



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

*Doors are open to the public at least 15 minutes prior to the
posted meeting start time.*

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Cross gave the invocation and Vice Mayor Schroeder 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
Evie McKinney, City Clerk
Joel Stern, City Attorney
Kayla Fulmer, Director of Marketing and Communications
Rob Wisler, Management Analyst
Michael Pooley, Police Chief
Johnny John, Assistant Police Chief
Rudy Esquivias, Development Services Director
Sidney Urias, Planning Manager
Liz Langenbach, Parks & Recreation Director
Nicholas Leftwich, Planner
JC Kliner, GIS Coordinator
Jamie Sullivan, Recreation Superintendent
Riley King, Management Analyst

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Councilmember Soller to approve the Consent Agenda and Authorize City Manager Bryant Powell to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, as listed under Item #4.

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

No: 0

1. [25-165](#) Consideration of acceptance of agenda.
2. [25-230](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the special meeting of May 5, 2025.
3. [25-166](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the regular meeting of May 6, 2025.
4. [25-189](#) Consideration of approval of Resolution No. 25-08, authorizing the City of Apache Junction to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Water Resources to contribute to the maintenance of the Arizona Continuously Operating Reference Station (AZCORS) program, and authorizing the City Manager to fulfill all the duties required under the agreement. This item was presented for discussion at the City Council Work Session held May 5, 2025.
5. [25-195](#) Consideration of approval of the proposed professional services agreement with TischlerBise, for the preparation of the five (5) year update of the Development Fee Study: Land Use Assumptions, Infrastructure Improvements Plan, and Development Fees as well as an update to Volume II, Chapter 7 Development Fee Ordinance in an amount not to exceed \$67,440.00. This item was presented at the City Council Work Session held May 5, 2025.
6. [25-233](#) Consideration of approval of selected artwork, case P-25-29-ART, a high school students design competition, themed "AJHS Pride," for artwork to go on the traffic signal cabinet at the northeast corner of W. Southern Avenue and S. Ironwood Drive. This item was presented for discussion at the City Council Work Session held May 19, 2025.
7. [25-239](#) Consideration of approval of Resolution No. 25-15, approving the designation of applicant's authorized representative and alternate authorized representative forms submission to the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military affairs, which designates the City's representatives for applying for certain public assistance; and authorizing the applicant's authorized representatives to execute and deliver said application on behalf of City of Apache Junction.

E. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

F. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL UPDATES

8. [25-167](#) Brief summary of intergovernmental updates from mayor and councilmembers.

Councilmember Cross attended the 43rd annual East Valley business meeting and the main topic was AI. He shared the struggles that schools are experiencing with students using AI and stated the importance of businesses using it.

Councilmember Soller visited Washington DC for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. He was able to locate Apache Junction Police Officer Russell Duncan's name on the memorial. He encouraged the community to remember the sacrifice Officer Duncan made for the City and the department.

Mr. Soller also attended the retirement party for Mesa City Manager, Chris Brady.

Mayor Wilson toured Able Aerospace in Mesa and shared the struggles they are facing due to overseas tariff costs.

Mayor Wilson attended the Apache Junction Police Department Memorial Service where they honored Officer Russell Duncan. He lost his life during a training exercise on November 9, 1983. His daughter is a police officer as well and spoke at the service.

Councilmember Johnson also attended the Apache Junction Police Department Memorial Service and spoke about how moving it was. She suggested changing the time of the day it is held so more of the community can attend.

G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

9. [25-168](#) City Manager's Report

City Manager Bryant Powell shared that it is Public Work Week. He shared a photo of the team and spoke about how they sometimes work in dangerous or hazardous conditions. He stated how much they are appreciated and recognized their hard work.

10. [25-114](#) Introduction of Pinal Partnership's new President and CEO, Craig McFarland, and his report on the organization's Renewable Energy Committee.

Pinal Partnership's new President and CEO, Craig McFarland presented a report on the topics they are currently working on. He also shared the events they participate in and various committees that support the region.

Councilmembers complimented Mr. McFarland on the informative monthly breakfasts, the relationships he has formed and for his support of the City.

11. [25-169](#) Announcement of Current Events

Director of Marketing and Communications Kayla Fulmer shared upcoming events:

- Color Your Summer Party on Thursday, May 29, 2025, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Apache Junction Library, 1177 N Idaho Rd, Apache Junction. This will be the kick off party for the summer reading program.

- Celebrate Flag Day with Us on June 14, 2025, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park Gazebo, 1001 N Idaho Rd, Apache Junction.

Mayor Wilson encouraged the community to attend the Memorial Day ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery, 7900 E. Main Street, Mesa, on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

12. [25-240](#) Presentation, discussion, public hearing and consideration of Ordinance No. 1564, a proposed text amendment of the Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 8: Business regulations concerning fortune telling businesses and the permit fees prescribed for them.

Councilmember Nesser moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Schroeder that Ordinance No. 1564 be read by title only and the reading of the entire ordinance be waived.

Motion passed unanimously.

City Clerk Evie McKinney read Ordinance No. 1564 by title only, repealing any conflicting provisions; and providing for severability.

Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Councilmember Nesser that Ordinance No. 1564, as read by the city clerk be approved and adopted as written for option 1.

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

No: 0

Planner Nick Leftwich presented that following the April 24th City Council discussion regarding fortune telling businesses and the permit fees prescribed to them in the Apache Junction City Code, Volume 1, Chapter 8: Business, Planning Staff coordinated with the Police Department and confirmed city policies and procedures for the business license staff reviews of fortune telling businesses. There was a question raised regarding whether the \$1,200.00 permit fee is necessary and if it is to be used for background checks, but staff found that no background checks are performed for these businesses. The Police Department noted they would need explicit authority from the City Code to conduct background checks, such as is required by the code for specific other business types, such as sexually oriented businesses or liquor licenses. In the absence of such a requirement and practice we found no need for the city to continue charging an annual \$1200.00 fee in addition to standard business licensing costs.

On May 6, 2025, the City Council gave Direction to Staff to review and consider updates to the Apache Junction City Code, Volume I, Chapter 8: Business regulations concerning fortune telling businesses and the permit fees prescribed for them. Pursuant to this direction, Ordinance No. 1564 was drafted.

Councilmember concerns included the dollar amount for the fee in option 2 and if this was in addition to the business licensing fee.

Mr. Leftwich responded to all concerns.

Mayor Wilson opened the Public Hearing, receiving no comments from the public, he closed

the public hearing and asked for a motion.

I. OLD BUSINESS

J. NEW BUSINESS

K. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF

- 13. [25-241](#)** Council direction to staff on updates to the city code related to special event permitting and related regulations.

Councilmember Soller moved, seconded by Councilmember Nesser that direction to staff be given to review and consider updates to the Apache Junction City Code, relating to special event processes.

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

No: 0

Parks and Recreation Management Analyst Riley King presented that the Parks and Recreation Department has taken the lead in working with multiple departments and entities to improve special event processes city-wide. Over the past two years, the following efforts have been made to improve the safety and consistency in events throughout the city:

1. Inter-departmental Special Event Task Force created to review and support public and private city-wide special events
2. Special Event applications and processes have been updated
3. A Special Event Handbook has been created to streamline the process for event-planners
4. The city-wide Special Event Liaison role has been added to Parks and Recreation Management Analyst, Riley King's position so that event-planners have one point of contact for assistance

The Special Event Task force has identified items within current special event ordinances to be updated and re-considered, as well as items needing to be included. Staff will share market research on neighboring cities' special event policies and share sections of the city code that have been identified for updates/additions.

Councilmember concerns included clarity on what is considered a special event, which businesses would need to have a permit for a special event and will all aspects of this process go through Parks and Recreation.

Ms. King responded to all concerns.

L. SELECTION OF MEETING DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS, AND PURPOSES**M. CALL TO PUBLIC**

Donna Carr, 2178 W. Virginia Street, Apache Junction, shared frustrations with the new pavement on her street. She also announced that Pinal County denied the solar energy farm that she spoke out against at the May 6, 2025 meeting.

Tera Leigh, 852 E. Osage Ave, Apache Junction, is the site manager for the Apache Junction Head Start Program. She explained the benefits of this program and asked the Mayor and Council for their support to help save it.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

WALTER "CHIP" WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

EVIE MCKINNEY
City Clerk