

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
October 14, 2024

A **Special 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.

Vice Mayor Mike Pineda led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

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

**The Mayor seat was vacant effective October 13, 2024.*

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; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Al Bates; Assistant Police Chief, Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Cheryl Covert, Interim Economic Development Services Director; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; Craig Jennings, Judge; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; 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, Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Dave Wagner; Assistant Fire Chief; Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director; and Keith Fallstrom, Finance and Budget Assistant Director; Lisa Maxie-Mullins, Deputy City Attorney.

Audience: Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. MAYOR VACANCY PROCESS

City Council: a) received a presentation from staff regarding the process to fill the vacancy in the office of mayor; and b) discussed and appointed a candidate to fill the mayoral vacancy.

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk, provided a brief presentation on the mayor vacancy process pursuant to City Charter. Mayor Weise departed on October 13, 2024, which requires the mayor seat to be filled by November 14, 2024. Ms. Sarmiento reviewed past practices for 2014, 2017, and 2021. Avondale recently held a candidate election on July 30, 2024, where individuals were voted into office, and will be sworn-in in

January 2025. This includes Mike Pineda as Mayor, Jeanette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, and Shari Weise as Councilmembers. The City Council has three options with respect to the Mayor's vacant seat. They may: a) appoint a current City Council member tonight as Mayor who would resign their current seat, b) direct staff to follow the previous vacancy process, or c) direct staff to follow a new vacancy process.

Vice Mayor Pineda opened public comments.

Levi Willow addressed the City Council and spoke about his concern with the number of apartments built and continuing to be built and possible overcrowding in Avondale. He inquired if previous City Manager, Charles Montoya, was influential on the vast number of apartments that have been installed within the City.

Vice Mayor Pineda closed public comments.

Councilmember White spoke about her experience during the previous election and noted candidates were being marginalized at the polls. She stated the appointment process was being influenced by a Councilmember Elect. She read Councilmember Elect Jeannette Garcia's twitter post and shared her feelings towards the post. Councilmember White recommended was City Council take a break and make their own uninfluenced decision at the next meeting. She expressed gratitude towards voters who elected her to serve with honor. Councilmember White moved to explore options with respect to the mayor vacancy process. Councilmember White's motion failed for a lack of a second.

Councilmember Nielson stated it was unnecessary for staff to go through the process of finding another Mayor to serve for 2-2 ½ months. He motioned to appoint Mike Pineda as Mayor to fill in until the begins his service in January.

Councilmember Solorio agreed with Councilmember Nielson and seconded his motion.

Councilmember Malone noted Vice Mayor Pineda won the election on July 30th and he should take the seat tonight and be sworn in as the next mayor.

Councilmember Conde noted it would be fitting to appoint Vice Mayor Pineda as Mayor to keep momentum going so important decisions can be made.

Councilmember Nielson moved to appoint Mike Pineda as Mayor; Councilmember Solorio seconded the motion.

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

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Malone	Aye
Councilmember Nielson	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye

Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Pineda	Aye

3. INSTALLATION OF MAYOR

The City Clerk swore in Mike Pineda as the newly appointed Mayor. This item was for discussion only.

4. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEMBER

City Council a) received a presentation from staff regarding the process to fill the vacancy in Council; and b) discussed and appointed a candidate to fill the council-member vacancy.

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk, noted the Councilmember vacancy process mirrors that of the Mayor vacancy process. The seat of the councilmember must be filled by November 15, 2024.

Councilmember Malone noted appreciation and understanding for Councilmember White's comments. She motioned to appoint Jeanette Garcia as the next Councilmember. This will provide her with an opportunity to work with the council and help move the city forward.

Councilmember Conde thanked Councilmember White for being transparent and sharing heartfelt comments. It is important for the next council member to understand how council operates and works together for the betterment of the community.

Councilmember White believes this is the best way to remedy the situation and make sure the council continues the forward momentum.

Councilmember Nielson noted invite a new member, move forward, and continue to do our best for the residents in Avondale.

Councilmember Solorio discussed how everyone has their opinion and differences but in the end they all work well together for the residents of Avondale.

Councilmember Malone moved to appoint Jeannette Garcia as Councilmember; Councilmember White seconded the motion.

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

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

5. INSTALLATION OF COUNCILMEMBER

The City Clerk swore in Jeannette Garcia as the newly appointed Councilmember. This item was for discussion only.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

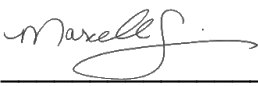
Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Malone	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Nielson	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.


Mike Pineda (Nov 4, 2024 21:02 MST)
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 14th 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

November 4, 2024
Date Approved by City Council