

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
December 01, 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.

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; Julie Knoll, Deputy 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; Julie Knoll; Deputy City Clerk; 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. EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following Engineering Department employee was introduced to City Council. This item was for discussion only.

- Eddie Black, Traffic Control Inspector

b. PROCLAMATION – HOMELESS PERSONS' REMEMBRANCE DAY

City Council presented a proclamation recognizing December 21, 2025 as Homeless Persons Remembrance Day. This item was for discussion only.

c. PROCLAMATION – WORLD AIDS DAY

City Council presented a Proclamation recognizing December 1 as World AIDS Day. This item was for discussion only.

d. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD & COMMISSION MEMBERS

City Council recognized the 2025 outgoing Board & Commission Members who have completed at least one full term (a minimum of three years of service). This item was for discussion only.

- Fabian Prado, Neighborhood and Family Services Commission
- Jan Graham, Municipal Art Committee
- Janet Beason, Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Advisory Board
- Larry White, Planning Commission
- Linda Warren, Risk Management & Worker's Compensation Board
- Stephanie Robinson, Correction Officers Retirement Pension Board
- Stephanie Rodriguez, Parks, Recreation, and Libraries Advisory Board

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Linda Yaeger addressed the Council regarding the recent allegation involving Councilmember Garcia. She understands these are only allegations, but she noted the lawsuit still reflects poorly on the City. She added that the ongoing headlines about the Councilmember are damaging public trust, and that residents deserve leaders who hold themselves to high standards. She asked the City Council to take appropriate action.

Mayor Pineda responded by noting that the matter has come to the City Council's attention; however, he clarified the issue does not fall under the City's Code of Conduct. He explained the matter is a civil matter between the Councilmember and another individual. As such, it will be addressed and litigated through the court system. Because it is not related to the Code of Conduct, the Council cannot take disciplinary action.

The following public comments were received, and names were read into the public record:

- Laura Gonzales: "Hello City Council Members and Staff, my name is Laura Gonzales a resident of old town Avondale for over 45 years and third generation, I'm wanting to know what are the consequences for Council Member Jeannette Garcia for being yet again in the local and national news for her bad actions. Council Member Jeannette Garcia has been an embarrassment to our city it's time for her to resign. The citizens of Avondale have voiced their concerns about Council Member Jeannette Garcia, for her "PEDO" incident, that we don't stand with this kind of behavior, these incidents makes are city look bad it's embarrassing. I have never seen a council member in the news as much as I have seen Council Member Jeannette Garcia. I have had a couple incidents with her one during elections in July 2024 and second she approached me during the Billy Moore Parade 2025, I never had met her in my life and for someone who is trying to get elected to be a council member in July 2024 and you act like that right out the gate was a huge flag. I'm speaking up for my city and community."

- Kat M: "The allegations in the recent lawsuit against Councilmember Jeannette Garcia are deeply disturbing and highly concerning. This is now the second incident in less than a year where she has brought controversy and embarrassment to the city. Not to mention this is yet another distraction from city business. Her repeated display of poor judgement is unbecoming of an elected official and she should not be representing this city. Unlike last time, I hope you actually take appropriate action so we're not back here in a few months for her next controversy. Our city deserves better."

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 Weise, seconded by Councilmember White, 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 November 3, 2025 City Council meeting minutes.

b. SERIES 10 (BEER AND WINE STORE) LIQUOR LICENSE - QUIKTRIP #1518

City Council recommended approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control of an application for a Series 10 (Beer and Wine Store) Liquor License submitted by Ryan Witner Anderson to sell beer and wine at QuikTrip #1518 located at 1590 N Avondale Blvd and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION (WAPA)

City Council authorized a License Agreement with the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to allow the installation of a 16-inch underground waterline (facility) crossing beneath WAPA's Liberty to Westwing and Liberty to Rudd 230-kV Transmission Lines and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

d. RESOLUTION 1075-1225 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LITCHFIELD PARK FOR SENIOR SERVICES

City Council adopted Resolution 1075-1225, approving the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Litchfield Park for fiscal year 2025-2026 for Senior Services provided to Litchfield Park residents by the Avondale Senior Services Division in the amount of \$12,000 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1076-1225 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TOLLESON FOR DETENTION SERVICES

City Council adopted Resolution 1076-1225, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Tolleson to continue using the Avondale Detention Center, located at 50 N. Eliseo C. Felix, Jr. Way, Avondale, for the processing and housing of City of Tolleson prisoners and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. ORDINANCE 2044-1225 - ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF LOWER BUCKEYE ROAD AND EAST OF DYSART ROAD

City Council adopted Ordinance 2044-1225, authorizing the acquisition of fee or lesser interest of real property by purchase, dedication, or condemnation, for public use located north of Lower Buckeye Road and east of Dysart Road and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. ORDINANCE 2045-1225 – ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF A PERPETUAL EASEMENT AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR NOISE, ODOR AND AESTHETIC SETBACKS FROM TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

City Council adopted Ordinance 2045-1225, authorizing the acceptance of the donation of a Perpetual Easement Agreement Providing for Noise, Odor and Aesthetic Setbacks from Tolleson Union High School District and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

h. ORDINANCE 2046-1225 - ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 4 OF THE CITY CODE, BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, AND ADOPTING THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CODES WITH CITY OF AVONDALE 2024 BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS, AND THE 2023 EDITION OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE

City Council adopted Ordinance 2046-1225, amending Chapter 4 of the City Code, Buildings and Building Regulations, and to adopt by reference the 2024 International Code Council (ICC) building codes, which include the following codes below, with City of Avondale 2024 Building Code Amendments, and adoption of the 2023 Edition of the National Electrical Code. These amendments reflect the incorporation of these codes, remove outdated language, and align administrative provisions with current best practices. Council action authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

- 2024 International Building Code (IBC)
- 2024 International Residential Code (IRC)
- 2024 International Mechanical Code (IMC)
- 2024 International Plumbing Code (IPC)
- 2024 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)
- 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
- 2024 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- 2024 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) (first-time adoption)
- 2024 International Pool and Spa Code (IPSC) (first-time adoption)
- 2023 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC)

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

City Council received an update from staff on special events held to date this fiscal year, including attendance figures, collected survey data, and other key metrics. Staff will also provide an overview of the remaining special events scheduled for the rest of the fiscal year. This item was for discussion only.

Mark Foote, Recreation Manager, reviewed the following special events.

- Light Up the Sky Event
- Summer Blank Canvas Showcase
- Halloween Barks and Treats Event
- Billy Moore Days Weekend
- Billy Moore Days Parade
- Creepin' Candy Crawl
- Mercados and Melodies
- Dunk 'n' Dash
- West Valley Vet Run
- Avondazzle Dash
- Hoot 'n' Hustle
- Avondale WinterFest
- Tres Rios Nature Festival
- Avondale KidFest
- Avondale Fiesta

Upcoming community events include two more Mercados & Melodies dates, Movie in the Park, Eggstravaganza, the Memorial Day event, and Juneteenth.

Councilmember White commented on Light Up the Sky receiving a four-star rating and asked what the City plans to do differently next year, especially since it will be the country's 250th anniversary. She also asked whether the City has partnered with the state's planning commission for the event. Mark responded that discussions are still

in the early stages and they are working on how to incorporate their celebration into the City's festivities. Regarding the four-star rating, he noted that the limited number of survey responses- despite high attendance- may have influenced the rating.

Councilmember Conde thanked the department for hosting a Movie in the Park event at DeConcini Park. She said it is great to bring events to smaller neighborhood parks, since some residents may not be able to travel to larger ones. She shared a resident comment, noting the resident would not have had the opportunity to take their child to the movies if it were not for the City's Movie in the Park event.

Councilmember White then asked whether any cycling events are being considered for the future. Mark explained that feedback from the master plan showed cycling ranked low in interest, and participation in past cycling events was low. Corey Larriva, Parks, Recreation & Libraries Director, added that the Cycle Avondale event had not met its registration goals; however, with the new trail system under development and the recent bond approval, the cost of offering cycling events for a smaller population of users may decrease. He said the department will continue to explore possibilities.

Mayor Pineda added that he appreciates the department for trying new things and understands events need to make financial sense. In closing, he thanked the department for being mindful of hosting activities across various parks throughout the City.

b. AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE

City Council received a comprehensive overview of the recent Aquatic Center operations, including programming highlights, attendance data, and key performance indicators. This item was for discussion only.

Brittany Shirvinski, Recreation Manager, provided an update on the 2025 Aquatic Center season. She shared that after two years of operation, the facility has earned a 4.2-star Google rating and a 4.7 rating for swim lessons. The City has expanded its swim lesson and program offerings, and room and facility rentals have remained popular being booked every weekend. This year, more than 2,300 participants took part in swimming lessons, classes, and teams, a significant increase from last year's 1,500. The Fire and Medical Department also visited to offer adult CPR classes.

During regular swim hours, the Aquatic Center welcomed over 58,000 swimmers, which is slightly below last year's attendance of 60,000, likely due to recent rainy weather. Last fiscal year, the center brought in just over \$300,000 in revenue. For the current fiscal year, which began in July, they are already at \$129,000 toward their revenue goal of \$205,000. The team is considering adding ramada rentals around the facility to offer more rental opportunities.

Brittany highlighted several events, including WaveFest, Dive-In Movies, the AZ Lifeguard Challenge, Dunk 'n' Dash, and the Hispanic Heritage Splash Bash.

WaveFest received the Outstanding Aquatic Program award at the Arizona Parks & Recreation Association's annual conference, a significant recognition for both the team and the City. This marks the second consecutive year the Aquatic Center has earned an award through the Association.

The following key community partnerships were highlighted:

- Tolleson Union High School District
- The Arizona Parks & Recreation Association
- The Michael Phelps Foundation
- Phoenix Water Polo
- Desert Paddle Board
- Seven Food Truck Partners

Looking ahead to the 2025 season, Brittany reported strong program growth. Swimming lesson enrollment continues to rise, and recreation swim team participation has nearly doubled. The department is starting an internal leadership development program for lifeguards to prepare them for lead lifeguard positions, supporting the goal of promoting from within. Additional expansions include increasing pool booking options (ramada and late-night swim rentals), water polo programming, and sound bath offerings.

Spring hours begin in April 2026 and Summer hours will begin Memorial Day weekend.

The following upcoming events were highlighted:

- WaveFest - April 4, 2026
- Pup's Plunge - April 12, 2026
- Dive-In Movie – June 26, 2026
- Dive-In Movie – July 17, 2026
- AZ Lifeguard Challenge - June 28, 2026
- Hispanic Heritage Splash Bash - September 20, 2026

Councilmember Conde shared that her family loves visiting the Aquatic Center and frequently reserves the facility spaces, noting that the lifeguards are always kind and attentive.

Mayor Pineda highlighted the 58,000 visits and reflected on how long residents had expressed a desire for an aquatic center.

Councilmember Weise added that she appreciates the programming for parents offered during children's swim lessons and thanked the department for its continued service to Avondale residents.

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

Councilmember Solorio shared that she and Councilmember White recently had the opportunity to attend the National League of Cities conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. She announced that she was selected as Vice Chair of the National League of Cities (NLC) 2025 Small Cities Council. She expressed gratitude to the current and former mayors who provided letters of recommendation in support of her application.

Councilmember Conde congratulated Councilmember Solorio and White for their recent elections, representing the City of Avondale.

Councilmember White added that she won reelection to the National Black Council of Local Elected Officials. She noted that she was the only person elected to a second term and was proud to have secured the competitive seat with 40% of the vote. She thanked Liz Barker for serving as their support person onsite and for coordinating with both her and Councilmember Solorio to help prepare their applications.

Mayor Pineda shared that he joined Cashion Has Heart, serving Thanksgiving lunch at Mercy House. He expressed appreciation for the organization, stating that their work truly comes from the heart. He also visited the Senior Center and remarked that they always make him feel welcome and that he had a great time during his visit.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Solorio 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 Garcia	Aye
Councilmember Solorio	Aye
Councilmember Weise	Aye
Councilmember White	Aye
Vice Mayor Nielson	Aye
Mayor Pineda	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Mike Pineda

Mike Pineda (Jan 13, 2026 12:46:46 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 1st day of December 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.



Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

January 12, 2026

Date Approved by City Council