

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
January 22, 2024

A **Regular Meeting** of the City Council of the City of Avondale, Arizona was convened at 11465 West Civic Center Drive in open and public session at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Kenn Weise led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Members Present: Mayor Kenn Weise; Vice Mayor Mike Pineda; Council Members Tina Conde, Veronica Malone, Curtis Nielson, Gloria Solorio, and Max White.

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Cherlene Penilla, Assistant City Manager; Tracy Stevens, Assistant City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Ken Chapa, Economic Development Services Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Andy Mesquita, Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Dale Nannenga, Public Safety Chief; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 70 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS

a. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

The following new employees were introduced to the City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Development Services Department
Sandra Freund, Senior Planner

Human Resources Department
Josue Macias, Sr. Management Analyst

Finance and Budget Department
Mayette Bailey, Sr. Revenue Analyst

Public Works Department
Cole Pihl, Water Resources Manager

b. PROCLAMATION — ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH

Council Member Conde proclaimed January 2024 as Anti-Human Trafficking Month. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION — HONORING MAYOR BILL BEDOYA

Mayor Weise read a proclamation remembering and honoring Mayor Bill Bedoya. This item was for discussion only.

d. EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT OF AVONDALE RECOGNITION (AVI STAR STUDENT)

City Council recognized the following Avondale students from schools located in Avondale for their character and achievement. This item was for discussion only.

- Ivan Castro Gomez
- Mia Saenz
- Makayla Reid
- Lizbeth Sanchez

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Jeff Uber submitted a Request to Speak; however, he was not present at the time the agenda item was called.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Weise asked if any Council Member wished to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Having no requests from Council, motion was made by Council Member Conde, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Council Member Conde	Aye
Council Member Malone	Aye
Council Member Nielson	Aye
Council Member Solorio	Aye
Council Member White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

a. MINUTES

City Council approved the December 18, 2023, City Council meeting minutes.

b. CALL AND NOTICE OF ELECTION

City Council a) called a Primary Election on August 6, 2024, and if necessary, a General Election on November 5, 2024; b) authorized staff to add issues to the ballot as directed by Council or by appropriate administrative action; and c) authorized the City Clerk and the City Attorney to take all action necessary to conduct the election.

c. SERIES 12 (RESTAURANT) LIQUOR LICENSE — NUMBER 1 BUFFET & NUMBER 1 CAJUN SEAFOOD

City Council recommended approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control of an application for a Series 12 (Restaurant) Liquor License submitted by Guohui Chen for the sale of alcohol at Number 1 Buffet & Number 1 Cajun Seafood located at 10125 West McDowell Road in Avondale and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1012-0124 — TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH IDM DEVELOPMENT, LLC

City Council adopted Resolution 1012-0124 approving a Traffic Control Device Development Agreement with IDM Development, LLC, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1013-0124 — INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT / ARIZONA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

City Council adopted Resolution 1013-0124, authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Avondale Police Department and the Phoenix Police Department/Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 1014-0124 — AMENDMENTS TO THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, CHAPTER 12 SOLICITATION, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY

City Council adopted Resolution 1014-0124, amending the Personnel Policies and Procedures Chapter Policy 12, Solicitation, Conflict of Interest, and Political Activity to revise language regarding prohibition of political activity by employees and ensure the alignment of such policy with state and federal law and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. LIV AVONDALE MINOR LAND DIVISION — APPLICATION PL-23-0200

City Council approved Application PL-23-0200, a request by Scott Lucas with Terrascope Consulting, on behalf of Beth Heath with Liv Avondale, LLC, for approval of a Minor Land Division for Liv Avondale located at the southwest corner of Indian School Road and 99th Avenue and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH THE AVONDALE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION (APFFA) LOCAL 3924

Andrew Mesquita, Director of Human Resources, presented the proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 City of Avondale and the Avondale Professional Firefighters' Association (APFFA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Members of the negotiating team were recognized, specifically Torin Sadow, Senior Management Analyst with the Senior Managers Office, for using his skills to keep the team on track throughout the process.

The guiding principle implemented by consensus was, "Be fiscally responsible, legal, and serve the best interest of the community." The proposed agreement incorporates the existing MOU language and introduces revised or new language. The term of the agreement is from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026. Mr. Mesquita reviewed the key changes within the proposed MOU. Salary and ranking adjustments will make Avondale more competitive and better support efforts to recruit and retain firefighters. The estimated annual budget impact is \$1.5 million.

Captain Ryan Tseng, Avondale Fire Department, stated this was a collaborative process and he could not have asked for a better team to work with. Over the past year and a half, many firefighters were lost to other cities and the priority in this MOU was creating wages and benefits that would retain and recruit employees. The other important aspect of this MOU was to allow the "casual viewer" to see what the City does for the firefighters and not leave anything for interpretation because the Fire Department operates differently than other entities within the City and public safety is very expensive. The only concern is the MOU will not be enacted until July, and there are some employees who may leave before then.

In response to Mayor Weise's question, Mr. Corbin noted the Fire Department is fully staffed and the final recruit will be entering the next academy.

A discussion ensued related to challenges with a fireman's presumptive cancer claims at the state level.

Council Member White commended all involved for creating a non-contentious MOU that supports the best interest of the Avondale firefighter family and clarity of the nepotism policy.

Council Member Nielson commended the team for their work on the MOU.

Council Member Solorio expressed appreciation to the staff presenting the changes clearing and the detail in explaining what has been changed.

Council Member Conde thanked all those involved for their work and showing up to the City Council meeting.

Council Member Malone thanked Mr. Corbin's team and all within the Fire and Medical Department. She is pleased to see the updates to the nepotism policy and spoke about taking care of those who are always there to respond to the community. In response to Council Member Malone's question, Mr. Mesquita explained the deferred compensation contribution for the city would increase to \$50.00 if the member contributes at least \$50.00.

Vice Mayor Pineda spoke about the importance of retaining an employee. He was pleased to hear there was nothing contentious about the MOU process and everyone worked together for the common good. He noted the Fire and Medical Department employees are the ambassadors for the city.

Council Member White moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Avondale Professional Firefighters Association Local 3924, which will be effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents; Council Member Nielson seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Council Member Conde	Aye
Council Member Malone	Aye
Council Member Nielson	Aye
Council Member Solorio	Aye
Council Member White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

b. SENIOR SERVICES UPDATE

Sandy Lopez, Senior Services Manager of Neighborhood and Family Services, provided an update on Senior Services. There are many benefits to senior centers, including promoting healthy aging, providing access to health education screenings, resources, activities, and development of healthy habits. All of these prolong independence, improve the ability to manage chronic illnesses, provide measurable improvement in physical, relational, spiritual, emotional, mental, and economic wellbeing, and allow seniors to stay home longer.

In 2024, there will be 12,000 Americans turning 65 years old every day, the fastest growing adult population in the nation. Unfortunately, 1 in 10 of these adults live below the poverty level, and 1 in 4 scrimp on food and other health necessities due to the high costs of health care. In Avondale, 85% of the homeless service clients are over the age of 50. This requires programs to be reimaged, broadened, optimistic, inclusive, and relevant to reach this new demographic. In 2023, Avondale lowered their eligibility age to 50, which allowed soon-to-be retirees to become comfortable with the services the Senior Center offers.

Ms. Lopez reviewed services offered to Avondale seniors during the fiscal year 2023. There were 2,500 to 3,000 meals prepared monthly. Over 1,600 of those meals were gathered together at the Senior Center which is 26% more than last year. There were 1,200 hot meals provided to homebound seniors who are unable to provide meals for themselves, which included welfare checks. Clients were also encouraged to visit the center if they were able. The driver also provided referrals to other programs as appropriate, such as community assistance or home repair programs. Over 16,000 individuals were provided food through a partnership with St. Mary's Foodbank in fiscal year 2023 and approximately 20,000 in fiscal year 2024. There were over 4,700 rides for fiscal year and almost 6,000 for fiscal year 2024. There were over 966 rides per month, which was 23% more than previous years. The Senior Center provides rides to and from the center as well as field trips.

The average daily attendance is 182 individuals, which is a 9% increase over last year. Activities are covered daily and include games, exercise, education, arts and crafts, field trips, entertainment, and celebrations. The center collaborates not only with other entities within Neighborhood and Family Services, but also other City departments and outside entities.

Ms. Lopez recognized Chief Espinoza and Chief Rooney for their long-standing dedication to the Senior Center and willingness to grill on special occasions. Both were presented with grill kits. In closing, Ms. Lopez noted their tagline changed to "We are more than bingo but do that too!"

Council Member Solorio stated her company is more philanthropic because of the Senior Center's approach of giving back to the people in your backyard.

In response to a question by Council Member Conde, Ms. Lopez stated the Senior Center also provides services to Goodyear, Tolleson, Buckeye, and Litchfield Park. The St. Mary's Food Bank occurs four times a month in the parking lot of the Senior Center and is separate from the Aqua Fria Food and Clothing Bank.

Council Members White thanked staff for providing the mentioned services to the senior community.

In response to a question by Council Member Malone, Ms. Lopes stated at present, the center has five delivery routes that are serviced by three delivery drivers that take approximately four hours to complete. Approximately 70% of interactions are with Avondale residents with the rest to residents within Goodyear, Litchfield Park, and Tolleson.

6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS FROM MAYOR, VICE MAYOR, AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Weise spoke to a group that is taking over the Rio Reimagine project, a river restoration project.

Council Member White recognized the City Clerk's Office on passport services.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Nielson moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; Council Member Malone seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0.

Council Member Conde	Aye
Council Member Malone	Aye
Council Member Nielson	Aye
Council Member Solorio	Aye
Council Member White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.


Kenn Weise (Feb 27, 2024 07:23 MST)
Kenn Weise, Mayor

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 22nd day of January 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.


Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

February 26, 2024
Date Approved by City Council