

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
November 03, 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 5:31 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.

Members Absent: None.

*Councilmember Tina Conde attended the meeting virtually.

Other Municipal Officials Present: Ron Corbin, City Manager; Tracy Stevens, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Deputy City Manager; Nicholle Harris, City Attorney; 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; 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; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Pier Simeri, Marketing and Public Relations Director; Jennifer Stein, Economic Development 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. 2025 CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Avondale Police Department presented the following 2025 Citizen Police Academy graduates to the City Council. This item was for discussion only.

Alyssa Maria Mullins
Amanda Duncan-Billiman
Brenda Gonzalez Lopez
Crystal Gonzalez Lopez
Dan Schuh
Dolores Pujol
Glenda Chagolla
Guadalupe Garcia
Ivette Hernandez Ibarra

Jacquelyn Barreto Nunez
Joshua Roy Coghill
Kristopher Davey
Marvin Counts
Matthew Richard Cannon
Tresha Michele Burns
Von Ryan Burns
Xiomay Perez Romero

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 to be 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 White, seconded by Vice Mayor Nielson, 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 October 6, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

b. SERIES 12 (RESTAURANT) LIQUOR LICENSE - AZ PIZZA CO AVONDALE

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 Brandi Elaine Mostofo for the sale of alcohol at AZ Pizza Co Avondale located at 9915 West McDowell Road #107 in Avondale and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. SERIES 12 (RESTAURANT) LIQUOR LICENSE - OX KOREAN 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 Guohui Chen for the sale of alcohol at OX Korean BBQ located at 10105 West McDowell Road #101 in Avondale and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1066-1125 - EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)

City Council a) adopted Resolution 1066-1125, approving the updated Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the City of Avondale; b) authorized the Emergency Management Team to make changes when necessary and appropriate; and c) authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1067-1125 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH MARICOPA COUNTY AND THE CITY OF AVONDALE FOR THE CONNECTED VEHICLE ACCELERATION ZONE

City Council adopted Resolution 1067-1125, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Maricopa County to provide in-kind services valued up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in support of the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Saving Lives with Connectivity: Accelerating Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Deployment Program and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents. The purpose of the IGA is to advance roadway safety and innovation through connected vehicle technology by fostering collaboration between the City of Avondale and Maricopa County.

f. ORDINANCE 2037-1125 - AUTHORIZATION FOR REAL ESTATE PURCHASES OF TWO PARCELS FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

City Council adopted Ordinance 2037-1125, authorizing the acquisition of a portion of real properties for water system use as a water treatment site and authorizing the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. ORDINANCE 2038-1125 - ABANDONMENT OF 127TH AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY

City Council adopted Ordinance 2038-1125, authorizing the abandonment of 127th Avenue right-of-way generally located north of Alamar Boulevard and west of El Mirage Road and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. AGUA FRIA PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AESTHETIC AND PROPOSED COST

City Council received an update from staff regarding the design of the proposed Agua Fria Pedestrian Bridge. This item was for discussion and feedback only.

Kim Moon, Engineering Director, delivered an overview of the Aqua Fria Multi-use Path Trail Pedestrian Bicycle Bridge Project, including an analysis of various design alternatives and associated cost factors. Upon completion of the presentation, City Council is requested to offer input and guidance on the selection of the final design.

This dedicated pedestrian and cyclist bridge is a vital link in the City's multi-use path system along the Agua Fria Trail. It connects the existing trail north of I-10 to the southwestern edge of Friendship Park, spanning ADOT's I-10 drainage channel. Currently, pedestrians and cyclists must navigate busy arterial roads—McDowell Road, Dysart Road, and Avondale Boulevard—posing safety concerns and limiting accessibility.

The new bridge provides a secure, vehicle-free crossing that enhances connectivity, reduces traffic conflicts, and encourages active transportation. Construction features

include an elevated structure with lighting, optional artistic elements, and provisions for communication conduit integration if needed.

The evaluation focused on three primary materials: weathered steel, wood, and concrete. Ms. Moon provided a detailed overview of each material in terms of span length, maintenance requirements, costs, and performance within the local environmental context. Upon review, weathered steel was identified as the most economical and durable solution based on overall cost, performance metrics, and maintenance demands.

Compliance with County and ADOT regulations including limits on allowable disturbance within the channel dictates that the minimum permitted bridge height is 13 feet 6 inches. The planned bridge alignment will connect directly to existing sidewalks rather than the levee, which primarily functions as flood protection for the park area. This configuration will facilitate a safe and efficient linkage for users. The preliminary design shows north and south ramp connections on either side of the proposed bridge. The south side will connect to existing multi-use path previously built under I-10.

There are three types of weathered steel bridge designs: H Truss, Tied Arch, and Bowstring. While all three options offer strong structural performance, key distinctions lie in their visual appearance, fabrication complexity, and overall cost. Each design presents a distinct aesthetic aligned with its respective budget implications. Ms. Moon delivered a comprehensive overview of each option, providing detailed budget projections and illustrative graphics.

A grade crossing is considered as an alternative to a bridge for the Aqua Fria Trail until a future bridge installation. Previous funding can be used, and a design concept exists. ADOT and Maricopa County Flood Control require further review. This option offers a concrete, ADA-accessible path without standard amenities, lighting, or furnishings. It will need a gate for flood events and regular maintenance for sediment removal and repairs. While the project budget is low, ongoing maintenance costs are higher than other trail sections.

Ms. Moon reported that \$456,000 is set aside for bridge design, while the \$6.5 million construction estimate is still unfunded. Up to \$8 million in bond funding is proposed for construction. Final design and permitting will proceed once funding is secured.

Mayor and councilmembers were given an opportunity to comment and/or ask questions.

- Councilmember Solorio expressed her preference for the H Truss design, citing its cost-effectiveness and low maintenance, while also noting an appreciation for the Tied Arch option due to its height and visual appeal.
- Councilmember Weise commented that while \$2 million is preferable to \$7 million, she supports the H Truss primarily because it is the most affordable choice, offers

lighting and safety, and will be used regularly—unlike other options that lack lighting and require ongoing upkeep.

- Vice Mayor Nielson asked about the expected lifespan of weathered steel. Ms. Moon responded that with proper rust protection, it is very durable and offered to provide further details if needed.
- He also inquired about the number of people likely to use the bridge daily. Mr. Corbin explained that the bridge aims to connect parks as prioritized by the Council, specifically linking Festival Fields to Friendship Park, expecting increased usage after completion. Mr. Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director, added that currently 50–60 individuals use the trail network each week, and once connected, the area could host races or regional events, potentially attract visitors and boost the local economy.
- Vice Mayor Nielson shared his preference for the Tied Arch because of its aesthetic flow.
- Councilmember Conde stated she opposes the grade crossing due to water and maintenance issues, favoring the H Truss with the Tied Arch as her second choice.
- Councilmember White referenced insights from the Portland Oregon Impact Transit Conference, especially the cable design of the Intransit Bridge Tilikum Crossing. She prefers the Tied Arch and suggests incorporating dynamic lighting like that on Tilikum Crossing.
- Mayor Pineda indicated he is comfortable with an at-grade crossing, since it's less expensive; he mentioned that if a bond passes, a bridge could be built later but anticipated additional budget discussions.
- Councilmember Garcia added that she does not support spending \$8 million on a bridge and considers an at-grade crossing sufficient.

b. SPEED SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

City Council considered a request to terminate the Professional Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. DBA Verra Mobility, terminating the Police Department's Speed Safety Camera Program effective June 30, 2026, and authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Police Chief Memo Espinoza introduced Police Lieutenant Justin Iwen, who presented data evaluating the effectiveness of the Speed Safety Camera (SSC) Program, as previously requested by City Council. Lieutenant Iwen outlined both program outcomes and the department's recommendations.

The SSC Program's primary objective was to reduce incidents of speeding and promote safer driving behavior within the City of Avondale. An initial presentation on the program was delivered to City Council on September 8, 2025. Two speed safety cameras were installed in covert units to collect accident and speed data during pre-deployment, active deployment, and post-deployment periods. Evaluation took place

at three locations: Van Buren Street, 107th Avenue/Dysart Road, and Avondale Boulevard, spanning from August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Data collection focused on citation counts, distinguishing between residents and non-residents. On Dysart Road, where the posted speed limit is 45 mph and citations are issued to drivers exceeding the limit by 11 mph or more, the average recorded speed was 59 mph. During the study period, 12,127 citations were issued at this location—2,174 to residents and 9,953 to non-residents. Citywide from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, a total of 1,240,979 citations and warnings were issued, averaging 185 per month.

The program's annual expenses average \$209,482. Staff includes two full-time employees, and with approval two additional positions will be filled, resulting in a proposed total personnel cost of \$352,000. The FY2026 budget impact is projected at \$561,482, excluding costs associated with outsourcing overflow work. Revenue generated totals \$743,665.19, including \$391,000 from court collections, \$40,000 in court enhancement fees, \$287,000 from defensive driving school diversion fees, and an additional \$25,000 in court enhancement fees.

To further enhance speed safety, the Avondale Police Department recommends prioritizing the recruitment of eight traffic officers for increased visibility and strategic enforcement. The department also advocates utilizing speed trailers and covert boxes for targeted data collection and strategic traffic enforcement, increasing lidar and radar units that allow response to saturation areas, and recognizing not every traffic stop results in a citation and the value of officer-resident interactions.

Additional strategies include launching a citywide Speed Safety Campaign through videos, social media, and message boards using slogans that emphasize speeding is not permitted in Avondale; collaborating with local partners to deliver unified messaging to residents; conducting additional West Valley Speed Enforcement Task Force operations; collaborating with engineering to implement roadway designs that naturally calm traffic using Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant resources; and continuing to leverage intersection traffic cameras and the Flock camera system for enhanced enforcement and driver accountability.

Based on program data, cost analyses, and staffing evaluations, the Police Department recommends terminating the contract with Verra Mobility and removing the Speed Safety Cameras as of December 31, 2025, with full program cancellation effective June 30, 2026. This six-month transition will allow existing citation queues to be resolved. The estimated cost of program termination is \$107,000.

Mayor and councilmembers were given an opportunity to comment and/or ask questions.

- Councilmember Weise stated based on the inability to move the cameras and the decrease on Dysart Road was unsustainable indicates the program did not do what we wanted it to do, and I am in support of your motion.
- Councilmember White spoke about a concern of impact on the City's credit rating if the contract is terminated. Despite the program costs there was a net gain and behaviors were changed. She cautioned stakeholders in making decisions that could contradict the public safety goals, especially when asking voters to support safety related bonds. Expressed enthusiasm for the TraCS and ongoing grant applications, while highlighting partnership with national organizations and federal funding efforts to improve safety in Avondale. She opposes terminating the SCC contract and encourages consideration of long-term implications and public perception, while maintaining credibility and honoring commitments tied to public safety funding.
- Councilmember Garcia stated she was against the SCC program from the beginning and is glad there is a plan to move forward.
- Mayor Pineda commented on the initial reaction of residents who disliked the cameras, but he stood behind them for safety, and these cameras were successful. However, aside from the two cameras that are only capturing two data points on two streets there are other efforts that can be applied to satisfy the commitment to safety. I support the recommendation to add these additional resources including campaigns to reduce and hopefully eliminate speed as a factor in this community.
- Councilmember Conde the goal was to change behavior which appears to have been accomplished temporarily. I feel the new speed safety strategies are more beneficial and a great way to let people know that we are serious
- Councilmember White clarified the statistics for residents and non-residents is five to one, with only eighteen percent of the citations going to Avondale residents. Thank you to our residents for exhibiting safe behaviors.
- Councilmember Solorio stated when it comes to enforcement, we can say it, but we need to do it for our people. About the Safer Streets Grant, a large portion of the 2025 standards are to have counter measures and without the Speed Safety Cameras we may lose the grant.
- Councilmember White recognized the current administration and Secretary Sean Duffy for the Safe Streets for All Grant. Further stating the City should show appreciation by using the funds provided. In addition, clarified the National Transportation Infrastructure Services has a research grant and this is data that should be collected through the contract period.
- Councilmember Weise inquired if terminating the Verra Mobility contract will affect the Safer Streets for All Grant funding. Mr. Corbin advised they have a comprehensive safety plan and believe they will be able to keep the grant.

Councilmember Garcia moved to terminate the Professional Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc. DBA Verra Mobility, terminating the Police Department's Speed Safety Camera Program effective June 30, 2026, 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 5 to 2.

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

c. COUNCIL BUDGET DISCUSSION

City staff presented an update on the City's financials and seek the Council's feedback on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director, explained that tonight's FY 2027 Budget discussion would cover revenue projections, key assumptions made in the planning process, and several major topics. These include updates on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), fiscal outlook, property tax levy and rates, financing strategies, personnel details such as FTE counts, and anticipated compensation adjustments for the coming year. The session will conclude with a review of Council priorities and an invitation for feedback on some underlying assumptions shaping the FY27 budget.

James Milanes, City Projects Administrator, provided an update on CIP initiatives for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027. Since July 1, 2025, several projects have been completed: Fire Station #171 (except for demolishing the old structure), the K-9 Training Facility, Police Communications Bureau Remodel, and Old Town Phase III. Additional projects are slated to finish by December 30, 2025, including Amphitheater Shade Sails, Base & Meridian Restoration, Civic Center Park, enhancements at Friendship Park (such as new pickleball courts and an updated dog park), and pedestrian and café lighting along Western Avenue. Projects set to commence soon and be finished by June 30, 2026, include Bridge Housing for transitional family support, Central and Western Intersection Improvements (timed post-July to minimize school disruption), remodeling Dessie Lorenz Park into a community garden for low-maintenance gardening education, and construction of a new Fire Training Center to replace the fire tower. Looking ahead to FY27, planned completions include Donatela Park, dredging Crystal Gardens Lake, Old Town Phases IV–VI, developing Old Town Plaza, renovating softball fields at Friendship Park, and installing a signal at Thomas Road and 111th Avenue.

As in previous years, the city faces numerous project demands amid limited resources. The City Council's task is to establish clear priorities. The "maintain budget" goal has been dropped from the formal list since it is universally recognized as essential, and both Mr. Corbin and Ms. Weathers are committed to presenting a

balanced budget despite various conflicting needs. Notably, there are more unfunded projects in this cycle than in past years.

When considering unfunded projects, two approaches are discussed: rather than seeking full funding initially, a prudent estimate treats some future costs as unfunded while preliminary studies and designs are funded to provide accurate information for Council decisions. Some projects are conceptually designated as unfunded, especially those that may require financing at uncertain future dates. The preference is to secure financing only when required to avoid premature debt service costs. The Council will address which unfunded projects might advance to funded status and discuss appropriate timing for assuming any related debt.

Mr. Milanes reviewed projects that are unfunded within General Government, Parks, Public Safety, Transportation, and Water / Sewer. In addition, new projects that were not in previous years budgets for the BLVD, General Government, Parks, and Transportation were reviewed. A final review of the priorities included an explanation of how they are being met.

Mayor and councilmembers were given an opportunity to provide feedback on their priorities and the overall presentation.

- Councilmember Weise noted her top priorities as water conservation and expanding the Advocacy Center.
- Councilmember Solorio stated she would give up a bridge for public safety and water conservation.
- Councilmember White stated the top three priorities have not changed for her. She would like to see a canopy at the Mosque or not have them working outside. If public safety becomes the top priority, it must be made a priority. Water conservation needs to be expanded to provide clean water, or it becomes a safety concern. Enhancing the trail system also provides residents with another way to get to work. It is also important to acknowledge the economy is slowing down.
- Councilmember Garcia noted public safety is her top priority, along with clean water, improved streets, and veterans housing as well as the Advocacy Center.
- Vice Mayor Nielson asked for the information to be put into a timeline for the Council to make a better decision, knowing what can wait a year versus what must be done now. Mr. Corin explained the budget will be presented in that format because Council must approve at five-year CIP plan.
- Mayor Pineda noted his priorities are Parks and Rec as well as public safety which are covered by the bond if it passes. The third priority is economic development that requires an investment but also provides revenues.
- Councilmember Conde stated anything that maintains the health and safety of Avondale Residents, such as public safety, veterans housing, the Advocacy Center, and clean water.
- In response to Councilmember Weise's inquiry a staff member advised the substation at Cashion is used regularly.

Mr. Corbin explained the information obtained at this meeting will be used to reconfigure and prioritize the projects once funding is determined. A future presentation will be done in the Spring as actual numbers for 2027 become available. Further, they are working on a plaque on Western Avenue for a former Representative to recognize him for getting us grants.

Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director presented and discussed the financial forecast that includes property tax levy and rate, personnel, and financing options. There are no anticipated changes to the structure of the sales tax or state shared revenue. The anticipated compensation increases for COLA and merit along with the overall three percent inflation was included on the expense side.

Looking at ongoing revenues and expenses, the City has decreasing revenues due to the loss of the Residential Rental Tax and an upcoming revenue reduction in state shared revenues with the incorporation of San Tan Valley. For one-time expenses the assumption is made that all capital projects budgeted in the current year get completed; however, many get carried forward. Reviewing the General Fund balance is above the 35% stabilization and capital reserves. There is \$5 million set aside for capital projects.

A detailed review was provided for what is included in the General Fund Forecast, such as the annual two percent property tax levy increase. As well as what is not included, the Capital contingency if \$5 million is reduced to \$1.5 million in future year forecast. As well as anything that is a onetime supplemental, a new ask, or a new capital project. In FY26, \$5.7 million was expended on onetime supplementals

Sales tax is the largest revenue resource in the City. With the loss of residential rental tax, the top four sales tax categories are retail, auto dealers, restaurants and bars, and contracting. Overall, sales tax has been running at an average of four percent over budget for the first three months. Other projected revenues come from public safety sales tax was voter approved at one half cent and funds ongoing costs including public safety salaries. Dedicated sales tax is also voter approved at one half cent and funds water, sewer, streets, and transportation projects. Highway User Revenue Fund (HERF) has a balance of \$5.8 million.

An overview of the water, sewer, and solid waste projected fund balances was provided. The water forecasted balance meets future reserves includes a \$63 million bond assumption made up of \$18 million PFAS and \$45 million other water projects. There will be a future presentation before Council prior to issuing the revenue bonds for water. The reclamation project was included in the sewer projections and includes an issuance of \$145 million with repayment from impact fees and a portion of the rates. Solid waste is set to maintain the minimum reserve balance.

Property taxes are made up of two parts, the primary property tax and ongoing revenue that goes into the General Fund and used for operational costs. Next is the Secondary Property Tax revenue that goes to repay bond principal and interest of the general obligation bonds approved by the voters.

Ms. Weatherless discussed the allowable two percent increase to the tax levy starting with an overview of what was approved for the FY26 budget. The discussion included an example of how the tax is calculated on a median home with a market price of \$405,000, a net value of \$160,000, resulting in a tax rate of \$1.90 for every \$100 of net assessed valuation. It is important for Council to understand the future impact of not increasing the levy. The compounded impact for five years is \$1.4 million of reduced revenue that is used to cover salaries and operating expenses.

Financing options depending on the election outcomes, include proposition 404 for \$68 million to be used for Parks, Recreation, and libraries. Along with proposition 405 for \$55 million to be used for public safety. There are current CIP projects that were funded on the assumption debt would be issued, these include the water reclamation facility expansion, PFAS, Bartlett Dam, and the remainder of the Alamar Fire Station.

Revenue Opportunities moving forward late fees were implemented for utility bills, which generated over \$100,000 in revenue. There is a proposal for credit card convenience fees to be implemented. There will be no fees for an ACH transaction. Additional revenue options include development services by updating the building code updating valuation tables from the 2012 table currently used. Proposed changes to fees and charges will be brought to Council later in the summer.

From 2023 to 2026 FTE have grown by eight percent, vacancies decreased by four percent which affects vacancy savings, which are funds used to pay unanticipated things. Vacancy savings in FY23 were \$8.3 million to an estimated \$2 million for FY26. The FY26 employee compensation plan as outlined takes effect on June 22, 2026, in addition to the midyear increases approved at the last meeting. There is a pending Fire MOU in negotiations. Based on market trends there is a potential double digit increase in insurance premiums in FY27 which will be included in the draft brought before Council in March.

Ms. Weatherless sought Council's feedback on priorities being economic development, parks and recreation, public safety, connected communities, services, and personnel.

- Mayor Pineda stated he holds firm to these priorities.
- Councilmember White commented on the credit card fees and encouraged charging a fee for ACH transactions as well. In response to Councilmember White's inquiries, Ms. Weatherless clarified the General Fund does not include any bond proceeds; however, if the bond is approved the City will be capable of paying the debt back. The \$3.5 million was from last year and they are projecting \$2 million in vacancy savings for FY26. The \$3.5 million was rolled into the balances within the General Fund forecast and the monies are already spoken for. To cover the midyear salary increases vacancy savings and contingency funds, meaning the \$2 million in projected savings would be utilized.

- Councilmember White stated the best opportunity for Avondale to make money is to encourage people to buy in Avondale.

Ms. Weatherless continued the presentation discussing the property tax rate and levy that includes the two percent increase to revenue. Direction is sought as the FY27 forecast and budget are built. The credit card fees we previously discussed along with the annual fees and charges, and these will be brought back for consideration. The issuance of debt will come back to Council this year, but not too soon that we are paying more interest than needed. The opportunity to purchase land for \$3.5 million using contingency funds bears the question of what to do next, rebuild the contingency fund to \$5 million or move forward with \$1.5 million until the economy improves. Lastly, feedback is requested on assessing the medical insurance premiums.

Mayor and Councilmembers were given an opportunity to provide feedback.

- Councilmember Weise inquired if the number of residents paying their water bill late is new or ongoing. Ms. Weatherless advised it has been ongoing. Councilmember Weise noted she would like to see a free option for people to pay their bill but agrees with the credit card fee. How much vacation time is bought back each year. Ms. Weatherless explained it is an expenditure that is not put in the budget because it typically utilizes vacancy savings. The amount paid out per year ranges from \$300,000 to \$500,000. Councilmember Weise stated she agrees with the tax levy.
- Councilmember Solorio stated she would like to see an electronic transfer option to pay the water bill. She does not want a property tax because we have reached a point where the burden is being put on the people who live here.
- Councilmember Garcia voted no on the property tax, is okay with the late fee, and credit card fees although a free option would be great.
- Councilmember White suggested having someone pay in person become the free option.
- Councilmember Conde stated she is okay with the annual credit card fees and late payments but on the fence with the property tax levy.
- In response to Councilmember Solorio's inquiries, Ms. Weatherless advised they to send out the total amount paid for vacation buy back over the past year. She will look back to when the new water billing system was initiated to determine if late payment issues increased or stayed the same.
- Vice Mayor Nielson suggested coming to an agreement on five of the six priorities and working on the final one to come up with an agreement.
- Mayor Pineda agreed it would make the process easier knowing the team was consistent in five areas and provide an overview of both scenarios for the final priority.
- Ms. Weatherless noted there is an opportunity to come back in March and present a draft budget.
- Mayor Pineda stated he is okay with the credit card fees. Further expounding on the importance of economic development in the generation of sales tax and revenues. He inquired when the data centers will come online. Mr. Corbin believes

it will be late FY2027 before they come online and it will be FY2028 or 2029 before a difference is seen.

- Mayor Pineda commented on the pressures the Council faces and the serious decisions that must be made.

This item was for discussion and feedback only.

d. MID-YEAR PUBLIC SAFETY SALARY ADJUSTMENTS - RECONSIDERATION

Councilmember White moved to reconsider the City Council action from the October 20, 2025, meeting approving item 5.d. Mid-year Public Safety Salary Adjustments; Councilmember Solorio seconded the motion.

Upon vote, the motion failed 3 to 4.

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

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

- ♦ Mayor Pineda spoke of his attendance at the NASCAR Cup Series Championship race at the Phoenix Raceway on November 2, 2025. Along with his attendance at the Hispanic Celebration started by Judge Pep Guzman to recognize outstanding community leaders who promote Hispanic culture in the community.
- ♦ Councilmember White spoke of her attendance at the Impact Conference in Portland, Oregon. Along with her attendance NASCAR Cup Series Championship race at Phoenix Raceway on November 2, 2025. She also had the opportunity to meet Joel Koester, Executive Director, for Visit Phoenix.
- ♦ Councilmember Weise spoke of her attendance at the Dia De Los Muertos Festival in Goodyear.
- ♦ Mayor Pineda thanked those who attended the Halloween Celebration, noting he was unable to attend as he was at the Aqua Fria Union High Schools fundraiser for Hilltop School of the Arts.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Garcia moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting into Executive Session pursuant to Ariz. Rev. Stat.

§ 38-431.03 (A)(3); (A)(4); (A)(7) for discussion with designated representatives of the public body to consider its position and instruct its representatives and for discussion or consultation with the City's Attorney for legal advice and to instruct the City's Attorney regarding negotiations for the lease and sale of real property located in THE BLVD and negotiations for an Economic Development Agreement with WEB Avondale Investments, LLC for a proposed full service Embassy Suites Hotel located in THE BLVD.; Councilmember White 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 8:35 p.m.


[Mike Pineda \(Dec 2, 2025 12:07:56 MST\)](#)
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 3rd day of November 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.


Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

December 01, 2025
Date Approved by City Council