



# 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

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Tuesday, May 16, 2023

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers

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### A. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Wilson participated by phone.

### B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Heck gave the invocation and Councilmember Soller 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

#### **City Staff in Attendance:**

Bryant Powell, City Manager  
Matt Busby, Assistant City Manager  
Joel Stern, City Attorney  
Yvette McKinney, Acting City Clerk  
Al Bravo, Public Information Officer  
Rudy Esquivias, Development Services Director  
Ted Wolf, Public Works Director  
Liz Langenbach, Parks and Recreation Director  
Leslie DeReche, Finance Director  
Sidney Urias, Interim Planning Manager

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Cross moved, seconded by Councilmember Soller 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. [23-272](#) Consideration of acceptance of agenda.
2. [23-292](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the special meeting of May 1, 2023.
3. [23-273](#) Consideration of approval of minutes of the regular meeting of May 2, 2023.
4. [23-268](#) Consideration of approval of Resolution Nos. 23-14, and 23-15, Resolutions of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Apache Junction, Arizona, designating Leslie DeReche as Chief Fiscal Officer for officially submitting and certifying the accuracy of fiscal years 2021 and 2023 expenditure limitation reports to the Arizona Auditor General.
5. [23-280](#) Consideration of approval for an Affidavit of Correction for five (5) previously approved final plats (SV-23-11).

#### **E. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

6. [23-204](#) A Proclamation designating the week of May 21st through May 27th, 2023, as "Public Works Week." Ted Wolff, Director of Public Works, will be in attendance to accept the Proclamation.

Vice Mayor Schroeder read the proclamation designating May 21st through May 27th, 2023, as Public Works Week and presented it to Public Works Director Ted Wolf.

#### **F. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL UPDATES**

7. [23-274](#) Brief summary of intergovernmental updates from mayor and councilmembers.

Councilmember Cross announced his attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony that occurred at the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport for DSV. DSV is the world's third largest freight forwarder and recently signed a 39-month lease with the Phoenix-Mesa Airport Authority for a 22,000-square-foot hangar that will function as a makeshift terminal for processing cargo moving on large freighter aircraft. DSV has engaged Cargolux and Atlas Air to provide dedicated transport utilizing Boeing 747 cargo jets.

Cargolux will begin weekly scheduled service from Luxembourg on June 5. Tentative plans call for Atlas Air to deliver cargo from Hong Kong and Taipei, Taiwan, to Phoenix-Mesa starting sometime in July, but final routing decisions are still being worked out.

#### **G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

8. [23-275](#) City Manager's Report.

City Manager Bryant Powell stated the off-leash dog park will reopen this week. During the seasonal change from winter grass to summer grass and summer to winter grass the park will close to give it time to rejuvenate from all the use and to adjust to the seasonal change and give the seasonal grass time to fill in. They also installed the Dry Well.

He recognized the many employees that work hard to keep the city streets clean, save and traffic flowing with the resources they are allocated. It is a significant responsibility.

9. [23-276](#) Announcement of Current Events.

Public Information Officer Al Bravo stated Mayor Wilson wished to announce they have had three meetings with the states congressional delegation. Most recently Congressman Biggs was present to hear the City's issues, ideas and proposals to address the severe flooding that occurs throughout the city related to the Weeks Wash area. The city has discussed and devised a flood control project with a plan to mitigate the extensive damage caused by this flooding. This would be a significant project that would need several partners to include Maricopa and Pinal County Flood Control, the state of Arizona and federal assistance.

He announced tomorrow morning, May 17th, is the Police Memorial Ceremony that will take place across from the police station.

The Superstition Vistas Multi-modal Transportation Planning Study will hold a virtual meeting Thursday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m. This is the next phase of the transportation area study. This will look at transportation issues and will include the area south of US 60 and include areas of Queen Creek, Mesa and Apache Junction. You can register for the Zoom meeting at: <https://bit.ly/440fmd4>.

The Books and Brews book club meets on the third Thursday of the month through October from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the Handlebar Pub and Grill. There is a 10% discount off food and drinks.

He reminded everyone to check out the city's homepage and the calendar for happenings around the city.

Councilmember Soller stated there was a wreath placed at the Washington DC service for Officer Russell Lowell Duncan who was killed in the line of duty while working for Apache Junction on November 9, 1983.

**H. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

10. [23-289](#) Presentation and discussion of Rodeo Grounds purchase.

Parks and Recreation Director Liz Langenbach provided the City Council with an update on the purchase of the rodeo grounds. She stated the city acquired the use of the rodeo grounds through a parks and public use agreement in 1986 from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is one of four leased properties the city has. In 2020 the city entered into an agreement to pursue the process of purchasing this property from the BLM, under this type of lease, it does not allow any for profit events or commercial events like concerts.

The Bureau of Land Management conducted a survey on the value of the land, excluding the value of the improvements the city had made. The purchase is only for the 20 acres within the fenced area of the rodeo grounds. They tried to purchase more acreage, but that acreage is tied to the Prospector Park lease, which would require a new acquisition process. The third-party appraiser valued the land at and the city paid \$1.4 million. The city will still be able to use all the remaining area for parking, but the city cannot make money for parking.

That money is to be re-invested into Prospector Park.

Final title and ownership documents should be received by mid June. The next steps in the coming year include planning sessions so future events are successful and with minimal hiccups. They have been visiting other rodeo grounds and parks in other cities especially the Queen Creek facility. Over the next year matters to be addressed include review and update of the city's master plan for the parks which was done in 2006, design review, evaluating electricity for the vendor area and updating and increasing water lines . This will be a public process to include several user groups.

These changes will take time, but once the city is the official owner, it can rent and utilize the property to bring in extra funds to aid with those upgrades.

Ms. Langenbach then reviewed the fees adopted by city council for use of the rodeo grounds. She responded to questions from city council.

Councilmember Nesser would like to see the city look into purchasing more land from the BLM including the parking lot and land affiliated with Prospector Park.

**K. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF**

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

**M. CALL TO PUBLIC**

Gail Evans, 913 South Del Rio Court, Apache Junction, addressed council representing the Community Development Corporation. The Corporation is a 501(C)(3) volunteer organization that works on city projects and also works very closely with the city's code compliance division. They help with city projects such as the memorial bricks, and Make a Difference Day. They help residents who are struggling with code compliance violations and clean up properties to help them avoid going to court and being issued fines. She thanked the council and the Health and Human Services Commission for their support and funds, and the AJ Mounted Rangers for their donation to help with their youth project.

She wanted to share two significant projects the CDC worked on last year. One was to help an elderly man who's wheelchair ramp was destroyed when a large Saguaro cactus crashed down on it during a severe storm. She wanted to recognize Urias Strickler, from the NextDoor app who spent several days building the ramp. Another individual, Ron Crow donated his John Deere front loader to the CDC. It needs a little work, and they have a volunteer for the labor, they are looking for donations to purchase needed parts.

She wanted to recognize so many of these volunteers and those who go unrecognized for their generosity.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Mayor Schroeder adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JENNIFER PEÑA  
City Clerk