

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
April 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 5:32 p.m.

Mayor Kenn Weise led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent reflection in remembrance of Sarah Selby, wife of Sergeant Josh Selby, who passed away.

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

Members Absent (Excused): Council Member Veronica Malone.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, 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; Bryan Hughes, Parks and Recreation Director; Craig Jennings, Judge; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Andy Mesquita, Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Mark Neerings, Assistant Chief Information Officer; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; John Reddy, Facilities Manager; Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Court Administrator; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 100 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

The following employees were presented to City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Information Technology

- Shawn Roshid, Sr. Network Engineer
- Matthew Hu, GIS Technician

Neighborhood & Family Services Department

- Stacy Arellano, Neighborhood & Family Services Coordinator
- Stacey Himes, Neighborhood & Family Services Specialist
- Sofia Lopez, Senior Programs Assistant

b. PROCLAMATION – BUILDING SAFETY WEEK

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the week of May 6-10, 2024, as Building Safety Week in the City of Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEERISM

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing April as National Volunteer Month. This item was for discussion only.

d. HOLIDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT FOOD DRIVE AWARDS PRESENTATION

City Council recognized schools that participated in the 2023 Holiday School Spirit Food Drive and provide special recognition to the schools that generated the greatest amount of food to support the community. This item was for discussion only.

Participating Schools:

- Avondale Middle School
- Canyon Breeze Elementary School
- Lattie Coor School
- Michael Anderson School
- STAR Academy

2023 School Spirit Food Drive – Top 3 Schools:

- West Point High School – 3rd Place
- Estrella Vista STEM Academy – 2nd Place
- Imagine Schools Avondale Elementary and Middle – 1st Place

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

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

- Damien Gonzalez
- Esperanza Acuna
- Axcell Navarro
- Daniel Wong Amarom
- Benjamin Martinez
- Jordan Erive
- Ava Minarik

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the consent agenda are of a routine nature or have been previously studied by the City Council at a work session. They are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Council members may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

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 Solorio, seconded by Council Member Nielson, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Council Member Conde	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 March 25, 2024 City Council meeting minutes.

b. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

City Council appointed Julia Jewell as the Vice Chair of the Planning Commission for the remainder of the 2024 calendar year and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. APPOINTMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

City Council promoted Daniel Smith-Castillo from an Alternate Member to a Regular Member of the Sustainability Commission and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1036-0424 - AUTHORIZING GRANT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE CHILD AND ADVOCACY CENTERS (OPIOID FOCUS) GRANT

City Council a) adopted Resolution 1036-0424, approving the acceptance of the Child and Family Advocacy Centers Grant through the Office of the Attorney General for \$62,689.71; b) authorized the necessary budget transfers associated with this grant; and c) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1037-0424 - AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF PEORIA FOR THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF DECLARED FIRM LEASE CAPACITY IN THE NEW RIVER AGUA FRIA UNDERGROUND STORAGE PROJECT (NAUSP)

City Council adopted Resolution 1037-0424, approving an Agreement with the City of Peoria for the Temporary Assignment of Declared Firm Lease Capacity in the New River and Agua Fria Underground Storage Project (NAUSP) and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 1038-0424 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY TO EXTEND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO-YEAR TERM FOR JURY SERVICES

City Council adopted Resolution 1038-0424, authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County to take the option to extend the IGA for an additional two-year term to provide jury services for the Avondale City Court and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. RESOLUTION 1039-0424 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GLENDALE FOR FIRE AND MEDICAL SERVICE STAFFING

City Council adopted Resolution 1039-0424 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Glendale for fire and medical service staffing and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

h. RESOLUTION 1040-0424 - 2024-2025 HUD ANNUAL ACTION

City Council adopted Resolution 1040-0424, approving the City's 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan, identifying housing and community development needs and strategies and defining how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds will be allocated next fiscal year and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. FISCAL YEAR 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Staff provided an update to City Council regarding the Contributions Assistance Program, including an overview of eligibility requirements, funding levels, and evaluation criteria for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Edith Baltierrez, Assistant Director of Neighborhood and Family Services, provided an overview of the Contributions Assistance Program which included the background and history of the program, update on non-profit agencies funded in

the current fiscal year, criteria overview, review of the application process and timeline, and the maximum award amount.

Due to an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant, the award proposal per project has increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. There were 33 total agencies funded in the current fiscal year, including 7 new award recipients. All fiscal year 2024 recipients are on track to expend their funds by June 30, 2024, the end of the fiscal year.

Council Members Malone, Conde, and Nielson are appointed to the Council Subcommittee that meets annually to review applications and make funding recommendations.

In response to a question by Council Member Nielson, Ms. Baltierrez, explained the various methods used to provide the community with information about the application process, such as social media, an email distribution list, the website and a media release.

Council Member Conde thanked Ms. Baltierrez and her staff for assisting applicants through the process as well as the City Manager, the Mayor, and the Council for supporting the program. She noted how vital all of the programs are to the community.

- b. POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO LOUD NOISE CALLS FOR SERVICE**
City Council was to receive information regarding the Avondale Police Department's response to loud noise calls for service. **This item was pulled from the agenda at the request of Mayor Weise and will be brought back at a future date.**

c. 2023 CITIZEN SURVEY

Staff, along with representatives from the National Community Survey, Inc. (NCS), will report on the results of the 2023 National Citizen Survey conducted this past winter in Avondale. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Pier Simeri, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, provided an introduction of the agenda item and introduced the guest speaker.

Jason Neumeyer, Survey Associate with Polco, provided an overview of Polco and National Research Center (NRC) noting they provide local governments with the data needed to make informed decisions while making resident voices heard through a standardized comprehensive survey. Polco and NRC merged in 2019 and became exclusive partners with ICMA and the National League of Cities among others.

There were 3,000 randomly selected households within Avondale selected to participate in the survey. The survey, that was written in both English and Spanish, began on November 6, 2023, and ended on December 31, 2023. A total of 184

completed surveys were received, providing a 7% response rate and a +/- 7% margin of error. A second online survey open to all residents ran from December 1 to December 31, 2023, with 44 participants.

The results of the recent survey were reviewed, including how Avondale compared against national benchmarks set using the same survey and also how it compared to the same survey done in Avondale in 2018. It was noted that two multipart questions were asked related to the quality of community livability in Avondale. Participants were asked to rank 10 facets of community livability on both the current quality and future importance of each facet. This information was used to create the quality importance matrix and identify key findings.

Key findings discussed and compared to the 2018 results include the following.

1. Avondale residents experience a high quality of life and appreciate many aspects of the City's leadership and governance.
2. The economy is a top priority, and residents show concern about general affordability and their own economic outlook.
3. While residents generally feel safe in Avondale, declining ratings in this area may indicate an opportunity for growth.
4. Residents consider mobility a priority and show some concern about traffic flow.

Mayor Weise discussed the number of participants in the survey, the results that were not necessarily surprising, and if the statistical numbers are a true representation of how Avondale residents feel.

In response to questions, Mr. Neumeyer noted survey participation has been declining over the past 20-25 years with an average response rate between 12 – 30%. Random sampling method allows for a margin of error to be provided and the higher the participation rate the lower the margin of error. The results are statistically weighted, making the results representative of the actual make-up of Avondale. Weighting is a research survey best practice to help improve the representativeness of the final results. The results are valid, but they have a plus or minus 7% margin of error. The timing of the survey was discussed.

A discussion ensued regarding the survey not including businesses or visitors and drilling down questions. When comparing results to other communities it is best to start with the Balancing Quality and Importance and National Benchmarking charts included in the report.

City Manager Corbin explained the Parks and Recreation touch point survey will not be comparable to the NCS survey mainly because it is not Avondale resident specific. He continued to discuss the validity of the results of the NCS survey, the

positive outlook for Avondale, and the items that the City Council is already addressing because "we can always do better".

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

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Council Member Conde moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; Vice Mayor Pineda seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 6 to 0.

Council Member Conde	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 7:14 p.m.



kenn weise (May 8, 2024 08:31 PDT)

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 April 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.



Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

May 6, 2024

Date Approved by City Council