

A. Minutes:

- 1) Minutes of the February 12, 2025 special meeting.
- 2) Minutes of the February 18, 2025 study session.
- 3) Minutes of the February 24, 2025 regular meeting.

SUNNYSIDE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Galvan called the Sunnyside City Council special meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

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

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Councilor Vazquez was excused from this meeting.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Mike Gonzalez, Finance Director/Deputy City Manager Debbie Zabell, Fire Chief Haubrich, Community and Economic Development Director Derrick Braaten, and Public Works Director Raul Sanchez, HR Manager Lucia Navarro and IT Jafet Silva.

ATTORNEY PRESENT: Ben Riley, Saxton Riley & Riley, PLLC

2. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes:

- 1) Minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting.
- 2) Minutes of the January 6, 2025 study session (Police & Fire Department Swearing-In Ceremony)
- 3) Minutes of the January 13, 2025 regular meeting.

B. Claim Vouchers:

- 1) Approve claim voucher numbers 111145 through 111231 and wire transfer(s) as listed for \$395,778.35 for the period ending on February 5, 2025.

MOTION by Councilor Hart, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve the consent agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 30 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 and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

- 6:05 PM** City Council, City Manager Gonzalez, Attorney Ben Riley, HR Manager Navarro and Finance Director/Administrative Services Director Zabell entered into executive session.
- 6:35 PM** Deputy Mayor Galvan requested an extension of the session by 45 minutes.
- 7:20 PM** Deputy Mayor Galvan requested an extension of the session by 30 minutes.
- 7:41 PM** Executive session ended. No action taken.

4. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Utility Tax Increase Public Hearing
Receive comments regarding the proposed utility tax increase to fund the 2025 swimming pool season.

The appearance of fairness act was read into the record.

- 7:46 PM** The Public Hearing was opened. City staff provided a presentation on the proposed utility tax increase and its purpose of supporting the 2025 swimming pool season.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, the Council agreed to suspend the rules to allow extended public comment and to permit a presentation from the Sunnyside Rotary Swim Team.

Janet Aguirre – presented information on the current operations of the Sunnyside Rotary Swim Team. She emphasized the importance of keeping the community pool open and voiced her support for the proposed utility tax increase to help fund the operating costs.

Brittany Byma – Shared that the Daybreak Rotary has committed \$38,377.39 toward equipment necessary for pool repairs and expressed their willingness to contribute up to \$50,000, if needed, to support the pool's reopening.

Theresa Hancock – Although not present, she submitted a written comment which was read into the record. In her message, she urged the City Council not to move forward with the proposed utility tax increase, citing concerns about the financial burden it may place on senior citizens living on fixed Social Security incomes.

Jory Anderson – Shared that he and his family have used the community pool over the years and that he currently serves as a member of the Sunnyside Rotary Club. He expressed a strong desire to help ensure the pool remains open, whether through private contributions or by supporting fundraising efforts in partnership with various organizations. He emphasized that once a pool is closed, it becomes much easier to keep it closed the following year which he hopes to avoid. He reminded the City Council of the significance of having an Olympic size pool in the community and noted that its closure would be a major loss.

Javier Lopez – Urged the Council to reconsider the proposed utility tax increase, expressing concern that it offers only a temporary solution. As a parent of a swim team member, he questioned where the collected funds would go if the pool is ultimately unable to open. He emphasized the need for a more sustainable, long-term solution that ensures the pool remains open for years to come.

Councilor Hart – Shared a history of the pool, detailing when it was built and how it has been used over the years. He highlighted the importance of having a pool in town, citing its value for community services such as swim lessons and physical therapy.

City Manager Gonzalez – Noted that this is not a quick fix, explaining that he and the staff have spent significant time reviewing financials and advocating for funding through lobbying, grants, and outreach to organizations. The funds from the utility tax increase will be dedicated to opening the pool. If the pool doesn't open, he will seek Council's guidance on using the funds for the following year.

Councilor Frausto – Thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication to ensure the community has access to an open pool.

8:20 PM Public hearing closed.

- B. Increase Utility Tax by 2% to Fund the 2025 Swimming Pool Season
Adopt the proposed ordinance increasing the Utility Tax by 2% to Fund the 2025 Swimming Pool Season

MOTION by Councilor Hart, seconded by Councilor Frausto to adopt an ordinance increasing the Utility Tax by 2% to Fund the 2025 Swimming Pool Season. MOTION CARRIED with 3 YES votes and 1 NO vote by Councilor Ripley.

The Finance Director/Deputy City Manager Zabell assured that the funds would be collected and kept in a separate account, distinct from the general fund. Expenditures will also be segregated and both revenues and expenses will be easily accessible for reporting purposes. Any leftover funds will remain in the designated pool account and be carried over for use in the following year if the pool reopens. There

are effective dates and amounts of the proposed tax increases. The Council has the option to terminate or extend the tax, and if no action is taken by the Council, the tax will automatically terminate on December 31, 2025.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, the Council took a 5-minute recess at 8:32 PM.

- C. American Heart Month Proclamation
Approve a resolution proclaiming February 2025 as American Heart Health Month in Sunnyside, Washington.

MOTION by Councilor Hart, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve a resolution proclaiming February 2025 as American Heart Health Month in Sunnyside, Washington. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- D. Sunnyside Marketing Plan
Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to request \$100,000 in lodging tax funds to implement the proposed marketing project.

MOTION by Councilor Ripley, seconded by Councilor Hart to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to request \$100,000 in lodging tax funds to implement the proposed marketing project. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- E. Fifth Amendment to Subcontract Agreement for Sunnyside Municipal Airport Environmental Investigation
Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Mott MacDonald, LLC for the Sunnyside Municipal Airport Environmental Investigation.

MOTION by Councilor Hart, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract amendment with Mott MacDonald, LLC for the Sunnyside Municipal Airport Environmental Investigation. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- F. Medical Services Officer (MSO) Position Approval
Approve a resolution allowing the re-implementation of the Medical Services Officer (MSO) position for the Sunnyside Fire Department and adopt an ordinance amending the 2025 City of Sunnyside Classification and Compensation Schedule (Ordinance 2024-18).

MOTION by Councilor Ripley, seconded Councilor Frausto to approve a resolution allowing the re-implementation of the Medical Services Officer (MSO) position for the Sunnyside Fire Department and adopt an ordinance amending the 2025 City of Sunnyside Classification and Compensation Schedule (Ordinance 2024-18). MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- G. Equipment Maintenance & Repair Services Interlocal Agreement with Yakima County Fire District 5
Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement with Yakima County Fire District 5 for emergency equipment maintenance repair services.

MOTION by Councilor Hart, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an interlocal agreement with Yakima County Fire District 5 for emergency equipment maintenance repair services. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- H. Police Vehicles Surplus, Disposition and Purchase
Approve a resolution declaring certain vehicles surplus and authorizing disposition, and authorizing the purchase of two fully equipped police vehicles through the statewide vendor contracts for police vehicles.

MOTION by Councilor Ripley, seconded by Councilor Hart to approve a resolution declaring certain vehicles surplus and authorizing disposition, and authorizing the purchase of two fully equipped police vehicles through the statewide vendor contracts for police vehicles. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- A. Mayor's appointment(s) for Boards and Commissions
- B. Other reports, announcements, and/or questions by Council
- C. Upcoming Council Meetings:
 - 1) Tuesday, February 18, 2025 study session
 - 2) Monday, February 24, 2025 regular meeting
 - 3) Monday, March 3, 2025 study session

6. CITY MANAGER REPORT

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council and without objection, Deputy Mayor Galvan adjourned the meeting at 9:41 PM.


Jacqueline Renteria, City Clerk

SUNNYSIDE CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

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

COUNCIL	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mayor Broersma		EXCUSED
Deputy Mayor Galvan	X	
Councilor Hart		UNEXCUSED
Councilor Vazquez	X	
VACANT		
Councilor Ripley	X	
Councilor Frausto	X	

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Councilor Hart was not excused from this meeting.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Mike Gonzalez, Finance Director/Deputy City Manager Debbie Zabell, Community and Economic Development Director Derrick Braaten, and Public Works Director Raul Sanchez.

ATTORNEY PRESENT: Ben Riley, Saxton Riley & Riley, PLLC

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Cis Kennard, Sunnyside

3. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Digester Heating System Upgrades
Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the bid results and execute all documents with award Schedule 1 of the project to SCI Industrial Services LLC.

MOTION by Councilor Ripley, seconded by Councilor Frausto to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept the bid results and execute all documents with award Schedule 1 of the project to SCI Industrial Services LLC. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

B. Lobbying Efforts

Receive an update on the recent lobbying efforts.

City Manager Gonzalez and Public Works Director Sanchez provided updates on the lobbying efforts and grants.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council and without objection, Deputy Mayor Galvan adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.



Jacqueline Renteria, City Clerk

SUNNYSIDE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Galvan called the Sunnyside City Council regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

WITHOUT OBJECTION, Councilor Hart was excused from this meeting.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION by Councilor Vazquez, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve the agenda by adding the Sunnyside Marketing Plan, City Council meetings discussion and dog breeding ordinance discussion. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

3. INVOCATION

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. RECOGNITION

- Sergeant Melissa Rodriguez Retirement – 35 years of service
- Deputy Mayor Galvan Certificate of Municipal Leadership

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Deena Gutierrez, Sunnyside
- Maricela Santana, Sunnyside

7. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the January 21, 2025 study session.
- 2) Minutes of the January 27, 2025 regular meeting.

B. Payroll Vouchers:

- 1) Approve payroll voucher numbers 119691 through 1196595 and wire transfer(s) as listed for \$983,316.13 for the period ending on January 31, 2025.
- 2) Approve payroll voucher numbers 119696 through 119702 and wire transfer(s) as listed for \$586,324.70 for the period ending on February 15, 2025.

C. Claim Vouchers:

- 1) Approve claim voucher numbers 111232 through 111313 and wire transfer(s) as listed for \$1,029,824.16 for the period ending on February 24, 2025 (*updated 02/24/2025*).

MOTION by Councilor Ripley, seconded by Councilor Vazquez to approve the consent agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

8. ACTIVE AGENDA

- A. Sunnyside Marketing Plan (*added 02/24/2025*)
Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to spend \$100,000 in lodging tax funds to implement a marketing plan and enter into any necessary agreements.

MOTION by Councilor Frausto, seconded by Councilor Ripley to approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to spend \$100,000 in lodging tax funds to implement a marketing plan and enter into any necessary agreements. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

- B. City Council Meetings (*added 02/24/2025*)
Provide direction on City Council meeting dates.

COUNCIL DIRECTION – Revise the municipal code to establish three City Council meetings per month: a study session on the first Monday, and regular meetings on the second and fourth Mondays.

- C. Animal Control Community Forum Debrief
Receive a report of the Animal Control Community Forum held on February 19, 2025.

City Manager Gonzalez provided a summary of the Animal Control Community Forum.

- D. Dog Breeding Ordinance (*added 02/24/2025*)
Discuss a proposed ordinance prohibiting dog breeding and the sale of dogs within the city limits, establishing fines and penalties for violations.

CITY DIRECTION – Continue exploring banning breeding and bring back to City Council for action on or before April.

9. ITEMS FROM COUNCIL MEMERS:

- A. Mayor’s Appointment(s) for Boards and Commissions
- B. Other reports, announcements, and/or questions by Council
- C. Upcoming Council Meetings:
 - 1) Monday, March 3, 2025 study session

2) Monday, March 10, 2025 regular meeting

10. CITY MANAGERS REPORT

COUNCIL DIRECTION - Staff resume providing brief reports during City Council meetings.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council and without objection, Deputy Mayor Galvan adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.



Jacqueline Renteria, City Clerk