



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

4:30 PM

Online and Council Chambers, City Hall,
456 W. Olive Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086

**Special Meeting: Closed Session - 4:30 PM | Special Meeting: Study Session - 5:30 PM |
Regular Meeting - 7 PM**

Public Participation and Access

4:30 P.M. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (Closed Session)

Call to Order

Vice Mayor Sell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Mayor Larry Klein
Vice Mayor Linda Sell
Councilmember Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember Charlsie Chang
Councilmember Eileen Le
Absent: 1 - Councilmember Richard Mehlinger

Councilmember Cisneros participated remotely in the meeting under the “Just Cause” provision of California Government Code Section 54953(j)(2).

Public Comment

Public Comment opened at 4:32 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Comment closed at 4:32 p.m.

Convene to Closed Session

Council convened to Closed Session at 4:35 p.m.

A 25-0262 Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code
Section 54956.9:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING

(PENDING) LITIGATION

(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)

Name of Case: Phillips, Andrew v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Appeal Board Case No. ADJ18778964, ADJ18778979)

B [25-0266](#) Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Name of Case: Aycock, Stephen v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Claim No. 61442)

C [25-0278](#) Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9:
CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.
Name of Case: Locke, Ron v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Claim No. 623552)

Adjourn Special Meeting

Vice Mayor Sell adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

5:30 P.M. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (Study Session)**Call to Order**

Vice Mayor Sell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Mayor Larry Klein
Vice Mayor Linda Sell
Councilmember Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember Charlsie Chang
Councilmember Eileen Le

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Richard Mehlinger

Councilmember Cisneros participated remotely in the meeting under the "Just

Cause" provision of California Government Code Section 54953(j)(2).

Councilmember Mehlinger arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Study Session

D 25-0026 Special Events

Library and Recreation Services Director Michelle Perera provided the staff report and presentation.

Public Comment opened at 6:50 p.m.

Prakash Giri proposed Council consider additional cost saving measures and grant funding for special events.

Kristina Kawczynski, Sunnyvale Downtown Association, spoke in support of the proposed changes and offered additional changes to consider.

Kathryn Filley, Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce, voiced their support of the proposed changes and offered additional changes to consider.

Public Comment closed at 6:57 p.m.

Adjourn Special Meeting

Vice Mayor Sell adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

7 P.M. COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Klein called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Klein led the salute to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Larry Klein
Vice Mayor Linda Sell
Councilmember Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember Richard Mehlinger
Councilmember Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember Charlsie Chang
Councilmember Eileen Le

Councilmember Cisneros participated remotely in the meeting under the “Just Cause” provision of California Government Code Section 54953(j)(2).

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

Vice Mayor Sell reported that Council met in Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING(PENDING) LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of Case: Phillips, Andrew v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Appeal Board Case No. ADJ18778964, ADJ18778979); nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Sell reported that Council met in Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9) Name of Case: Aycock, Stephen v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Claim No. 61442); nothing to report.

Vice Mayor Sell reported that Council met in Closed Session Held Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956. Name of Case: Locke, Ron v. City of Sunnyvale (Workers Compensation Claim No. 623552); nothing to report.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

E [25-0448](#) International Transgender Day of Visibility

Sera Fernando, Manager, Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs, spoke in honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility.

Mayor Klein spoke in honor of International Transgender Day of Visibility.

F [25-0449](#) Arbor Day

Parks and Golf Superintendent Jim Stark spoke in honor of Arbor Day.

Mayor Klein spoke in honor of Arbor Day.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Cisneros announced the upcoming Earth Day Festival, Board and Commission recruitment and the transgender flag raising.

Andrea Wald communicated their support for the use of natural grass on fields rather than synthetic turf.

Denise Elbert voiced their support for natural grass fields and using the organic regenerative management method.

Theresa Frank spoke in support for using the organic regenerative management method on natural grass fields.

Kristel Wickham proposed Sunnyvale test using the organic regenerative management method on a select number of grass fields.

Cortney Jansen shared their appreciation for the Sun Flair sculpture installations in Sunnyvale parks.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment opened at 7:41 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Comment closed at 7:41 p.m.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Sell moved and Councilmember Mehlinger seconded the motion to approve agenda items 1.A through 1.E.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Klein
Vice Mayor Sell
Councilmember Cisneros
Councilmember Mehlinger
Councilmember Srinivasan
Councilmember Chang
Councilmember Le

No: 0

1.A [25-0242](#) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025
(Study Issues/Budget Proposals Workshop)

Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025 as submitted.

1.B [25-0072](#) Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025

Approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2025 as submitted.

1.C [25-0321](#) Approve the List(s) of Claims and Bills Approved for Payment by the City Manager

Approve the list(s) of claims and bills.

1.D [25-0102](#) Approve the Reinstatement and First Amendment to the Agreement Between the City and the Cupertino Union School District Pertaining to the Use, Maintenance, and Improvement of Certain Open Space Areas and Buildings at Multiple Sites Within the Cupertino Union School District

Approve the Reinstatement and First Amendment to the Agreement between the City and the Cupertino Union School District pertaining to the Use, Maintenance, and Improvement of Certain Open Space Areas and Buildings at Multiple Sites within the District in substantially the same form as Attachment 1 to this report.

1.E [25-0504](#) Adopt Ordinance No. 3239-25 to Amend Chapter 19.67 (Inclusionary Below Market Rate Ownership Housing Program) and Chapter 19.77 (Inclusionary Below Market Rate Rental Housing) of Title 19 (Zoning) of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code Relating to Modified Requirements for Qualifying Retail Preservation Projects

Adopt Ordinance No. 3239-25 to amend Chapter 19.67 (Inclusionary Below Market Rate Ownership Housing Program) and Chapter 19.77 (Inclusionary Below Market Rate Rental Housing) of Title 19 (Zoning) of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code relating to modified requirements for qualifying retail preservation projects.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS

2 [25-0354](#) Proposed Project: Introduce an Ordinance to: Amend Title 19 (Zoning) of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code to Repeal and Re-adopt Chapter 19.79 (Accessory Dwelling Units), Amend Related Definitions in Chapter 19.12 (Definitions) and Other Sections of Title 19 Pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Regulations.

File #: PLNG-2024-0544

Environmental Review: The action is exempt pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.17 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

Project Planner: Aastha Vashist, (408) 730-7458,
avashist@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Senior Planner Aastha Vashist provided the staff report and presentation.

Public Hearing opened at 8:06 p.m.

No speakers.

Public Hearing closed at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION: Vice Mayor Sell moved and Councilmember Mehlinger seconded the motion to approve Alternative 1: Introduce an Ordinance (Attachment 2 to the report) amending Title 19 (Zoning) of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code on Accessory Dwelling Units and find that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Codes Sections 21080.17 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

City Clerk David Carnahan read the ordinance title for the record.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Klein
Vice Mayor Sell
Councilmember Cisneros
Councilmember Mehlinger
Councilmember Srinivasan
Councilmember Chang
Councilmember Le

No: 0

City Council took a recess at 8:13 p.m. and returned at 8:20 p.m. with Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Sell and Councilmembers Mehlinger, Srinivasan, Change and Le present in the Council Chambers and Councilmember Cisneros present via teleconference.

3 [25-0394](#) Appeal of a Decision by the Planning Commission Denying a Variance to Legalize an Existing 112-square-foot Detached

Accessory Structure in the Rear Yard of a Single-Family Property with a Reduced 2-foot 5-inch Side Setback where 4 Feet Minimum is Required, and a Reduced 2-foot 2-inch Rear Yard Setback where 10 Feet Minimum is Required

Location: 160 S. Pastoria Ave. (APN: 165-15-007)

File #: PLNG-2023-0642

Zoning: R-2 (Low Medium Density Residential)

Applicant / Owner: Scott McClellan (applicant) / Tracy and Scott McClellan (owner)

Environmental Review: Class 3 Categorical Exemption relieves this project from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provisions.

Project Planner: Wendy Lao, 408-730-7408,
wlao@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Associate Planner Wendy Lao provided the staff report and presentation.

Public Hearing opened at 8:38 p.m.

Scott McClellan Applicant/Appellant provided a presentation in support of their appeal and answered Council's proposed questions.

Nathan Iglesias shared their support for granting the appeal of the applicant.

Duli Mao spoke in opposition of granting the appeal and establishing a precedent.

Stephen Meier voiced their support for granting the appeal of the applicant.

Scott McClellan Applicant/Appellant shared their responses to the public comments and Council questions.

Public Hearing closed at 9:18 p.m.

MOTION: Councilmember Srinivasan moved and Councilmember Mehlinger seconded the motion to approve Alternative 1: Deny the appeal and uphold the Planning Commission's decision to deny the Variance for the accessory structure based on the recommended Findings for Denial in Attachment 2 to the report.

The motion carried with the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Klein
Vice Mayor Sell
Councilmember Cisneros
Councilmember Mehlinger
Councilmember Srinivasan
Councilmember Chang
Councilmember Le

No: 0

COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Councilmember Mehlinger reported on a recent Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) meeting.

Councilmember Srinivasan reported their at the League of California Cities' Planning Commissioners Academy.

Vice Mayor Sell reported on the Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) employment agreement offer to the union workers on a labor strike.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS

-Council

Councilmember Chang shared their appreciation for the improved City Council name plates

Councilmember Le shared their concerns with the ongoing Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) worker strike.

-City Manager

None.

INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS/ITEMS

[25-0265](#) Tentative Council Meeting Agenda Calendar

[25-0287](#) Information/Action Items

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Klein adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.