

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
September 23, 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 5:31 p.m.

Cub Scouts – Pack 91 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, Curtis Nielson, Gloria Solorio, and Max White.

Members Absent: Council Member Malone.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Tracy Stevens, Assistant City Manager; Katie Gregory, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Lisa Maxie-Mullins, Deputy City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Cheryl Covert, Interim Economic Development Services Director; Justin Ernst, Assistant Chief; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Jerie Guajardo, Family Services Manager; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Catherine Lorbeer, Deputy Director of Planning; Andy Mesquita, Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 20 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS

The following employee was introduced to City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Office of Public Safety

- Martha Ortiz, Lead Code Compliance Officer (promotion)

b. PROCLAMATION – OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing September 15, 2024, through October 15, 2024 as Hispanic Heritage Month. This item was for discussion only.

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Amber Medina, leader of Cub Scouts – Pack 91, provided a brief overview noting the troop has 12 scouts and 4 siblings, they are sponsored by the American Legion Post 61. The Scouts participate in various activities throughout the year such as STEM, outdoor activities, leadership skills, and citizenship. They go camping twice a year, participate in various community events, and schedule two meet and greets per year with their next one being the Avondale Fire Department.

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. Council Member White requested agenda item 4g to be removed for separate consideration. Motion was made by Council Member Solorio, seconded by Council Member White, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of agenda item 4g.

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 August 26, 2024, City Council meeting minutes.

b. RESOLUTION 1093-0924 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #44, MICHAEL ANDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

City Council adopted Resolution 1093-0924, authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Avondale Elementary School District to share the cost of providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Michael Anderson Elementary to provide a safer learning environment during the 2024/2025 school year and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. RESOLUTION 1094-0924 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH AVONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #44, AVONDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

City Council adopted Resolution 1094-0924, authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Avondale Elementary School District to share the cost of providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Avondale Middle School to provide a safer learning environment during the 2024/2025 school year and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1095-0924 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY

City Council adopted Resolution 1095-0924, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (“SPRMIC”), allowing the SPRMIC to remove and take possession of invasive vegetation in 21 acres of city property in the Agua Fria Riverbed near Festival Fields Park and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1096-0924 - GRANT ACCEPTANCE OF A VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) GRANT FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

City Council adopted Resolution 1096-0924 authorizing the City of Avondale’s acceptance of grant funding through the Arizona Department of Public Safety / Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant in the amount of \$300,810 to the City of Avondale Police Department/Southwest Family Advocacy Center over the period October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 1097-0924 - AUTHORIZING PASS-THROUGH GRANT FROM TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION

City Council adopted Resolution 1097-0924, authorizing the City of Avondale’s acceptance of grant funding through the Tohono O’odham Nation and passing those grant funds to the Arizona Justice Center, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. RESOLUTION 1098-0924 - AUTHORIZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCEPTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

This item was pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion. Item is listed below in more detail.

h. ORDINANCE 2028-0924 AND ORDINANCE 2029-0924 – ABANDONMENT OF BELMONT DRIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND RESERVATION OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT

City Council a) adopted Ordinance 2028-0924 authorizing the abandonment of Belmont Drive right-of-way generally located south of Western Avenue, east of 5th Street and west of 6th Street, reserving a public utility easement thereon; b) adopted Ordinance 2029-0924 authorizing the reservation of a public utility easement on City-owned property; and c) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

i. FINAL PLAT OR FULTON HOMES ACCLAIM – PHASE 2C – APPLICATION PL-24-0136

City Council approved Application PL-24-0136, a request by Meikle Garrett with EPS Group, Inc., on behalf of Fulton Homes Corporation, for approval of the Final Plat for Fulton Homes Acclaim – Phase 2C located generally north of Thomas Road and west of 99th Avenue and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

j. FINAL PLAT FOR V TOWNHOMES AT ENCANTO – PL-23-0191

City Council (a) approved Application PL-23-0191, a request by Keilah Casillas with Sandbox Development, on behalf of Randy Richter with Trilogy Investment Company, for approval of a final plat for V Townhomes at Encanto located at the southwest corner of Avondale Boulevard and Encanto Boulevard, and (b) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

NOTE FROM THE CITY CLERK: THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA TO BE VOTED ON SEPARATELY:

g. RESOLUTION 1098-0924 - AUTHORIZING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACCEPTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

City Council considered a request to: a) adopt Resolution 1098-0924, authorizing technical assistance acceptance from the Department of Energy (DOE) in the amount of \$138,310; b) authorize and direct staff to take all steps necessary to cause the execution of the Agreement and to take all steps necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution; and c) authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Council Member White asked for additional information to ensure understanding of what accepting the grant funding means and how it will be used.

Kirk Beaty, Director of Public Works discussed the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding (EECBG), which is a federal program

established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and has allocated \$550 million nationwide to support local energy initiatives. The City of Avondale was allocated \$138,000 through the funding formula which does not require a match fund and offers an opportunity for the city to advance energy efficiency efforts. Where the allocation was less than \$250,000, it was recommended the city receive funding through a voucher which also requires less administrative effort to monitor. The funding will enable utilizing technical assistance provided by the Department of Energy to evaluate energy efficiency in city buildings and implement possible improvements.

Kimberly Anderson, Sustainability Officer discussed the goals outlined in Avondale's Community Sustainability Plan regarding renewable energy and emissions reduction and the Avondale's 2014 Municipal Sustainability Plan to identify energy efficiency opportunities for buildings and reducing office building energy use by 10% by 2025. Noting the strategic opportunity to use the EECBG grant to get technical assistance and focus on two critical areas being municipal energy efficiency and planning and municipal renewable energy planning.

1. Evaluate municipal buildings current energy efficiencies, which serves the purpose of determining where we currently are and provides insights on what we can do to become more efficient. 20 city owned buildings, 26 city well and booster sites, and 8 city parks have been identified for this evaluation.
2. The Department of Energy will be selecting the Technical Assistant contractor, which will hopefully be concluded this fall.
3. The Technical Assistant will help conduct a thorough energy audit of the municipal buildings, develop comprehensive energy efficiency plan, and create a strategy for integrating renewable energy sources in the future.
4. It is not clear if there is enough funding to complete all the deliverables and sites outlined. The Technical Assistant will focus on energy efficiency audits and planning first then renewable energy evaluation and strategy development.

Mr. Beaty noted the Technical Assistant deliverables being developed include development of an implementation plan and a multi-year implementation schedule to execute the recommended efficiency upgrades, prioritize projects based on factors such as energy savings potential, cost effectiveness, and consideration of timeframes in the sustainability plan. A cost analysis is being requested to determine the return on the investment to assist in making decisions and prioritizing improvements. Additionally, identification of potential funding sources to implement the recommendations set forth.

Mayor and Council Members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. In response to questions Ms. Anderson explained the electricity grid is 50% of the 2020 Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report, sustainability plan. However, vehicle fleet is on the radar but not sure it will fit into the specific funding opportunity. This funding opportunity provides an opportunity to get answers in the future on battery storage facilities. Mayor Weise noted this is a

regional issue and battery storage could be a collaboration with other municipalities. Ms. Anderson explained the Community Sustainability Plan audit was done with 2020 as the base line and another reason why the EECBG is essential to provide a clearer look of where we are now and what needs to be done moving forward. The Technical Assistant audit will be a learning opportunity for the sustainability division as we see what the process is moving forward and how we can replicate it for more frequent audits of our facilities. The utility companies will be part of the process of collecting data. Ms. Anderson discussed the initiatives within Avondale for increasing shade canopy especially with trees, which includes getting the community involved. Avondale will be hosting a tree drop off location for SRP next month. A brief discussion ensued. Katrece Swenson, Senior Management Analyst, Public Works, explained this is a one-time grant through formula funding but they are continuing to look and apply for future opportunities

Council Member White moved to adopt Resolution 1098-0924, authorizing technical assistance acceptance from the Department of Energy (DOE) in the amount of \$138,310; b) authorize and direct staff to take all steps necessary to cause the execution of the Agreement and to take all steps necessary to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution; and c) authorize 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 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

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. POLICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO LOUD NOISE CALLS FOR SERVICE

City Council received information regarding the Avondale Police Department's response to loud noise calls for service. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Lieutenant Tom Alt presented information related to the department's response to loud noise complaints. A loud noise disturbance can be a loud party, loud music, or loud noises coming from a residence. The process begins with a call for service received by dispatch, the officer is dispatched to the specific address or general

location, and the officer determines what the loud noise is. There are many factors that go into the investigation to determine the next steps, such as what time of day, is this a repeat offender, what is making the noise, and is it reasonable or unreasonable.

If the noise was determined to be loud, the officer will contact the person responsible and talk to them about the situation and provide them with a warning based on policy. It is important to educate citizens to ensure they understand under AZ Revised Statutes and City Code they could be cited for disorderly conduct or noise violation. However, if there have been subsequent calls for service or a warranted citation to cease the situation an Officer can cite the violator or responsible party at the first call.

In FY 2023 Avondale Police Department responded to 1,691 loud noise calls, wrote 879 reports, cited 11 citizens for noise violations, and 809 calls for loud noise were not located, canceled, or referred to another agency based on jurisdiction. In FY 2024 Avondale Police Department responded to 1,626 loud noise calls, wrote 876 reports, cited 19 citizens for noise violations, and 743 calls for loud noise were not located, canceled, or referred to another agency based on jurisdiction. Most calls came in on Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. Compared to other calls for service such as animal noise, ATC disturbance, shots fired, and fireworks, the number of loud noise complaints far exceed them.

Mayor and Council Members were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Mayor Weise inquired how residents and the City Council can assist the Police Department do their job more effectively. He suggested a possible permitting program for large parties or gatherings that will have a band or DJ. Council Member Solorio disagreed with permitting but was open to hearing ideas on how the Council could be helpful. Chief Espinoza noted the City Ordinance and State Statutes are sufficient with only 11 citizens being cited in FY 24. In his experience most residents encountered are cooperative and once you warn them, they turn the music down or off. Lt. Alt advised he was only prepared to discuss loud noise calls, but he can gather information on the other calls and present it another time. Shots fired calls for service would not be noted on this chart if it led to a different charge because that person would not be cited for a noise violation.

Mr. Corbin noted the Police Department has been working on a River Detail that addresses many calls for ATCs and shots fired from that area, and the uptick in fireworks could be from the city's effort to educate people to call it in. Chief Espinoza explained the calls related to ATC, shots fired, and fireworks would have to be separated out between citizen and officer generated because of the River Bottom Detail and an officer proactively encountering a situation and calling it in. Lt. Alt explained when an officer contacts a responsible party it gets documented and if contact is made with them again the officer can see contact was previously made and what it was for, and they will issue a citation instead of a warning.

Council Member Nielson suggested making the non-emergency number readily available. Chief Espinoza noted he tells everyone to bother his officers because they are not only there to protect and serve but to improve the quality of life of the residents. Lt. Alt noted the city does not have a specific time limit regarding noise. Vice-Mayor Pineda recognized the customer service in providing education to residents instead of making a situation worse.

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

Mayor Weise discussed Economic Development's notation on median household income for the city being \$69,000 in 2021 and is now \$91,000 in 2024. Additionally, college graduation rates are now above 30%, which is a testament to the efforts from Council and leadership to provide opportunities for residents, collaboration with Estrella Mountain Community College, and what is done through the schools.

Council Member White discussed her attendance at the Black Excellence Luncheon on Friday, September 13, 2024, in Washington, D.C. at the Rose Garden.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Vice Mayor Pineda moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; Council Member Nielson 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 6:27 p.m.


[Mike Pineda \(Oct 21, 2024 19:18 PDT\)](#)
Mike Pineda, 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 23rd day of September 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.



Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

October 21, 2024

Date Approved by City Council