

**SANTA CLARA CITY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026  
MEETING MINUTES**

THE CITY COUNCIL FOR SANTA CLARA CITY, WASHINGTON, UTAH, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 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 Christa Hinton (departed at 6:25 PM)  
Councilwoman Dave Pond (via zoom)  
Councilman Mark Hendrickson

Absent: Councilwoman Janene Burton

Staff Present: Brock Jacobsen, City Manager (via zoom)  
Selena Nez, City Recorder  
Jim McNulty, Planning Director  
Cody Mitchell, Building Official  
Casey Stratton, Public Works Director

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Jarett Waite called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The mayor welcomed everyone and noted council was present: Councilman Justin Caplin, Councilwoman Christa Hinton, Councilman Dave Pond via zoom, and Councilman Mark Hendrickson. Excuse Councilwoman Janene Burton.

**2. Opening Ceremony**

Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Jarett Waite

Opening Comments: Mayor Jarett Waite

**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 Water Rate Increase.

Prior to opening the public hearing, Public Works Director Casey Stratton provided a brief overview of the proposed water rate structure, which had been discussed at the two preceding work meetings. The proposal is structured around a five-year tiered rate increase designed to accumulate funds for waterline replacement projects in the Heights Phase 2 subdivision. For the first two years (FY2026–27 and FY2027–28), increases of \$0.20 per thousand gallons would apply to tiers 1 and 2, \$0.30 to tiers 3 and 4, and \$0.60 to tiers 5 and 6. For the following three years, an additional \$0.10 per tier would be applied, bringing those figures to \$0.30, \$0.40, and \$0.70 respectively. Stratton noted that conservancy district rate increases would be presented to the council annually and that rates would be reevaluated if they exceed \$0.50 per thousand gallons.

Mayor Waite opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM. No members of the public came forward to address the council, and the hearing was closed.

2. Public Hearing to receive public comments regarding amending FY2025-2026 Budget.

City Manager Brock Jacobsen, participating via Zoom, presented the proposed budget amendment for the fiscal year 2025–2026 general fund and enterprise funds. The general fund amendment totals \$935,000, which

would bring the overall general fund budget to \$11,363,915. Jacobsen summarized the key expenditure amendments as follows: \$125,000 for the justice court, driven largely by increased remittances of fines to the state; \$120,000 for administration, primarily IT services and legal fees; \$100,000 for the police department's SCI costs attributed to Ivins City; \$300,000 for fire, mainly due to wildland fire activity and overtime; \$75,000 for public works, related to utilities and capital equipment, though Jacobsen noted he had identified allocation errors that would be corrected upon his return to the office; \$75,000 for solid waste; \$125,000 for parks, attributable to overtime, RAP tax expenditures, expenses related to the Shack, and utilities at Gubler Park; and \$15,000 for planning and economic development, tied to America 250 expenses. On the revenue side, the amendment is balanced by higher-than-anticipated receipts across several categories, including \$300,000 in building permits, intergovernmental grants including \$50,000 from Washington County, \$310,000 in wildland fire revenue, increased fines, interest income, asset sales, and increased Swiss Days sponsorships.

For the enterprise funds, Jacobsen explained that the amendments for water (\$675,000), sewer (\$200,000), power (\$1,000,000), and storm water (\$250,000) are primarily to account for depreciation, which is a non-cash item typically added at the budget amendment stage. The power fund amendment was set slightly above depreciation to account for uncertainty surrounding recent changes with EDAM. Jacobsen confirmed that no funds were being drawn from fund balance and that there were no amendments to impact fees or capital project funds.

Mayor Waite opened the public hearing at 6:18 PM. No members of the public came forward, and the hearing was closed.

## **B. Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes and Claims:
  - June 10, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
  - Claims through June 24, 2026
2. Calendar of Events:
  - July 3, 2026, Independence Day (Offices Closed)
  - July 8, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
  - July 22, 2026, City Council Work and Regular Meeting
  - July 24, 2026, Pioneer Day (Offices Closed)

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

## **C. General Business**

### **1. Discussion and action to consider approval of the Water Rate Increase approve Resolution No. 2026-014R. Presented by Casey Stratton, Public Works Director.**

The council discussed the water rate proposal with positions largely consistent with prior work sessions. Councilman Caplin reiterated his concern that the increase exceeds what was originally requested and expressed worry about the cumulative financial burden on residents already facing rising sales tax, electricity costs, and utility fees. He stated a preference for an annual review rather than a five-year structured plan. Councilwoman Hinton and Councilman Hendrickson both argued that collecting funds proactively allows the city to address needed projects at lower cost, avoiding significantly larger expenditures if emergency bonding becomes necessary. Hinton also noted that six water line leaks had occurred in the two preceding weeks, all within the Heights Phase 2 area targeted by the replacement plan, underscoring the urgency. Councilman Pond, participating remotely, echoed this sentiment, noting that the per-month cost impact to residents ranging from roughly \$1.20 to \$2.00 on lower tiers to \$12–\$15 on upper tiers was a manageable increase relative to the long-term financial benefit. Mayor Waite added that the rate study, though only two years old, already fell short of current project cost estimates due to inflation, reinforcing the case for timely action. He also noted that water rates in Santa Clara have historically been low and that the tiered increase may encourage conservation.

*Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE the Water Rate Increase and to approve Resolution No. 2026-14R. Councilman Hendrickson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Discussion and action to consider approval amending FY2025-2026 Budget and approve Ordinance No. 2026-11. Presented by Brock Jacobsen, City Manager.**

Following the close of the public hearing on the budget amendment, Mayor Waite invited any further council questions or discussion. No additional questions were raised.

*Motion: Councilman Caplin moved to APPROVE amending the FY 2025-2026 Budget and approve Ordinance No. 2026-11. Councilwoman Hinton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Discussion and action to consider approval of City Code, Title 17 Updates and approve Ordinance No. 2026-12. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.**

Planning Director Jim McNulty presented updates to seven chapters within City Code Title 17, undertaking to bring the city into compliance with recent changes to the Land Use, Development, and Management Act (LUDMA) under state code, as well as for general cleanup. The affected chapters include Chapter 17.12 (Planning Commission), Chapter 17.20 (Supplementary and Qualifying Regulations), Chapter 17.22 (Accessory Dwelling Units), Chapter 17.63 (R-6 Zone), Chapter 17.64 (R-10 Zone), Chapter 17.65 (R-10 Mixed Lot Size Zone), and Chapter 17.60 (Residential Agricultural Zone). McNulty noted that the updates had been discussed with both the Planning Commission on April 23 and May 28, 2026, and with the City Council on May 13, 2026. The Planning Commission held a formal public hearing on June 11, 2026, and forwarded a positive recommendation. Both the Planning Commission and Council had previously indicated support for moving forward.

Councilman Hendrickson noted that all issues from his prior review had been addressed. Councilman Caplin sought clarification on the change making the Planning Commission the land use authority for subdivision reviews, including new subdivisions, phases, and amendments. McNulty confirmed that state code had been amended in 2024 to allow this, and that the current update simply brings city code into compliance with that existing practice, replacing the previous process that had required multiple public hearings for both preliminary and final plat applications.

*Motion: Councilwoman Hinton moved to APPROVE City Code, Title 17 Updates and approve Ordinance No. 2026-12. Councilman Hendrickson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye, Hinton - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Discussion and action to consider approval of City Code, Chapter 17.66 Update and approve Ordinance No. 2026-13. Presented by Jim McNulty, Planning Director.**

McNulty presented a comprehensive rewrite of Chapter 17.66, the Community Commercial Zone. He noted the chapter had not been substantively reviewed since 2004 and that the update is intended to accommodate a broader range of retail, service, and office uses serving the community and surrounding region. The item had been discussed with the City Council on May 27, 2026, and with the Planning Commission on May 28, 2026, with both bodies supportive. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 11, 2026, and forwarded a positive recommendation.

Mayor Waite, noting he had not been present for the primary discussion, offered brief commentary on the reclassification of amusement centers as conditional uses. He drew on personal experience opening a facility in Twin Falls, Idaho, where most commercial uses required conditional use approval, and expressed that he found it reasonable to ask operators of youth-oriented facilities to present their plans to the appropriate review body. McNulty affirmed that state code now requires conditional use approval to be granted when all applicable criteria are met, and that staff would work with applicants through that process.

*Motion: Councilman Hendrickson moved to APPROVE of City Code, Chapter 17.66 Update and approve Ordinance No. 2026-13. Councilman Caplin seconded the motion. Councilwoman Hinton was temporarily absent from the chambers. With a quorum still established. Roll call vote: Hendrickson - Aye, Pond - Aye and Caplin - Aye. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.*

## 5. Reports

### A. Mayor / Council Reports

**Councilman Dave Pond** announced that on Thursday, July 2, at 9:00 AM, a committee will be placing flags on veterans' graves at the city cemetery. The effort is coordinated by Karen Foss, who organizes similar events for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Independence Day. Councilman Pond invited any interested residents or council members to participate, and Mayor Waite and Councilman Caplin both expressed interest in attending. It was confirmed that children are welcome.

**Councilman Justin Caplin** reported attending a League of Cities and Towns presentation on the SHIP grant program focused on attainable housing through strategic infrastructure investment. He noted that the grant structure likely would not be applicable to Santa Clara in the near term, as the program favors projects that are ready to begin immediately, and the most plausible local candidate development in the South Hills area involves complexities with federal land that make near-term action unlikely. He also mentioned attending a Liberty Village freedom event held at Tuacahn two Sundays prior. Caplin concluded with reflections on the 250th anniversary of American independence, noting the historical significance of the coming week and expressing appreciation for the city's America 250 committee and their efforts.

**Councilman Mark Hendrickson** reported that the city's CARES community group, focused on supporting foster families, will hold its first training on June 30 at 11:00 AM. He noted that the group has generated significant community interest, has identified a local area director for Washington County, and has a chair in place. He also noted an upcoming economic development meeting with Colette Cox regarding grant opportunities in July and encouraged council members with ideas to connect with Planning Director McNulty or himself ahead of that meeting.

**Mayor Waite** reported on several external meetings attended. At the Five Counties Mayor's Association, he received an update on hazard mitigation plan renewals required for FEMA grant eligibility, noting that the five-county association has engaged a contractor to manage the process and that the city is already engaged with Public Works Director Stratton on its portion. At a DITC training, he learned that the MPO's financial model projects deferred infrastructure needs at current funding levels, and that discussions are underway regarding potential funding mechanisms including an increase to county vehicle registration fees. He also noted that Councilwoman Larkin of St. George had flagged an open BLM comment period on a proposed ATV trail near the Bear Claw Poppy Trail, and encouraged anyone concerned about potential conflicts with existing mountain bike use to submit a comment. A northern corridor update indicated that without the corridor, the MPO has identified over 70 intersections requiring upgrades along with connecting roadway improvements a significant undertaking. At the Washington County Economic Development Lunch, he heard positive feedback on a recent collaborative meeting between county economic development staff and city representatives. He also shared context on the insulated slide technology used at St. George City Hall, which he noted is a factor in the project's higher-than-typical cost. Finally, Mayor Waite informed the council that city park restrooms would be locked at 7:00 PM on July 4th due to past vandalism involving fireworks, and that residents should be aware of the potential for power outages due to wildfire activity affecting Rocky Mountain Power's transmission lines.

**City Manager, Brock Jacobsen** provided an update on the Rocky Mountain Power public safety power shutoff situation. He indicated that, based on his conversation with city power staff, an outage is more likely than not, with a potential start in the early morning hours of Friday and a duration of 24 to 48 hours. The city's generators 1 and 2 were not operational as of the meeting, though repairs were ongoing. With the remaining generation capacity of approximately 4.5 to 5 megawatts, the city anticipates being able to maintain power to select circuits, likely including areas around Harmons, Snow Canyon Retirement, Lava Ridge Intermediate

School, and the church meetinghouse on Pioneer Parkway. Jacobsen noted that staff would be reaching out to the school principal and stake president to potentially open those locations as community refuges if needed. He added that coordination with St. George City and Washington City was underway to ensure consistent public messaging. Jacobsen noted that Rocky Mountain Power had not provided a confirmed timeline or guarantee, which made planning difficult, but that the city was doing its best to prepare.

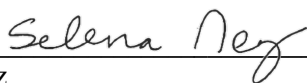
#### **6. Closed Meeting Session**

Mayor Waite confirmed no closed meeting session.

#### **7. Adjournment**

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

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Selena Nez  
City Recorder

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ July 8, 2026