

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
October 7, 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 in remembrance of the hurricane victims.

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

Members Absent: None.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Tracy Stevens, Assistant City Manager; Katie Gregory, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Stephanie Flood, Arts, Culture & Library Manager; Craig Jennings, Judge; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Andy Mesquita, Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; Abril Ruiz-Ortega, Court Administrator; John Reddy, Facilities Manager; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Nikki Taylor, Destination Sales Manager; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 5 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

City Manager's Office

- Aneyssa Romo, Senior Management Analyst (promotion)

Development Services

- Torin Sadow, Business Operations & Strategy Manager (promotion)

b. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the month of October 2024 as Community Planning Month in Avondale and extend appreciation to the staff of the Development Services Department for their dedication and service to Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – CODE COMPLIANCE MONTH

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the month of October 2024 as Code Compliance Month and extend appreciation to the staff of the Code Compliance Division for their dedication and service to Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

d. PROCLAMATION – FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

City Council present a Proclamation recognizing the week of October 6-12, 2024, as Fire Prevention Week in Avondale and extend appreciation to the staff of the Fire and Medical Department for their dedication and service to Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

e. PROCLAMATION – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the month of October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This item was for discussion only.

f. PROCLAMATION – CITIES AND TOWN WEEK 2024

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing the week of October 13-19, 2024, as Arizona Cities and Towns Week. This item was for discussion only.

g. HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATE, 2024

City Council received an update from Brian Planty, Homeless Services Manager, on the City's Homeless Services. This item was for discussion only.

Brian Planty, Homeless Services Manager provided an overview of efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. An update on Avondale's homeless services for FY 2024, included data used to measure success and demonstrate the impact of this investment, initiatives implemented, and community partnerships.

During FY 2024 the SONAR Team along with community partners and other departments within the city accomplished the following.

- Closed four homeless encampments promptly and humanely and ensured everyone had services.
- Through partnerships with the county, developed six units of Bridge Housing to provide long-term housing to families experiencing homelessness.
- Provided access to hotel and motel vouchers through other programs for families transitioning out of homelessness.

- During FY 2024 21 families representing 31 adults and 51 minors gained access to safe shelter through this initiative.
- There were 31 positive exits, meaning individuals resolved their homelessness by entering shelter, treatment, or permanent housing. During FY 2024 there were 31 positive exits.
- Responded to 120 unique individuals from AviWise tickets are received daily
- Served 105 individuals on the street or at the Resource Center.
- Distributed 498 kits or 1,000 doses of Narcan to ensure people live through overdoses.
- Managed heat relief efforts with cooling centers open seven days a week serving just under 2,000 individuals at the Arizona Complete Health Avondale Resource Center and ensured water was available to all residents by partnering with the Police Department, Libraries, and WeRide. 35,000 bottles of water were distributed this summer.
- Spent 1,900 hours increasing the presence of the outreach team throughout the city and neighborhood engaging with unhoused community members resulting in 2,000 encounters. This makes the SONAR team a trusted and integral part of the community.

All of this is done with community support and through partnerships with many agencies such as Maricopa County and The New Leaf organization, Phoenix Rescue Mission to expand outreach hours, and a third-party consultant Public Works, LLC. A survey was conducted of housed and unhoused community members. The consultants developed a strategic plan that will be used over the next five years to guide our work. One of the recommendations was to begin case conferencing and in January 2024 the team participated in a West Valley Case Conferencing where strategies and resources were shared with neighboring cities.

Mr. Planty shared five of the many success stories of individuals and a family that were assisted in various ways such as obtaining temporary housing, treatment, finding family support, or permanent housing. These show the direct impact of the work being done.

The Mayor and Councilmembers were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Mayor Weise commented on the humane proof provided of what can happen when a community comes together to help the most vulnerable. He asked that future presentations continue to include success stories that can be shared with the community. Councilmember Conde commented on the team being proactive instead of reactive, such as the frozen bottles of water that are available at the Resource Center that people can take with them. She discussed the importance of outreach for those that can't make it to the Resource Center, the connection with Phoenix Rescue Mission, and the partnership with The New Leaf Organization. Councilmember Nielson spoke about the great accomplishment of one success story a week and the one-on-one interactions.

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. Councilmembers may pull items from consent if they would like them considered separately.

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

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

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Malone	Aye
Councilmember Nielson	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

a. MINUTES

City Council approved the September 9, 2024 City Council meeting minutes.

b. SERIES 12 (RESTAURANT) LIQUOR LICENSE - ROLLIN SMOKE BBQ

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 Christopher Michael Devers for the sale of alcohol at Rollin Smoke BBQ, located at 10120 W McDowell Road, Suite 160 in Avondale and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. SERIES 10 (BEER AND WINE STORE) LIQUOR LICENSE - SPRINGHILL SUITES AVONDALE

City Council recommended approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control of an application for a Series 10 (Beer and Wine Store) Liquor License submitted by Lonnie Lee Kim for the sale of alcohol at Springhill Suites Avondale, located at 9950 W Encanto Blvd in Avondale and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1099-1024 - AMENDING THE COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE, SECTIONS 6.10 BUSINESS ITEMS AND 10.4 LIMITATION REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT AND REPORTS

City Council adopted Resolution 1099-1024, amending the Council Rules of Procedure Sections 6.10 Business Items and 10.4 Limitation Regarding Public Comment and Reports and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1100-1024 - FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY FOR ADDITIONAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE HOUSING

City Council adopted Resolution 1100-1024, approving Amendment 1 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County Human Services Department to increase funding by \$286,061 (\$1,986,061 in total) toward the development of bridge housing for families in Avondale and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

Harold Siguenza, Assistant Director of Public Works provided an update to City Council regarding the City's Solid Waste and Recycling Program. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Harold Siguenza, Assistant Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Solid Waste and Recycling Program including a recap of the previous update, service improvements, successes since implementing new services, current challenges, and the future of the program. NewGen Solutions & Strategies conducted an operational study in response to the city's growth, which identified opportunities to improve and meet customer demands. The suggested improvements that controlled costs and fee increases to modest levels.

The trash collection zones were changed to ensure they were even regarding home counts to allow quick and efficient services. This was a big undertaking since changes hadn't been made for two decades. Services are provided on all non-major holidays, which exclude Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. If one of these holidays falls on a workday they get pushed one day over. Courtesy pickup (\$23) and nonbroken container replacement fees (\$83) were implemented as a deterrent for continuous requests. There were several updates to the Solid Waste Chapter 11 Code as required to meet today's needs.

Staff worked a four 10-hour day rotating schedule to provide services Monday through Friday. A heavy equipment mechanic was hired to ensure the trucks were continuously up and running. Solid waste management software and GPS systems

were implemented into the operations. The software allowed drivers to communicate back to supervisors and inspectors any concerns, issues, or code violations while out on the road. The GPS system installed cameras on all vehicles that can report incidents or concerns from residents. A community recycling drop off center was implemented on July 17, 2024 and has been a great success by diverting 1.2 tons of recycling from the landfill.

One of the largest challenges is cost, specifically landfill and recycling facility costs. Landfill costs have increased by 13% over the last three years. ADEQ is in the process of reviewing their fees which will impact municipalities and private haulers. In July, Mayor Weise signed a Letter of Concern that was sent to ADEQ about the fees and the impact it will have on our residents and community. Recycling costs increased by over 60% in the past three years. Other challenges are with bulk trash services, navigating new communities which requires extra time, fuel, and expense of operations. Since 2022, more than 1,700 homes have been added to the community. The pickup schedule for trash and recycling was last updated in 2003 and the significant growth since then has caused an imbalance in the number of homes per zone.

At this time no changes will be made to bulk trash, but it will continue to be monitored to ensure quality on time service is being provided to residents. There is a plan to also review what other cities best practices, the pros and cons, and look at all alternatives for bulk trash disposal. Changes will be made to curbside trash and recycling by providing services Monday through Thursday starting February 1st. The rotating schedule will discontinue, and all employees will work 10-hour days Monday through Thursday, which aligns with fleet services. This will also redistribute the workload for recycling trash services more evenly, because we want to be efficient in the things we can control.

Mr. Siguenza noted this was a staff lead initiative to provide several map options to Public Works leadership. An overview of the map was provided. The new map and work schedule allows for courtesy pickups when requested on any given day.

The changes to curbside and recycling will go into effect February 1, 2025, there will be no changes to bulk trash. Operational changes bring efficiency to the program to keep costs down. There are costs that are out of our control such as recycling fees and landfill fees that will continue to be monitored. Working with Marketing and Public Relations outreach efforts will be developed to include a possible letter and sticker with pick-up days mailed to all residents. A grace period will be provided to all residents. In the spring a rate increase will be presented to the Council during the budget process.

Mayor and Councilmembers were given an opportunity to comment and ask questions. Mayor Weise praised them for including employees in creating the

schedule. Mr. Siguenza explained if a major holiday fell on a normal workday, it would be pushed to the next day even if it was a Friday. Mr. Corbin clarified that new equipment has not been purchased, but a new heavy equipment mechanic was added. Mr. Siguenza explained the need for a second heavy equipment mechanic to maintain the 14-truck fleet. There is an anticipated request for an equipment operator during the budget development. Currently there are 12 FTEs. The fleet department does a great job of keeping the trucks on the roads as much as possible.

The new management software allows the department to be proactive in replacing broken lids or cans. We are monitoring a recent batch of cans that appear weaker, and we are also working to get another contractor on board as well. The changes were based on lessons learned from changes made since the last update and we wanted the employees to continue to have a voice in the changes. Mr. Corbin discussed the annual employee satisfaction survey conducted by the Public Works department. Further clarifying, the changes are needed because of the rising costs and wanting to be more efficient with rate payers' dollars and giving the most service for the least money possible.

Mr. Siguenza clarified that the recycling cost is the net cost being the difference between the cost per ton and the revenue. Footage received from the trucks if retrieved is held as long as required by attorneys for risk management and in adherence to the record keeping laws. If it is not retrieved all footage is written over every two weeks. Councilmember White suggested creating magnets to hand out at events and Councilmember Nielson suggested adding information about how to report broken lids or cans.

6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS FROM MAYOR, VICE MAYOR, AND COUNCILMEMBERS

- Mayor Weise noted Billy Moore Days were held this weekend.
- Councilmember Conde spoke about the Kwanis Club of Litchfield Installation ceremony where the Avondale Interfaith partnership which is Co-Chaired by Councilmembers Conde and Nielson was recognized as the Community Partner of the Year.
- Councilmember Nielson spoke about the proclamation Mayor Weise read on Friday at the Mercy House and the wonderful opportunity it was to attend the Gala. The Mercy House has been a blessing to so many in the Avondale and Cashion area.
- Councilmember White spoke about her opportunity to participate in the Leadership West.
- Councilmember Malone spoke about attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new detention center. She inquired if photos would be posted or available for those who attended to post on their individual social media accounts. Mr. Corbin

noted a press release was done today, and the Police Department and City Marketing posted pictures.

- Vice-Mayor Pineda spoke about Justice Pep Guzman along with several elected leaders' celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month for October 10th. Mercy will also be honored that evening along with Martina with Cashion has Heart for everything they have done for the community. Mayor Weise noted Mercy was also Grand Marshall at the Billy Moore Days.
- Mayor Weise spoke about reading a book on volunteerism to 3–5-year-old children at the Preschool in Garden Lakes at the Church. Police and Fire received the biggest applause followed by teachers. He also noted that Sherry did the research and wrote the proclamation for the Mercy House, which was a great surprise.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Corbin noted this is Mayor Weise's last meeting and a celebration would be held in December. Mayor Weise was presented with a coin from Mr. Corbin, Chief Rooney, Chief Espinoza and members of the Avondale Police Department.

Mayor Weise presented incoming Mayor Pineda with a gavel and base, noting he hopes this starts a tradition.

Mayor Weise began his comments noting this is not a goodbye. A lot has been accomplished over the last 18 years. He reminisced about when he was appointed to the Council in February 2006 and when he decided to put his name in for Mayor. Reading to the children at the church and hearing about the homeless update brings about all the good things we do. The Billy Moore Days were incredible, the number of people that showed up and the dedication of employees who were there before sunrise and after the sun went down was amazing. I have met some incredible, talented, and dedicated people, some I hope will be lifelong friends.

I want to tell you how I feel about my Council, they are by far the best council I have ever worked with. I see people who are dedicated to residents of Avondale who do this job because you are truly public servants.

- Veronica, your passion and fight inspires me, you fought from the first day on Council and continue to fight until the very last day for this community and I admire that greatly and wanted you to know.
- Tina and Curtis, you truly are servants through your love and compassion for this community and everyone else you run into.
- Max, your drive and determination will serve you well. Your vision for what you want to accomplish and for this community goes beyond these chambers, don't be afraid of that challenge.
- Gloria, I have known you the longest, your thoughtfulness and willingness to volunteer and learn is amazing.

- Mike, it is your leadership and coalition building for the city, and the many relationships, keep them strong while you are Mayor.

Maintain your strength of working together, don't let anything divide you or push you apart. Never bring up things that will divide you, focus on local things and don't worry what happens federally, things that you can't control, and be professionals in everything you do. Serve those who didn't vote for you, don't look like you, don't sound like you, have the same backgrounds, religious, political, or societal views. Once you take an oath you serve every resident of Avondale. You have residents who believe in you and put their trust in you, don't take that for granted. To all of you my letter to you said it all but let me just say that may God bless all of you, may God bless this city, and may God bless this country we are so lucky to live here.

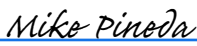
8. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Malone	Aye
Councilmember Nielson	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye
Mayor Weise	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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 7th day of October 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