



## City of Santa Clara, Texas Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 22, 2025

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The City Council called the meeting to order on September 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM at City Hall located at 1653 N Santa Clara Road with Mayor Chase Grier.

### A. PLEDGE

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands: one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### B. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1. **Roll Call:** Marian Carty, Ernest Schoenefeldt (Arrived at 6:33 PM), Amanda Desormeaux, Dwane Atkins and Darin Henningsen
2. **Declaration of Quorum:** Quorum was present for September 22, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

### C. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Thomas Perkins reported that he recently traveled to a third-world country (Honduras) and stated that they have better roads than the Santa Clara area.
- Steve Beisser reported he had six topics that he wanted to comment on.
  - 1 – **City Attorney Mr. Floyd Akers** – Welcome back! I look forward to you supporting the City of Santa Clara and its Citizens, instead of just one or two individuals.
  - 2 – **This past May Election** – This small city of just 300 to 350 families cannot afford both a City Marshal office and safe, acceptable roads. The May election was clearly for either city law enforcement or roads. And roads won easily. So let us 'get on with it' and pass a city budget without law enforcement, as the citizens clearly support.
  - 3 – **2025-2026 Budget** – I hope the \$120,000 for Traffic and Drainage Studies prove beneficial for the city. Don't we still need a "Capital Improvement Plan"? How much will that cost? After spending all this money, I hope the 'impact fees' recover some of it.
  - 4 – **City Law Enforcement** – In the future the citizens may want city law enforcement. If so, we need to look at the cost of a city marshal office vs a city police department. Do the 300 or more families in the city want a marshal office that provides law enforcement to the city and FREE law enforcement to the thousands in the ETJ and surrounding area? Or do citizens want a city police department with primary responsibility for the city and its citizens? My neighbors across the street are not in the city, and if they complain about the City Police service I get and they don't, I can tell them there is one easy solution. JOIN the city.
  - 5 – **City Website** – This is critical for communications to the citizens. Until it gets 'rebuilt', there are items that should be placed on the website. The agendas are already on the website. Other items needed now are: (1) your city emails, (2)

proposed ordinances so citizens can read them before meetings, and then they can give good comments, and (3) approved ordinances. For example, I would like to read the ordinance for 1 acre lots. We already had an ordinance that required 5 acres, but was told it was against State law. I like to read and understand the new 1-acre ordinance to see how this complies with State law and the old 5 acre did not.

**6 – Finally, the “Throne”** – (He said this was a moot point because he did not know that Council was sitting away from what he calls the throne but read his comment.) Do we really need all that ‘podium’ or ‘throne’ taking up so room for so few people. Maybe save one end section for the court or special speaker and get rid of the rest. A ‘throne’ is a very bad place from which to view the city and its citizens.

Thank you for coming down to us.

- Julia Foerster made an apology for standing up with the wrong person. She stated she even took a slap on the face a couple of times from her family. Ms. Foerster reported that Jerry Airola claimed not to know her son, so she asked why a background check was ran on her son, his wife and her granddaughter that live in Austin. She stated that maybe one of the other officer’s or abiding citizens set him up to do it. Ms. Foerster claimed that one of Chief Airola’s cliches was that he cannot be responsible for his computer. She reported that Chief Airola claimed to not know her son, so she asked how he obtained information on her son and his family to initiate an investigation. Ms. Foerster said that Texas Rangers approached her son at his current job about what Mr. Airola had done, she had to swallow a lot of guff when he immediately called her to tell her what her perfect man had done. Ms. Foerster reported that Chief Airola did not know her son and just recently stood in his office and told her the same. She reported that he stepped on her family’s privacy and he stepped on her. Ms. Foerster reported that her son, daughter in law and granddaughter are not criminals and that Chief Airola is for invading people’s privacy, an act she has been told he has been doing for quite a given time. She said for him not to blame it on someone else or his computer and to blame it on himself. Ms. Foerster addressed Mr. Herring and Mr. John Hall, stating that they both deserve better leadership and advised them to put their applications in with the Guadalupe County Sheriff Joshua Ray who has already proven his priorities. Ms. Foerster stated he is respectful, honorable and an honest employer that will not embarrass them and reported that Guadalupe County needs good officers. She directed Jerry Airola to put his resignation in to the hands of Santa Clara and told him to find employment with his standards which are not acceptable in the Santa Clara area or Guadalupe County.

#### **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **August 25, 2025 – City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**
2. **September 18, 2025 – City Council Public Hearing & Special Meeting Minutes**  
Councilmember Carty made a motion to approve the August 25, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the September 18, 2025 City Council Public Hearing &

Special Meeting Minutes. Councilmember Desormeaux seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried.

**E. DISCUSSION ONLY**

**F. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

Items listed under this heading are for discussion and possible action.

1. **Second Reading: An ordinance to repeal ordinance 2024-005 which will eliminate the Marshal's Office and the position of City Marshal due to budget concerns, repealing all ordinances in conflict and establishing an effective date.**

Councilmember Desormeaux made a motion. Councilmember Carty seconded the motion and all voted in favor with the exception of Councilmember Schoenefeldt. The motion passed.

2. **Renewal of Employee Benefits with TX Health Benefits Pool.**

City Secretary Pack advised Council that this item was placed on the agenda because it was on the previous year's agenda for Council approval, so she followed suit. She reported that she was told the deadline was October 3, 2025, but then received an email stating that they would like the renewal by September 30, 2025 but could accept it on October 3, 2025. Mrs. Pack advised Council that the employer contribution would increase to 75% and there were some weight loss and wellness benefits added to the plan. Councilmember Desormeaux made a motion to authorize the Mayor to approve and move forward with the benefits renewal. Councilmember Carty seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

3. **Nomination and acceptance of one Planning & Zoning member.**

The Mayor asked the City Attorney if a Planning & Zoning member needed to live in the city limits and Mr. Akers reported that he believed that they did but that he would verify. There was discussion regarding the number of voting members and total members on the commission and if the nominee's house was in the city limits. City Attorney Akers advised Council to table the item while he looked into residency requirements. After returning from Executive Session, the Council revisited this item. Mayor Grier advised that a Planning & Zoning member can reside in the ETJ. The nominee, Adrian Rodriguez, introduced himself to the Council and provided them with some background information. Councilmember Atkins made a motion to approve Adrian Rodriguez for place four on the Planning & Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Desormeaux and all voted in favor.

4. **First Reading: An ordinance modifying the speed limit on Marion Road.**

Mayor Grier reported this ordinance was not written correctly yet and the item was tabled. Councilmember Schoenefeldt asked who would enforce it and Mayor Grier stated that Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office would enforce the speed limit. Councilmember Atkins asked if they could speak about this item even though the ordinance was not prepared. He inquired if the ordinance could say something along the lines of "The speed limit in Santa Clara is 35 MPH unless otherwise posted." City

Attorney Akers advised that he could put in the ordinance that the speed limit in the City of Santa Clara is 30 MPH because that is the prima facie speed limit in Texas in a residential area unless otherwise posted. Mr. Akers reported that if Santa Clara was considered rural, the prima facie speed limit would be 70 MPH and he would choose 30 MPH due to the houses. Mayor Grier reported that he needed to obtain detailed location information and City Attorney Akers stated that the ordinance is written, he is just waiting on coordinates because the ordinance needs an actual location.

5. **Second Reading: An ordinance amending the City of Santa Clara Subdivision Ordinance pertaining to designed storm water runoff retention facilities, repealing all ordinances in conflict and establishing an effective date.**

Councilmember Carty made a motion to approve this agenda item. Councilmember Desormeaux seconded and all voted in favor.

6. **Personnel discussion regarding the City Secretary, City Engineer and City Marshall.**  
City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 6:44 PM to discuss personnel matters. They reconvened at 7:32 PM in open session and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

#### **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **H. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The City Council retired into executive session at 6:44 PM to discuss personnel matters pursuant to Chapter 551.074 of the Texas Government Code. The City Council reconvened into open session at 7:32 PM. No action was taken.

#### **I. ATTENDANCE BY OTHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Marian Carty made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM. Councilmember Ernest Schoenefeldt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mayor:** Chase Grier



**City Secretary:** Michelle Pack