

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
May 19, 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, and Max White*.

**Councilmember White attended the meeting virtually.*

Members Absent: Councilmember Shari Weise.

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; Chris Pierson, City Clerk Specialist; Liz Barker Alvarez, Intergovernmental Affairs Administrator; Harold Siguenza, Public Works Assistant Director; Eric Bay, Public Works Assistant Director; Barbara Coppage, City Auditor; Joel Evans, Facilities Director; 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; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Cheryl Cover, Economic Development Assistant Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 25 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 introduced to City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Court

- Gregory Leppert, Court Clerk I
- Joanna Millan-Romero, Court Clerk I

Development Services Department

- Kari Sroufe, Building Permit Tech. II
- Monika Smriti, Senior Planner

Fire & Medical Department

Parks, Recreation, & Libraries Department

- Desirae Gonzalez, Recreation Programmer
- Marissa Dailey, Arts, Culture, & Lib. Mgr.
- Angelica Acero, Recreation Programmer
- Blake Comella, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
- Mariana Manzanarez, Administrative Assistant
- Dani Cornejo, Promotion to Librarian II

Public Works Department

(Newly Certified Paramedics)

- Justin Conn, Firefighter
- Jordan Utti, Firefighter
- Oscar Lopez Coronel, Firefighter
- Brock Jacobo, Firefighter
- Anthony Johnson, Street Maintenance Worker II
- Flavio Alfaro, SCADA Technician
- Ryan Willard, Wastewater Collections Operator
- Douglas Pena, Solid Waste Equipment Operator

b. INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF ARIZONA - PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (PEPP) LARGE CITY EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARD FOR CITY OF AVONDALE

City Council received an update from staff on the 2025 Industrial Commission of Arizona awards, recognizing Avondale for their industry-leading practices dedicated to workplace safety. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

City Council presented a proclamation recognizing May 18 through May 24, 2025, as National Public Works Week. This item was for discussion only.

d. CITIZEN’S WATER ACADEMY RECOGNITION

The 2025 Avondale Citizen’s Water Academy graduates will be recognized for completion of the program. This item was for discussion only.

e. READ BETTER BE BETTER - PATHWAY TO CIVIC LEADERSHIP

City Council received a presentation from Read Better Be Better along with high school students of the Pathway to Civic Leadership program. This item was for discussion only.

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. Councilmember Conde requested item 4f be pulled from the consent agenda to be considered separately. Motion was made by Councilmember Conde, seconded by Vice Mayor Nielson, to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item 4f.

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

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

a. ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN ADOPTION

City Council adopted the Annual Audit Plan and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

b. RE-APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES PRO TEMPORE

City Council (a) appointed the Honorable Manuel Delgado and the Honorable Maria Brewer as a judge pro tempore for a two-year term to expire on June 1, 2027; (b) re-appointed the four existing judges pro tempore to two-year terms expiring on June 1, 2027; and (c) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND PAYMENT FOR THE CLAIM OF KEITHA TUCKER AND ANTOINE HOPE ON BEHALF OF THE ESTATE OF AMARION HOPE

City Council approved the settlement agreement with Keitha Tucker and Antoine Hope for the Estate of Amarion Hope (collectively, the "Plaintiffs") in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1024-0525 - SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT BIOMASS POWER PRODUCTION COST-SHARE AGREEMENT

City Council approved Resolution 1024-0525, authorizing entry into the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District Biomass Power Production cost-share agreement, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1025-0525 - GRANT ACCEPTANCE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL INITIATIVE GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

City Council adopted Resolution 1025-0525 authorizing the City of Avondale's acceptance of grant funding through the National Park and Recreation Association in the amount of \$60,000 to the City of Avondale Parks, Recreation and Libraries over the period July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2027, and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 1026-0525 - AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT - EXPANSION OF HOMELESS SERVICES

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

g. RESOLUTION 1027-0525 AND RESOLUTION 1028-0525 – MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 44 FOR ENTRADA PHASE 3

City Council (a) approved the Petition for Formation; (b) adopted Resolution 1027-0519 declaring its intention to form the City of Avondale Maintenance Improvement

District No. 44, Entrada Phase 3, providing for the assessment; (c) adopted Resolution 1028-0519, declaring its intention to order the improvements within the newly established maintenance improvement district, providing for the assessment and declaring an emergency; and (d) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

h. ORDINANCE 2021-0519 – ACCEPTANCE OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT FROM D.R. HORTON, INC.

City Council adopted Ordinance 2021-0519, authorizing the acceptance of a Public Utility Easement from D.R. Horton, Inc., and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

i. MINUTES

City Council approved the May 5, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

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

f. RESOLUTION 1026-0525 - AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT - EXPANSION OF HOMELESS SERVICES

City Council considered a request to adopt Resolution 1026-0525, approving Amendment No. 2 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Maricopa County Human Services Department for a grant in the amount of \$262,500 for the expansion of homeless services in Avondale and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Chris Lopez, Director of the Neighborhood & Family Services Department, provided background and context regarding the recent changes to the I-HELP program. Lutheran Social Services (LSS) notified all funders and partners that it would discontinue all I-HELP services valley-wide, effective April 1, 2025, due to significant disruptions in funding streams.

Following LSS's announcement, the City's Homeless Services Division and SONAR collaborated with LSS to find alternative shelter options for the individuals affected. As a result, eight of the twelve individuals enrolled in the program were successfully placed in alternative shelters, while four individuals chose to remain with I-HELP.

After LSS discontinued operations, the I-HELP program was operated independently by local churches; however, the program was eventually paused due to a decrease in participating church partners and a need to generate funding to sustain services.

Throughout this transition, the department continued to help by shadowing the process, offering support, and providing recommendations as needed. Mr. Lopez emphasized that while the I-HELP program had been a valuable resource in the community, the department has access to a broad network of partners and resources to address homelessness and family support.

As part of the response to the transition, the residual funding that was initially designated for I-HELP will now be reallocated to A New Leaf through a second amendment. A New Leaf is a trusted partner that provides essential services such as support for family stability, case management, and other resources to ensure families remain sheltered. Mr. Lopez stated that the tentative restart date for the I-HELP program is September 1, 2025.

Mr. Lopez also provided an update on the City's heat relief efforts. Beginning May 31, 2025, the Avondale Police Department will launch a non-emergency phone line to assist residents in need of heat relief or transportation to local cooling centers. Currently, The Salvation Army continues to operate as a designated heat relief site, and Avondale Baptist Church is in the process of being onboarded as an additional site. The total number of heat relief locations in the community will be three. Mr. Lopez reminded the Council that the department continues to offer other vital support services, including the Community Action Program, Crisis Assistance Funding, and the Portable A/C Loan Program.

Mayor Pineda shared a recent experience in which a resident contacted him during a crisis regarding a water bill and the potential shutoff of water service, and the Neighborhood and Family Services Department assisted the resident. Mayor Pineda expressed appreciation to Mr. Lopez, the department staff, and all provider partners.

Councilmember Conde spoke about the importance of relaunching the I-HELP program and emphasized the need for additional church partners to support its operations. She encouraged anyone with a church who is interested in participating to contact Pastor Jack at Avondale Baptist Church. Councilmember Conde also expressed her gratitude for the City's proactive heat relief efforts, particularly as the summer season approaches.

Councilmember Solorio moved to adopt Resolution 1026-0525, approving Amendment No. 2 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Maricopa County Human Services Department for a grant in the amount of \$262,500 for the expansion of homeless services in Avondale and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents; Vice Mayor Nielson seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously 5 to 1.

Councilmember Conde	Aye
Councilmember Garcia	No
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

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

Councilmember Garcia attended the Colados & Conversations meeting with the Police and Fire & Medical Departments, which was an event held during National Police Week. Additionally, she attended the Mother's Day Event held at the Avondale Resource Center which was an event hosted by the Senior Services Division.

Mayor Pineda congratulated the owners of Paloma Mexican Street Food who were recognized by the West Valley Regional Chamber. Additionally, he thanked staff for the recent driving tour opportunity, highlighting future projects and areas in need.

Councilmember White thanked staff for supporting her participation in Leadership West. She noted she attended the grand re-opening of Silver Birch with Councilmembers Garcia and Conde. Lastly, she noted she attended the City of Goodyear's groundbreaking ceremony for the future Buc-ee's travel center as well as the City of Goodyear's ribbon cutting ceremony for Dave's Hot Chicken.

6. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


Mike Pineda (Jun 5, 2025 09:03 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 19th day of May 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.


Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

June 2, 2025
Date Approved by City Council