

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
June 01, 2026

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 5:41 p.m.

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; Jennifer Stein, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Assistant City Manager; Andy Mesquita, Assistant 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; Craig Jennings, Judge; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Ted Flores, Interim Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Cheryl Covert, Interim Economic Development Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. PRESENTATION ITEMS (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. GREEN FOR GOOD COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY GRANT PROGRAM AWARDEES

City Council received a presentation from Public Works on the 'Green for Good' Community Sustainability Grant Program awardees for Fiscal Year 2026.

Kim Anderson, Sustainability Officer, presented the City's 2026 Green for Good Community Sustainability Grant Program recipients.

- The program developed through Avondale's AVI Pro internship program.
- It was designed to support community-based sustainability projects.
- Applicants included nonprofits, schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, HOAs, and individuals.
- Applications opened February 24, 2026, and closed April 3, 2026.
- Total funding available: \$15,000.

Four projects were selected from fourteen applications received with two fully funded and two partially funded. Staff conducted extensive outreach through community partners and city departments. Projects were evaluated against sustainability pathways identified in the City's Community Sustainability Plan. Grant recipients will complete projects by June 30, 2027.

City Council expressed appreciation for the program, staff efforts, and community participation. In response to a question by Mayor Pineda, Ms. Anderson noted that staff plan to return to City Council at a future date with an update on the four projects.

This item was for information only.

3. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Two boy scouts and their troop leader spoke regarding their acts towards obtaining the Citizenship in The Community Merit Badge. Mayor Pineda and Vice Mayor Nielson acknowledged their efforts and thanked them for attending the meeting.

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 White, seconded by Councilmember Solorio, 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 May 4, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

b. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

City Council approved various Board and Commission appointments as recommended by the City Council Subcommittee on Boards and Commissions and authorized the City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

c. 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.

d. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE AVONDALE AUTOMALL COMMON AREA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

City Council approved an Economic Development Agreement with the Avondale Automall Common Area Management Association where the City shall contribute an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the upgrades to the Pylon Sign and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

e. RESOLUTION 1036-0626 - ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 PENSION FUNDING POLICY

City Council adopted Resolution 1036-0626, approving an updated Pension Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2027 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

f. RESOLUTION 1037-0626 - DESIGNATION OF CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT (AELR)

City Council adopted Resolution 1037-0626, designating Renee Weatherless as the Chief Fiscal Officer for the submittal of the AELR and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

g. RESOLUTION 1038-0626 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) BETWEEN THE CITY OF AVONDALE, THE CITY OF BUCKEYE, THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE, THE CITY OF GLENDALE, THE CITY OF GOODYEAR, THE CITY OF PEORIA, THE CITY OF SURPRISE, THE CITY OF TOLLESON, AND THE TOWN OF WICKENBURG FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE WEST VALLEY MOBILE FIELD FORCE RESPONSE TEAM (MFFRT).

City Council adopted Resolution 1038-0626, authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) renewal with the City of Buckeye, the City of El Mirage, the City of Glendale, the City of Goodyear, the City of Peoria, the City of Surprise, the City of Tolleson, and the Town of Wickenburg, to enhance regional public safety coordination responses to incidents of public civil disturbances, public demonstrations, volatile situations, or events involving large crowds requiring multi-jurisdictional law enforcement resources and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

h. RESOLUTION 1039-0626 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GOODYEAR FOR SENIOR SERVICES

City Council adopted Resolution 1039-0626, approving an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Goodyear for fiscal year 2026-2027 for Senior Services provided to Goodyear residents by the Avondale Senior Services Division in the amount of \$189,000 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

i. RESOLUTION 1040-0626 - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF AVONDALE AND THE UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

City Council adopted Resolution 1040-0626, approving an MOU with the United States Secret Service, which will provide the Avondale Police Department access to training, equipment, and technology to be able to strengthen our ability to investigate crimes associated with fraud and cryptocurrency and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

j. ORDINANCE 2017-0626 — A) PROVIDING FOR THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF CITY OF AVONDALE, GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2026 AND FOR THE ANNUAL LEVY OF A TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; B) APPROVING THE FORM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; C) DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE MAYOR, THE MANAGER AND THE FINANCE AND BUDGET DIRECTOR OF THE CITY TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS AND TERMS WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREGOING; D) AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO CONSUMMATE THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THIS ORDINANCE AND RATIFYING ALL ACTIONS TAKEN TO FURTHER THIS ORDINANCE; AND E) DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

City Council adopted Ordinance 2017-0626, approving the sale and execution and delivery of General Obligation bonds, Series 2026; authorizing the completion, execution and delivery with respect thereto of agreements necessary or appropriate as part of financing parks, recreation and library projects and pay the cost of issuance; approving the form and authorizing the execution and delivery of agreements necessary for such sale; delegating to the Mayor, the City Manager, and the Finance and Budget Director authority to determine certain matters and terms with respect to the foregoing, authorizing all actions to further this ordinance; declaring an emergency; authorizing staff to transfer the necessary appropriation authority to the appropriate funds and modify the interfund transfer schedule as necessary; and to authorize the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

5. REGULAR AGENDA

a. PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 FINAL BUDGET AND TAX LEVY

City Council held a public hearing to receive comments on the property tax levy and final budget for fiscal year 2026 - 2027 (FY2027). This item was for discussion only.

Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director, explained that the purpose of the agenda item was to hold a public hearing on the proposed property tax levy and the fiscal year (FY) 2027 final budget in the amount of \$514,304,500. She further noted that the city would not be holding a truth and taxation hearing this year, as the city does not plan to increase the levy by the allowable 2 percent.

The property tax rate is planned to be set at a combined rate of \$1.4592, equal to the rate set for FY2026, ensuring no increase to property owners. The levy generated from that rate is projected at over \$4,500,000 for the primary and \$6,800,000 for the secondary, for a total of just under \$11,400,000. Ms. Weatherless noted that the historical property tax rate has remained relatively consistent and will remain flat going into the next fiscal year. She illustrated for the Council and the public that the City of Avondale represents approximately 11 percent of a typical Avondale resident's total property tax bill, with school districts comprising the majority at approximately 75 percent.

Regarding changes from the previously adopted tentative budget — which was set at the May 4th meeting — Ms. Weatherless summarized the following adjustments made to arrive at the final budget: an increase to General Fund salaries for employee-related expenditures of \$43,000; a fund correction moving a vehicle purchase from the General Fund to the Water Utility Fund for \$60,000; a correction to a property tax revenue line of \$300; and continued adjustments to both CIP carryover appropriations and the RICO program carryover appropriation. She noted that all increases were offset by corresponding decreases from contingencies or unanticipated revenues, maintaining the same expenditure limit. Additional documents included with the final budget package are the administrative awards over \$100,000, a schedule of interfund transfers, and the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Weatherless noted that the next major budget action will be the formal adoption of the property tax levy on June 15th.

City Manager Corbin highlighted key budget priorities and accomplishments, framing his remarks around council priority areas: Economic Development, Connected Communities, Parks and Recreation, Services, Public Safety, and Personnel.

On Economic Development, Mr. Corbin noted over \$200 thousand in marketing expenditures — encompassing tourism dollars, economic development support, and business marketing — and highlighted a significant investment of \$3.5 million set aside to purchase a property to add parking at The BLVD, support a planned row of high-end restaurants, fund half-street improvements, and provide infrastructure for the Embassy Suites development. He also referenced resources dedicated to free business consulting services covering development plans, human resources, financial guidance, and marketing.

On Parks and Recreation, Mr. Corbin described a robust set of investments, including the forthcoming opening of Donatella Park — described as the city's first neighborhood park on the north side of the freeway — and nearly \$1,000,000 going into Old Town Plaza. He also noted \$2,500,000 in improvements at Fiesta, Festival, and Friendship Parks, specifically highlighting an upgraded, accessibility-friendly playground at Friendship Park. Programming additions include over \$700,000 added to sports programs (a significant portion of which addresses cost increases in the aquatics program) and approximately \$750,000 in community events.

On Public Safety, Mr. Corbin called out the drone as a first responder program and the Flock Safety camera program, crediting Police Chief Espinosa for flexible and collaborative leadership in finding financing solutions. He also highlighted the McDowell Road bridge lighting project, characterizing sidewalk lighting as a public safety matter.

On Connected Communities, Mr. Corbin noted that between the city's housing program, homelessness assistance, senior programs, and youth programs, over \$1,200,000 is spent on contracted programming and direct services, which does not include employee salaries. He also highlighted the planned expansion of the McDowell and Dysart intersection, describing it as an important transportation improvement given the congestion at that location.

On Services, Mr. Corbin noted nearly \$500,000 invested in customer-friendly technology platforms for online permitting, building inspections, and texting-based scheduling, as well as safety upgrades around City Hall. He also referenced ongoing multi-million-dollar infrastructure improvements — water line and street replacement — in the Old Town, Cashion, and Las Vegas neighborhoods.

On Personnel, Mr. Corbin highlighted the public safety home buyer assistance program, which sets aside \$100,000 annually to provide \$20,000 forgivable loans (forgiven after five years) to public safety employees purchasing a home in Avondale. He also noted \$1.1 million dedicated to employee training (not travel) and \$148,000 for wellness and health programs including blood pressure screenings and health checks.

Mr. Corbin closed his portion of the presentation with a note of appreciation for the effort the budget process required. He highlighted that the city maintains 35 percent reserves, a \$5,000,000 CIP reserve, and continues to grow with a structurally balanced budget. He offered personal thanks to staff for working through difficult cuts with care and responsibility.

Ms. Weatherless concluded the presentation by confirming the recommendation to conduct the public hearing on the FY2027 final budget and property tax levy.

Mayor Pineda echoed Mr. Corbin's sentiments toward all departments, remarking that it is never easy to be asked to reduce a budget and that the ability to simultaneously make cuts and deliver meaningful investments for the community represents a tremendous achievement.

Mayor Pineda opened the public hearing and did not receive any requests to speak. Mayor Pineda closed the public hearing and noted that the item was for discussion only — no action would be taken, with formal action scheduled for the June 15th meeting.

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

Councilmember Weise shared that she attended the new art exhibit at the library celebrating Black artists, the art unveiling of a sculpture entitled Seeds of Growth at Civic Park, and the summer reading kickoff at the Sam Garcia Library. She also praised the Memorial Day service.

Councilmember Condi shared that her family attended the 2026 Summer Reading Kickoff at Sam Garcia Library. She thanked staff for their ongoing efforts.

Councilmember Garcia thanked staff for the Memorial Day service. She also shared that she spent Memorial Day at the VFW alongside veterans. She also paused to personally honor and dedicate her prayer and moment of silence that day to Staff Sergeant Donald Stacy, her friend and Agua Fria High School alumnus who lost his life in Afghanistan in 2011 and whose family still resides in Avondale.

Vice Mayor Nielson attended the Memorial Day service and thanked whoever arranged for shade at the event. He reported attending a GPEC (Greater Phoenix Economic Council) presentation, highlighting the organization's efforts to attract new economic opportunities across the entire valley. Vice Mayor Nielson also shared a deeply moving account of participating with AZ Community Impact on a bed delivery, in which 63 beds were delivered by 12 different groups to children who had never had a bed to sleep in. He described seeing the children's faces upon receiving a mattress, bed, blanket, and pillow, and acknowledged with visible emotion how touching the experience was.

Councilmember White attended the Memorial Day service and noted that she gave tours of the memorial pathway near the courthouse, pointing out that many residents are unaware that every branch of service is honored there with names etched into the stones. She also attended the summer reading kickoff, noting that the book bus had free books to give away — with some potentially still available at the library. She took a moment to commend Councilmember Condie and Vice Mayor Nielson for their steadfast leadership of the City's Interfaith Council, describing the wealth of knowledge and community resources shared.

Mayor Pineda thanked Vice Mayor Nielson for a heartfelt personal story he shared during the Memorial Day service, and offered a special acknowledgment to Lieutenant Alt, who was not present, for sharing his own story of service and honoring two fellow service members during the event.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Garcia 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 6:21 p.m.

Mike Pineda

[Mike Pineda \(Jul 7, 2026 09:39:34 PDT\)](#)

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 1st day of June 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Marcella Sarmiento

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

July 6, 2026

Date Approved by City Council

MINUTES OF THE AVONDALE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AVONDALE, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
June 01, 2026

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 6:22 p.m.

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; Jennifer Stein, Assistant City Manager; Dale Nannenga, Assistant City Manager; Andy Mesquita, Assistant 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; Craig Jennings, Judge; Corey Larriva, Parks and Recreation Director; Chris Lopez, Neighborhood and Family Services Director; Ted Flores, Interim Human Resources Director; Kimberly Moon, Engineering Director; Jodie Novak, Development Services Director; Larry Rooney, Fire Chief; Jeffrey Scheetz, Chief Information Officer; Cheryl Covert, Interim Economic Development Director; and Renee Weatherless, Finance and Budget Director.

Audience: Approximately 10 members of the public were present.

1. ROLL CALL BY THE CITY CLERK

2. 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 Conde, 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. RESOLUTION 1041-0626 - SETTING FORTH THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

City Council adopted Resolution 1041-0626, approving the final budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 (FY2027) in the amount of \$514,304,500 and authorized the Mayor or City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

3. REGULAR AGENDA

a. JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CRAIG L. JENNINGS AS THE PRESIDING JUDGE

City Council received a presentation from staff and the Chair of the Judicial Advisory Board regarding the reappointment of Craig L. Jennings as the Presiding Judge. This item was for presentation only.

Ted Flores, Acting Human Resources Director, began the presentation by recognizing the Judicial Advisory Board for their dedication and commitment to the process. He thanked Liana Bell and Natalie Lopez within the Human Resources department for their support implementing the surveys and interviewing Judge Jennings. Lastly, he thanked the City Clerk's Office staff for their continued support in meeting preparations.

Mr. Flores provided a background of the process. On July 7, 2014, Mayor and Council initially appointed the Honorable Craig L. Jennings as the Presiding Judge of the Avondale Municipal Court. Following his initial appointment, Judge Jennings was subsequently recommended by the Judicial Advisory Board for reappointment in 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024. On December 30, 2025, the Judicial Advisory Board received official notice from Judge Jennings seeking consideration for reappointment.

On February 23rd, the board finalized feedback surveys which were shared with City Court staff, litigants, and private attorneys. Survey responses were collected for one month and resulted in full staff participation of 15, a total of 27 litigant responses, and a total of six attorney surveys. Various litigants ranked Judge Jennings as satisfactory or superior. All other feedback was generally positive with no concerns identified by the Judicial Advisory Board on the results. The survey responses collected during this reappointment process were up from previous years.

In addition to the surveys, the Judicial Advisory Board inquired with the Commission of Judicial Conduct about disciplinary actions against Judge Jennings. Staff received no indication from the Commission that Judge Jennings had any action taken against him during his current term. Additionally, staff advertised the reappointment process in local newspapers to seek public comment on the reappointment. To date, no public feedback was received.

Finally, the Judicial Advisory Board formally interviewed Judge Jennings with 10 board-approved questions. Following the interview, the Judicial Advisory Board unanimously recommended Judge Jennings for reappointment.

Mayor Pineda opened the floor for comments and no comments were received.

4. ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember White moved to adjourn the Special Meeting into Executive Session pursuant to Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 38--431.03(A)(1) for discussion of the evaluation and salary of the Presiding Judge; 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 6:26 p.m.

Mike Pineda

[Mike Pineda \(Jul 7, 2026 09:39:34 PDT\)](#)

Mike Pineda, Mayor

CERTIFICATION AND ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Avondale held on the 1st day of June 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held, and that the quorum was present.

Marcella Sarmiento

Marcella Sarmiento, City Clerk

July 6, 2026

Date Approved by City Council