

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
April 21, 2025

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

Members Present: Mayor Mike Pineda; Vice Mayor Curtis Nielson; Councilmembers Tina Conde, Jeannette Garcia, Gloria Solorio, Shari Weise, and Max White*.

**Councilmember White attended the meeting virtually.*

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; Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Kirk Beaty, Public Works Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Memo Espinoza, Police Chief; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; Ted Flores, Human Resources Assistant Director; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Mary Grace McNear, Attorney II; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Mark Neerings, Assistant Chief Information Officer; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Jennifer Stein, Economic Development 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 introduced to City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Human Resources

- Leilani Anderson, Benefits Analyst

Police Department

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Marco Espino, Police Officer | • Tyler Uitto, Police Officer |
| • Raul Alcalá, Police Officer | • John Horton, Police Officer |
| • Jonathan Brainard, Police Officer | • John Munoz, Police Officer |
| • Joseph Del Pozzo, Police Officer | • Uriel Ramirez, Police Officer |
| • Dante Herron, Police Officer | • Edmond Siladji, Police Officer |

b. PROCLAMATION – COMMITMENT TO VOLUNTEERISM

City Council presented a proclamation recognizing the month of April as National Volunteer Month in the City of Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

City Council presented a proclamation recognizing the month of May 2025 as Building Safety Month in the City of Avondale. This item was for discussion only.

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

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

- Micah McCalla - Agua Fria Union High School District
- Jazlynn Perez - Avondale Elementary School District
- Scott Brown - Litchfield Elementary School District
- Mario Vega - Littleton Elementary School District
- Izel Parra - Pendergast Elementary School District

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 Pineda 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 Weise, to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

a. MINUTES

City Council approved the March 24, 2025, March 25, 2025, March 31, 2025, and April 7, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

b. QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER

City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for carryover appropriation and approve quarterly budget transfers as summarized in the attached Exhibit A, increase the award authority for the projects, and authorized Finance and Budget Department staff to take the steps necessary to execute the transfers.

c. RESOLUTION 1019-0425 - AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT - COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM (CAP) SERVICES

City Council adopted Resolution 1019-0425, approving Amendment No. 4 of the Intergovernmental Agreement with Maricopa County administered by its Human Services Department for the provision of the Community Action Program services, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. ORDINANCE 2017-0425 – ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY BY QUIET TITLE AND ORDINANCE 2018-0425 - ACQUISITION BY DEDICATION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY AND IN EXCHANGE, CONVEYING A PORTION OF CITY PROPERTY TO A PRIVATE OWNER

City Council adopted Ordinance 2017-0425, authorizing the acquisition of real property by quiet title action, and Ordinance 2018-0425, authorizing the acquisition by purchase, condemnation or dedication of real property for public right-of-way and in exchange, conveying a portion of City property to a private owner and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. ORDINANCE 2019-0425 - AMENDMENT OF CITY CODE CHAPTER 19 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE VI SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

City Council adopted Ordinance 2019-0425, amending Avondale City Code Chapter 19 Planning and Development, Article VI Subdivision Regulations and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. FINAL PLAT FOR STACK AVONDALE - PL-24-0053

City Council a) approved Application PL-24-0053, a request from Jake Torpey, PE, of Kimley-Horn, on behalf of John Thatcher of Stack Infrastructure, for approval of Final Plat for Stack Avondale located at the southeast corner of Lower Buckeye Road and Litchfield Road, and b) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. FISCAL YEAR 2026 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 Fiscal Year 2025-2026. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Edith Baltierrez, Assistant Director of Neighborhood and Family Services, presented the background and history of the Contributions Assistance Program. The Contributions Assistance Program allocates funding to eligible non-profit agencies with 501(c)(3) status that provide health and human services to Avondale residents. Funding for fiscal year 2026 of \$200,000 is included in the proposed Departmental Budget. In fiscal year 2025, 32 agencies were funded, providing a wide range of services. The agencies that were funded in fiscal year 2025 were presented.

The eligibility criteria included the following:

1. Provision of direct services, which improve the health and welfare of Avondale residents.
2. Priority will be given to services and initiatives that support and address City Council goals.
3. Services provided at the Arizona Complete Health Avondale Resource Center will be given priority.
4. Priority will be given to special projects. However, requests for operating support toward direct and measurable services will be considered.
5. Required to submit current, timely and accurate reports.
6. Organizations that are funded will also participate in quarterly reporting and demonstrate satisfactory progress towards stated goals and objectives.
7. Ability to generate revenue from other sources.
8. All awards must meet or exceed the minimum funding amount requested by the organization. This minimum is set to ensure sufficient resources are available to successfully execute the proposed project.

The Council Subcommittee includes Vice Mayor Nielson, Councilmember Conde, and Councilmember Garcia. In preparation for fiscal year 2026, the department offered two complimentary grant writing workshops that were facilitated by Jeremiah Smith, founder of Everyone, Inc. A total of 25 organizations participated with 31 attendees present and 11 new organizations hoping to form partnerships with Avondale. The process and tentative timeline were reviewed.

Councilmember White expresses her gratitude to staff and extended her gratitude to the City Manager's office for their continued efforts in ensuring that the \$200,000 funding remains available to support the community.

Councilmember Conde expressed excitement regarding the new non-profit organizations and noted the \$200,000 goes a long way. In closing, she thanked City Council for their ongoing support.

Vice Mayor Nielson echoed Councilmember Conde's remarks and expressed his appreciation for the program. He noted the significant improvements in the process, making it easier for individuals to navigate.

Mayor Pineda expresses his gratitude for the support of the Neighborhood and Family Services Department in assisting the non-profit groups with the application process. He acknowledged the new non-profits might now be familiar with the process, and he is pleased that the department is providing guidance and support.

b. UPDATE ON PARK DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Parks, Recreation, and Libraries staff presented an update on park development and improvement projects. This item was for discussion only.

Corey Larriva, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Libraries provided an update on the following park development projects.

- Civic Center Park
- Dog Park Improvements at Friendship Park
- Pickleball Courts at Friendship Park
- Dessie Lorenz Park Improvements
- Western Avenue Plaza
- Donatela Neighborhood Park

Councilmember White expressed her appreciation to the Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Department for the amenities being offered to the community and shared her enthusiasm about the dog park improvements. Regarding Civic Center Park, she inquired whether mileage markers would be included to help users track their walking distances. Mr. Larriva noted the team would explore implementing that feature and noted that the park will include multiple walking trails.

Councilmember Weise was excited about the inclusive park features and asked about parking at Dessie Lorenz Park. Mr. Larriva confirmed there will be parking and accommodation for buses. Councilmember Weise also raised concerns about construction noise near residential areas. Mr. Larriva acknowledged the concerns and assured Councilmember Weise that they are being mindful of the disruption to the neighboring communities.

Councilmember Conde encouraged the inclusion of dog waste stations and praised the creative seating planned for Civic Center Park. She suggested involving local artists for public art installations and incorporating classic playground games like hopscotch and four square. She also requested additional parking due to new pickleball courts. Mr. Larriva noted that the current Call for Artist is open and the City prioritizes community-engaged creators.

Councilmember Garcia thanked staff for their ongoing work, noting the City's parks attract visitors from outside the area. She echoed the idea of bringing traditional activities to the parks and raised concern about the benches near Western and Dysart, stating her hope that the city can find a way to ensure they are being used appropriately.

Vice Mayor Nielson shared his excitement for the Avi flower feature at Dessie Lorenz Park and proposed adding a sundial. Vice Mayor Nielson also proposed involving multiple artists in the public art projects, with each artist creating a piece that represents a different era in the City's history.

Councilmember Solorio commended the high quality and thoughtful planning of the parks, adding that it's encouraging to see how well they are utilized by the public.

Mayor Pineda expressed excitement about the future of WinterFest at the completed Civic Center Park. Mayor Pineda expressed appreciation for the consideration being given to fencing around playground equipment to ensure safety. He also shared a vision of the City becoming a go-to destination for photography, stating that based on the renderings, the proposed park on Western has the potential to become that kind of backdrop.

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

Councilmember Solorio attended the Two Lights for Tomorrow event hosted by the Arizona Secretary of State.

Councilmember Conde provided accolades to the Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Department for the KidFest and Movie Night at Donnie Hale Park events.

Councilmember Garcia provided accolades to staff for the successful State of the City event. Additionally, she provided accolades to Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Department staff for a successful Eggstravaganza event at Donnie Hale Park.

Mayor Pineda echoed the comments from Councilmembers and noted his attendance at the Cashion Kickball event hosted by Cashion Has Heart.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Garcia moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; 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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Mike Pineda

Mike Pineda (May 6, 2025 14:22 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 21st day of April 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Marcella Sarmiento

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

May 5, 2025

Date Approved by City Council