

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
March 25, 2025

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.

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

Members Present: Mayor Mike Pineda; Vice Mayor Curties Nielson; Councilmembers Tina Conde, Jeannette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, Shari Weise, 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; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Craig Jennings, Judge; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; and Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director.

Audience: Approximately 15 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember White moved to adjourn the Special Meeting and hold an Executive Session pursuant to (i) Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38-431.03 (A)(3), discussion with the City Attorney for legal advice on the authority of City Council over the conduct of its members. (ii) Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38--431.03(A)(1), discussion or consideration of disciplining Councilmember Garcia. Councilmember Solorio seconded the motion.

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

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

City Council adjourned the Special Meeting at 5:34 p.m.

City Council reconvened the Special Meeting at 7:13 p.m.

3. DISCUSSION OF COUNCILMEMBER GARCIA'S CONDUCT

Discussion of Councilmember Garcia's conduct pursuant to the Avondale City Charter and the City Council Code of Conduct.

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Pineda read the following statement into the record:

"The Avondale City Council met in executive session for the purpose of discussion regarding discipline of one of our Councilmembers under the City Council code of conduct. The Council code of conduct serves as a guideline for our conduct as elected officials. In addition to the Council code of conduct, we are also bound by our City Charter which does not provide an avenue for the Council to remove another Councilmember from their seat. The Avondale City Charter makes it clear that the voters of Avondale are the ones who elect us into office, and that is the voters of Avondale who will determine whether or not we should represent them.

Please understand that under state law, we are not permitted to disclose what was discussed in executive session. The Council are also not permitted to take any action in executive session. There is also no action item on the agenda this evening, and therefore, Council will not be voting to take action tonight. I do want to take the opportunity to say a few words though about the matter.

One of the things that the Avondale City Council prides itself on is the ability to put our personal, political, or ideological differences aside and work together to make lives better for the residents of Avondale. That has been the case during the past eight years that I was on the City Council and as Mayor, that is my hope for the Council moving forward. I have no doubt in my mind that each member of the City Council loves their community and is passionate about the roles that they were elected to.

Some of us have been on the Council for much longer than others, having already served two terms. As a councilmember, what I have learned is that it's difficult to separate our roles as private citizens and elected officials. In the eyes of the community, we are always Mayor or Councilmember. Just like anyone else, I have the right to free speech as a private citizen, yet what I may say in public or on personal social media, as private citizens, can very well be seen as the words of the City of Avondale.

The Avondale code of conduct states that the professional and personal conduct of members must be above reproach and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. Members shall refrain from abusive conduct, harassment, personal charges, or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members. Councils, boards, commissions, the staff, and the public members shall demonstrate civility and respect at all times. This remains true in both public and private encounters as members should be aware that the public nature of the office they hold means they are always on display. The Council had a full and frank discussion regarding the code of conduct with Councilmember Garcia and this matter will be scheduled for a further discussion and action at a future Council Meeting. In Closing, I would like to thank my fellow Councilmembers for their service and for honoring the privilege of serving the residents of Avondale."

4. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.


Mike Pineda (Apr 29, 2025 10:29 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 25th day of March 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.



Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

April 21, 2025

Date Approved by City Council