

SUNNYSIDE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Sunnyside Law & Justice Center
401 Homer Street, Sunnyside, Washington

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Mayor Broersma called the Sunnyside City Council Study Session to order at 6:00 PM.

COUNCIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mayor Broersma	X	
Deputy Mayor Galvan	X	
Councilor Hart	X	
Councilor Vazquez	X	
Councilor Beeler	X	
Councilor Ripley	X	
Councilor Frausto	X	

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Mike Gonzalez, Finance Director/Deputy City Manager Debbie Zabell, City Clerk/Communications Director Jacqueline Renteria, Police Chief Rob Layman, Community and Economic Development Director Derrick Braaten, HR Manager Irving Brown, Interim Public Works Director Cus Arteaga, IT Manager Jafet Silva, and Court Administrator Vanessa Engquist.

ATTORNEY PRESENT: Ben Riley, Saxton Riley & Riley, PLLC and Tony Menke, Menke Jackson Beyer, LLP

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

WITHOUT OBJECTION, the agenda was amended to add an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b).

3. RECOGNITION – DANICA TORRES

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 15 MINUTES

RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) - ...that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. No action expected.

6:05 PM City Council, City Manager Gonzalez, Deputy City Manager/Finance City Manager Zabell, City Clerk/Communications Director Renteria, Police Chief Layman, HR Manager Brown, and Attorneys Riley and Menke.

6:20 PM City Council extended the executive session by ten minutes.

6:30 PM Executive session adjourned. No action taken.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. SURF Soccer League

Receive a presentation from SURF Soccer League.

Received a presentation from Armando Reyes regarding the SURF Soccer League. Armando requested to use the City's fields at no cost.

B. Amendment to Sunnyside Municipal Code 2.08 – Study Sessions

Review the proposed ordinance amending section

A proposed amendment to SMC 2.08 was reviewed related to study sessions.

COUNCIL DIRECTION – Council will consider approving the ordinance on March 10, 2025.

C. Police Department Update

Police Chief Layman provided 2025 statistics.

D. Finance Department Update

Administrative Services Director Debbie Zabell reported on the City's financial condition, noting a 2024 deficit that was offset by the sale of the Monson property. She explained that expenditures have outpaced revenues over the past five years. Staff is currently resolving discrepancies in past records, with the 2024 budget closeout expected by the end of the month. A budget amendment is anticipated in April to include municipal pool funding and adjust beginning fund balances. Department heads now have access to their budgets in BIAS and have received financial software training. Staff is also preparing the 2024 Annual Report with a State Auditor's Office audit scheduled this spring.

E. Amending Sunnyside's Marijuana Prohibition

Community and Economic Development Director Braaten presented an overview of the history of medical cannabis and current retail options in Washington State. He discussed the fiscal potential of cannabis retail sales, impacts related to crime, and outlined possible next steps for the city. Retail store owner David Morgan shared his experience operating a cannabis retail business, and David Rand provided public comment.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Theresa Hancock provided public comment.

COUNCIL DIRECTOR – Refer the matter to the Community and Economic Development Subcommittee to discuss a potential forum and provide the Council with recommendations for next steps.

6. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council and without objection, Mayor Broersma adjourned the meeting at 8:36 PM.



Jacqueline Renteria, City Clerk