42,000 toward the Sandhill Aquatic Center cost-sharing arrangement with St. George. The Swiss Days budget remains largely flat. Planning and Economic Development covers Director McNulty's department, the RAP tax distributions including Shakespeare in the Park and the Historical Society, and America 250 expenses, which are being offset by donations and grants.

City Manager Jacobsen then presented the impact fee budgets for Streets, Parks, and Public Safety, totaling \$1,440,000. Parks impact fees include \$200,000 for cemetery columbariums, \$250,000 toward initial work at Tobler Park, \$500,000 for a potential splash pad, and \$100,000 for batting cages at Gubler Park. Public Safety impact fees include \$60,000 for an updated Capital Facilities and Impact Fee Plan study, now in its sixth year, and \$50,000 toward the bond payment on the City Hall building.

Capital projects total \$397,500, focused on parks improvements including fence replacement and increased fence height at Spencer Gunn Ball Field, pickleball court resurfacing at Gubler Park, backstop improvements, netting, and \$150,000 to upgrade lighting at Spencer Gunn Ball Field to LED Musco lights.

Enterprise fund highlights included the Water Fund at \$2,871,000, with major expenditures including \$200,000 in well utility costs, \$400,000 for the Snow Canyon Compact, \$350,000 for pipe improvements in the Solace subdivision, and \$324,000 in bond principal payments. The Sewer Fund is budgeted at \$1,112,000, with \$550,000 in payments to St. George for treatment services. The Electric Fund, the city's largest enterprise fund, is budgeted at \$7,750,000 and includes \$2,500,000 in power purchases through UAMPS, \$1,750,000 in ownership costs for UAMPS power plants, \$435,000 in franchise fees, and a major capital item of \$3,400,000 for a new 69 kVA transmission line in the South Hills area, funded through electric impact fees. The Storm Water Fund is budgeted at \$624,000, including \$207,000 in drainage improvements and a \$111,000 bond payment.

The public hearing was opened at 6:32 PM. Wendell Gubler, a resident of Santa Clara, addressed the Council with questions regarding the city's orchard property, known as Tobler Park. He expressed concern that the land had gone unattended since the removal of the trees prior to his return from a mission and asked whether funds had been set aside and when work would begin. City Manager Jacobsen clarified that the \$250,000 budgeted under parks impact fees was directed toward that property. Mayor Waite added that a committee with two Council members had been established to oversee planning, and that design work was expected to occur in the coming year, with physical improvements to follow. Mr. Gubler also inquired about a planned reservoir above the city yard. Mayor Waite confirmed that the project, led by St. George Water and the Washington County Water Conservancy District, was near going out to bid.

No further public comment was received, and the public hearing was closed.

2. Public Hearing to receive public comments regarding Compensation Increase for Executive Officers for FY2026-2027.

City Manager Jacobsen explained that this public hearing fulfills a relatively recent state legislative requirement for municipalities to publicly disclose proposed compensation adjustments for executive municipal officers, defined under Utah Code as the City Manager, directors, and deputy directors. The budget provides for a compensation adjustment of up to 5% for all such positions, consistent with the adjustment applied across the broader organization. No public comments were received, and the hearing was closed.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes and Claims:
 - May 27, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
 - Claims through June 10, 2026
2. Calendar of Events:
 - June 15, 2026, Juneteenth National Freedom Day (Offices Closed)
 - June 24, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
 - July 3, 2026, Independence Day (Offices Closed)
 - July 8, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting

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

C. General Business

1. Discussion and action to consider adoption of the FY2026-2027 Final Budget and approve Ordinance No. 2026-09. Presented by Brock Jacobsen, City Manager

Following the budget presentation given during the public hearing, the Council took up formal action on the budget. Councilman Caplin thanked City Manager Jacobsen and the finance team for the clarity of the presentations throughout the budget process. He sought confirmation regarding the fire budget increase, specifically regarding the cost-sharing split with Ivins City. City Manager Jacobsen confirmed the approximate split of 43% to Santa Clara and 57% to Ivins and explained that the percentages had been slightly adjusted from those discussed at the time the public safety agreement was approved two months prior. The change was prompted by updated population estimates from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah, which the state tax commission now uses for sales tax distribution. Ivins City's estimated population dropped by over 1,000, which shifted a small portion of the proportional cost to Santa Clara. Councilman Pond noted that the Kem C. Gardner methodology had actually been in the original agreement before being removed and was now effectively restored. City Manager Jacobsen acknowledged the end result was consistent with the prior agreement's percentages.

City Manager Jacobsen closed by thanking the Council and staff for their engagement throughout the budget process, noting that the fund balance draw had been reduced from approximately \$250,000 in the current fiscal year to approximately \$50,000 in the proposed budget, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Motion: Councilman Hendrickson moved to APPROVE the adoption of the FY2026-2027 Final Budget and approve Ordinance No. 2026-09. Councilman Pond seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and action to consider approving Compensation Increase for Executive Officers for FY2026-2027 and approve Ordinance No. 2026-10. Presented by Brock Jacobsen, City Manager.

No additional discussion was held beyond what was presented in the public hearing. The Council proceeded directly to action.

Motion: Councilman Pond moved to APPROVE the Compensation Increase of Executive Officers for FY2026-2027 and approve Ordinance No. 2026-10. Councilwoman Burton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and action to appoint an alternate representative to the Washington County Flood Control Authority and approve Resolutions No. 2026-13R. Presented by Brock Jacobsen, City Manager.

Mayor Waite explained that this item corrected an oversight from the Council's earlier assignment process. While Councilman Pond had been informally designated as the alternate representative to the Washington County Flood Control Authority, that appointment had not been formalized by resolution as required by the Authority. The resolution before the Council rectifies that.

Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE an alternate representative to the Washington County Flood Control Authority and approve Resolution No. 2026-013R. Councilman Hendrickson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye, Burton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Reports

A. Mayor / Council Reports

Councilman Justin Caplin had nothing to reported.

Councilwoman Janene Burton reported that she attended the Johnny Tremain movie in the park, describing the event as having turned out very well and commending staff for the effort put into the large screen setup. She noted the event was part of the city's America 250 celebration.

Councilwoman Christa Hinton reported on several items. She attended the Santa Clara 250 Committee meeting on June 1st and reminded the Council and public of the upcoming patriotic concert on July 12th at 7:00 PM at the Santa Clara Stake Center, following which ice cream would be served. She also attended a Santa Clara 250 lecture on June 3rd featuring Dennis Leavitt speaking on Liberty Village and noted an upcoming lecture on July 1st at 7:00 PM at Santa Clara Town Hall with Lyman Hafen as the speaker. Councilwoman Hinton also attended the Chamber Public Policy luncheon at the hospital, where presentations from economic development officials in St. George, Washington City, and Washington County covered regional growth. A notable figure discussed was the 5,300 short-term rental entitlements approved in Hurricane. The new surf park was also discussed, with the clarification that it would use brackish water rather than culinary water. Finally, Councilwoman Hinton reported on the June 1st League of Cities Policy Committee meeting, where two topics were raised for city feedback: the use of Kem C. Gardner population estimates and whether the League should spend political capital on that issue, and a proposed constitutional amendment to allow cities to sell their water shares. She indicated she responded affirmatively to both on behalf of the city.

Councilman Dave Pond reported on the Solid Waste Board meeting, at which the annual audit was completed with no findings. He noted that fuel surcharges under the district's agreement with Republic Services had resulted in approximately \$75,000 in excess costs over recent months due to rising fuel prices, though the district's contingency fund was sufficient to absorb the variance with no impact on member cities.

Councilman Mark Hendrickson reported that there was no Flood Control Authority meeting in June, with the next one scheduled for July. He attended a presentation by the Utah Urban Land Institute on community development, which featured an interactive digital simulation allowing participants to model development scenarios and observe their fiscal and community impacts. He noted that working alongside representatives from Washington City, including their administrator Eldon Gibb, a Santa Clara resident, made the experience particularly engaging. Councilman Hendrickson volunteered to serve as a regional representative for the Urban Land Institute in Southern Utah and indicated a similar event would be hosted for the City of Hurricane in the near future. He also thanked the city's firefighters for their support of St. George during a structure fire that destroyed approximately 20 residential units.

Mayor Waite reported on several items. He attended the mosquito abatement district meeting and advised residents experiencing ankle biting to contact the district, which is actively surveying Santa Clara for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. He also attended the DTEK meeting, where funding reallocations related to Hamblin

Parkway were discussed. He announced the appointment of Melody Finlinson to the Hillside Protection Overlay Zone Committee, which is chaired by Rick Rosenberg and is working toward adoption of a new ordinance.

Mayor Waite gave an extended report on meetings with the Washington County Commission regarding fire and EMS services on the west side of the county. Rather than a single group meeting, the city met individually with each commissioner to avoid open meeting law issues and also met with County Administrator Nicholle Felshaw. Mayor Waite noted that the county is distributing TRT-based EMS funding, currently sending \$600,000 annually to the Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District and \$100,000 to Santa Clara, with an additional \$800,000–\$900,000 in unallocated funds. The city's primary message to the commissioners was that lengthy responses to remote county areas such as Highway 91, Motoqua and Apex Road frequently require the full on-shift crew of five, leaving the city without fire or EMS coverage during those calls. The city argued this warrants more sustained county funding to enable additional staffing so that a transport ambulance could remain in the city during county responses. Mayor Waite reported that the commissioners were receptive but indicated the current \$100,000 was a one-time gesture rather than an ongoing commitment. Commissioner Adam Snow expressed interest in a formula-based approach tied to call volume that could be applied equitably across municipalities. The city also raised the possibility of a formal interlocal agreement under new TRT legislation authorizing counties to contract with municipalities for EMS services. The commissioners were invited on a ride-along to better appreciate the terrain and distances involved. County Administrator Felshaw characterized the meetings as the most productive interaction to date between Santa Clara and the county commission. Follow-up meetings were expected after the June 23rd primary election, pending any changes in commission membership.

Mayor Waite also briefly reported on the Utah Infrastructure Agency meeting, noting that Utopia Fiber continues to perform well with strong subscriber growth.

He concluded by informing the Council of the National League of Cities Summit in Nashville in November, inviting any interested members to discuss attendance with him or City Manager Jacobsen.

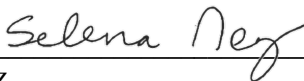
6. Closed Meeting Session

Mayor Waite confirmed no closed meeting session.

7. Adjournment

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

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Selena Nez
City Recorder

Approved: _____ June 24, 2026