



City of Apache Junction, Arizona

Meeting Minutes City Council Meeting

Meeting location:

City Council Chambers
at City Hall
300 E. Superstition Blvd
Apache Junction, AZ
85119

apachejunctionaz.gov
Ph: (480) 982-8002

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Heck gave the invocation and Councilmember Nesser led the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Wilson
Vice Mayor Schroeder
Councilmember Nesser
Councilmember Heck
Councilmember Johnson
Councilmember Cross
Councilmember Soller

Staff in Attendance:

Bryant Powell, City Manager
Matt Busby, Assistant City Manager
Jennifer Pena, City Clerk
Joel Stern, City Attorney
Liz Langenbach, Parks & Recreation Director

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Nesser moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Schroeder, Councilmember Nesser, Councilmember Heck, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Cross and Councilmember Soller

No: 0

1. [24-239](#) Consideration of acceptance of agenda.
2. [24-240](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the regular meeting of April 2, 2024.

3. [24-238](#) Consideration of approval of the purchase of one additional 2023 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 long bed for the Public Works Department using Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) in an amount not to exceed \$54,724.28. The purchase would be through the State of Arizona Cooperative Contract # CTR059323 with San Tan Ford.
4. [24-248](#) Consideration of approval of entering into an agreement with Trane Technologies Project # PWB24-03 for the Urban Dark Skies lighting retrofit Phase 1. Project includes retrofitting City Hall and the Police Department's exterior lighting for Urban Dark Skies compliance and energy savings for an amount not to exceed \$102,114.07 using the OMNIA Partners, Racine County Cooperative Contract #3341.

E. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

5. [24-184](#) Proclamation designating the week of April 14 - April 20, 2024 as "National Public Safety Telecommunications Week".

Councilmember Soller read the proclamation designating the week of April 14 - 20, 2024, as "National Public Safety Telecommunications Week" and presented it to Assistant Chief of Police Johnny John and Communications Manager Jessica Kelley.

6. [24-260](#) Proclamation designating April 26, 2024, as "National Arbor Day."

Mayor Wilson read the proclamation designating April 26, 2024, as "National Arbor Day" and presented it to Parks Superintendent David Butler and Recreation Coordinator Jared Grimm. Mr. Butler stated the City's application to be a tree city was approved so the Parks and Recreation department is focusing on more arbor training and expanding their tree canopy.

7. [24-262](#) Proclamation designating the week of May 5 - 11, 2024, as "Professional Municipal Clerks Week."

Mayor Wilson read the proclamation designating the week of May 5 - 11, 2024, as "Professional Municipal Clerks Week." City Clerk Jennifer Pena, Business License Coordinator Donna Scruggs and Records Coordinator Dana Tucker accepted the proclamation. Ms. Pena shared the history of the clerks office and the role it plays in local government. She also complimented her staff for their hard work.

8. [24-267](#) Proclamation designating the month of May as "National Cities, Towns and Villages Month."

Vice Mayor Schroeder read the proclamation designating the month of May as "National Cities, Towns and Villages Month" and presented it to Assistant City Manager Matt Busby.

F. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL UPDATES

9. [24-241](#) Brief summary of intergovernmental updates from mayor and councilmembers.

Councilmember Heck and Mayor Wilson attended the grand opening for Agave Ridge Behavioral Hospital on April 11, 2024, in Mesa. They provide inpatient care for adolescents and adults who are struggling with addictions and mental health disorders. They are hoping to work with the Apache Junction police and serve residents of the city. Councilmember Heck also highlighted the drones that the Apache Junction Police Department use and their effort to recover a Mounted Ranger's horse that got loose during Lost Dutchman Days.

Councilmember Soller attended the Earth Day Celebration on April 6, 2024, at Horizon Health and Wellness. He met with the master gardener and commented on how great the event was. He also set up a tour of the Real-Time Crime Center in Mesa for councilmembers and select city employees.

Mayor Wilson shared that he was impressed by the Real-Time Crime Center Tour. He stated that he attended the East Valley Mayors Prayer breakfast on April 16, 2024, at the Talking Stick Gold Club, which highlighted STARS and Civitan Foundation. He also attended a ground breaking at Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport for XNRGY Climate Systems, a North American leader in sustainable HVAC solutions. The facility is expected to open early 2025 and create over 900 new jobs.

Councilmember Cross commented on the ground breaking for XNRGY Climate Systems and how large the building will be and the amount of construction jobs it will create.

G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

10. [24-242](#) City Manager's Report.

City Manager Bryant Powell announced a process improvement for the Human Resources department. They have upgraded the software for applying for jobs with the city to NeoGov. He also shared the Battle of the Badge baseball game is on April 20, 2024 at 9:00 AM at Prospector Park. The Apache Junction Police department will take on the Superstition Fire and Medical District for bragging rights.

11. [24-243](#) Announcement of Current Events.

Management Analyst Eli Richardson shared upcoming events:

- Open House Meeting for the Downtown Master Plan Update on May 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the Multi-Gen Center located at 1035 N. Idaho Rd, Apache Junction

- Building Safety Month Celebration on May 4, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park and Gazebo parking lot - corner of Superstition Blvd and Idaho Rd

- April Pools Day on April 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Superstition Shadows Aquatic Center located at 1091 W. Southern Ave, Apache Junction

- Free Dump Week, May 6 - 11, 2024, 6:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. at Apache Junction Landfill located at 4050 S. Tomahawk Rd, Apache Junction

- For more information and to sign up for the weekly newsletter visit the city website at www.apachejunctionaz.gov

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 12. [24-245](#) Public hearing and consideration on the Fifth Amendment to the Economic Development Agreement between City of Apache Junction and Mehmood Mohiuddin as owner of the Hitching Post.

Councilmember Soller moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Schroeder that the Fifth Amendment to the Hitching Post Development Agreement be approved.

Yes: 6 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Schroeder, Councilmember Nesser, Councilmember Heck, Councilmember Cross and Councilmember Soller

No: 0

Recused: 1 - Councilmember Johnson

Councilmember Johnson recused herself from this item action.

City Manager Bryant Powell presented the update to the Fifth Amendment with the Hitching Post.

Councilmembers had no concerns for discussion.

Mayor Wilson opened the public hearing, receiving no comments, he closed the public hearing.

At the completion of Vote and Roll Call, Councilmember Johnson returned to the dais.

I. OLD BUSINESS

J. NEW BUSINESS

K. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF

L. SELECTION OF MEETING DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS, AND PURPOSES

- 13. [24-244](#) Selection of dates, times and location for budget work session, public hearing and adoption of tentative and final budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Mayor Wilson called for a motion on the selection of dates, times, and location for budget work session, public hearing and adoption of tentative and final budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Councilmember Cross moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson that a budget work session be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6th, 2024, in the City Council Chambers, and a Public Hearing and adoption of the Tentative Budget be held at a special City Council meeting, as required by state law, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 20th, 2024, in the City Council Chambers, and a Public Hearing and adoption of the Final Budget be held at a special City Council meeting, as required by law, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 17th, 2024, in the City Council Chambers, located at 300 E Superstition Boulevard.

Yes: 7 - Mayor Wilson, Vice Mayor Schroeder, Councilmember Nesser, Councilmember Heck, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Cross and Councilmember Soller

No: 0

M. CALL TO PUBLIC

George Schroeder, 2444 W. Virginia Street, Apache Junction, stated he attended the Apache Junction Homeless Coalition meeting and had a negative experience with a previous City employee. He is upset about being the bad guy with City Council and asked why his neighbor received so much help from the City for her new home.

Catherine Meek, 1327 S. Belair Road, Apache Junction, announced that April 19, 2024, is World Liver Day, and explained that liver disease is now happening to younger people and children due to diet. She recommended eating a non-fried food diet with no high fructose corn syrup and be mindful of some medicines that are harmful to the liver.

Donna Carr, 2178 W. Virginia Street, Apache Junction, spoke about the amount of signatures she has received for petitions to not allow more mental health facilities in her neighborhood and to stop using reclaimed water in the City. She only went to 3 neighborhoods near her home and received hundreds of signatures. She will turn those over to the City Clerk.

Andre Meek, 1327 S. Belair Road, Apache Junction, addressed the globe chamomile weed issue that has taken over an alley near his home. They cannot be sprayed as they will grow back so there needs to be a city effort to help get rid of them.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

WALTER "CHIP" WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

JENNIFER PEÑA
City Clerk

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Apache Junction, Arizona, held on the _____ day of _____, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2024.

JENNIFER PEÑA
City Clerk