



# 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, April 19, 2022

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers

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### A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

### B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Rizzi gave the invocation and Councilmember Schroeder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### C. ROLL CALL

#### City Staff in Attendance:

Bryant Powell, City Manager  
Matt Busby, Assistant City Manager  
Joel Stern, City Attorney  
Jennifer Pena, City Clerk  
Michael Pooley, Police Chief  
Janine Solley, Economic Director  
Leslie DeReche, Finance Director  
Rudy Esquivias, Interim Development Services Director

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Rizzi moved, seconded by Councilmember Nesser to approve the Consent Agenda.

1. Consideration of acceptance of agenda.
2. Consideration of approval of minutes of the regular meeting of April 5th, 2022.
3. Consideration of approval of Resolution No. 22-09, a Resolution 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 the fiscal year 2022 expenditure limitation report to the Arizona Auditor General.

### E. AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

4. Presentation of proclamation recognizing May 2022 as "Building Safety Month."

Mayor Wilson presented the proclamation recognizing May 2022 as Building Safety Month to Adrienne Alegria, Interim Building Safety Manager.

**F. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL UPDATES**

5. Brief summary of intergovernmental updates from mayor and councilmembers.

Councilmember Evans announced the various clean-up projects the AJ CDC had done for the month of March. They removed 17.5 tons of garbage from people's property which came to a rough cost of \$2,500.

Mayor Wilson stated he and Vice Mayor Rizzi attended the Golden Rule banquet, along with other Golden Rule communities. He stated it is a goal that those organizations or communities honor the Golden Rule and maintain that philosophy.

He attended the Governor's Annual Prayer Breakfast, which the city helped sponsor. He attended the CAG Regional Transportation Authority meeting where they discussed the sales tax that was passed by the voters last year which has been determined to be an illegal tax. They are trying to determine what to do with the tax that has been collected so far and advised everyone to follow the news closely on the matter.

**G. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

6. City Manager's Report.

7. Presentation by Kevin Camberg of Fester & Chapman on the city's annual financial audit.

City Manager Bryant Powell introduced Kevin Camberg of Fester & Chapman the independent auditor for the city. Mr. Camberg stated this year was the 23rd year the city received the Award of Excellence in financial accounting. There are many cities that have not received this honorary distinction and for Apache Junction to have 23 years in achieving this award is a significant honor.

Mr. Camberg reviewed some of the financial highlights of the audit.

8. Announcement of current events.

Al Bravo, Chief Information Officer announced the following:

- Professional Municipal Clerk's Week May 1 through 7, 2022.
- Earth Day at Earth Heart Park April 23rd where thousands of ladybugs will be released.
- Janine Solley, the city's Economic Development Director will hold an economic development outlook session April 28th at the Multi-Generational Center from 8:00 am to 9:30 am.

- He recognized the Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department which did a phenomenal job with all the logistics of the city's annual Easter egg hunt.
- The first off leash dog park grand opening will be held Saturday, April 30th from 8:00 am to noon.

**H. PUBLIC HEARINGS****I. OLD BUSINESS**

**J. NEW BUSINESS**

9. Presentation, discussion and consideration of Resolution No. 22-08 a Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Apache Junction, Arizona, adopting the findings and recommendations of the updated Apache Junction Economic Development Strategic Plan.

Janine Solley, Economic Development Director provided a brief history of the city's Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The City of Apache Junction's last Economic Development Strategic Plan was an 18-month process that started in 2005 with a home-grown composition of community members. The plan proposed a broad approach across a number of action areas that were deemed vital components in helping Apache Junction transition into a more prosperous and sustainable community. Council adopted Resolution No. 07-57 as the basis for an Economic Development Strategic Plan for Apache Junction.

Staff recognized that significant change has occurred since the last plan was developed and it was a critical time to consider formally updating the strategic plan to take into account the existing environment and opportunities and identify any changing priorities. With the 6,600 acres recently annexed into the City limits, state land sale, new councilmembers being seated, needs for accelerated recovery plan post-COVID, increasing housing development and service demands, and new key transportation corridors that will define employment in the region, it seemed a perfect time to invest in an updated roadmap to help identify the community's goals related to jobs and the strength of the local economy.

At the June 2021 City Council Annual Retreat, council gave staff the go ahead to update the plan. With the tremendous support of our economic development partners at Salt River Project (SRP) we were able to work with professional consultants Boyette Strategic Advisors to develop an updated, relevant and implementable Economic Development Strategic Plan for the city.

The City's consultants from Boyette Strategic Advisors crafted a customized strategic plan that will serve as the city's guide for Economic Development for the next three to five years. The process included numerous interviews from stakeholders, business and community surveys, review of existing community plans for compatibility, identifying competitive and aspirational cities, community tours, regional strengths, potential for targeted sectors, and workforce availability analysis. The outcome is a three to five year action plan that identifies goals and recommendations to help capitalize on our best opportunities for positive economic and community growth.

**K. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF****L. SELECTION OF MEETING DATES, TIMES, LOCATIONS, AND PURPOSES**

10. Selection of dates, times and location for budget review/work session, public hearing and adoption of tentative and final budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

**Councilmember Nesser moved, seconded by Councilmember Evans that the date, time and location for budget work session, public hearing and adoption of the tentative and final budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 be as follows:**

1. Budget work sessions: Monday, May 2, 2022
2. Tentative budget adoption and public hearing: Monday, May 16, 2022 at a special meeting
3. Final budget adoption and public hearing: Monday, June 20, 2022 at a special meeting

11. Executive Session at 6:00 P.M. for Monday, May 2nd and Executive Session at 6:00 P.M. for Tuesday, May 3rd in the city council conference room located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard in Apache Junction, Arizona and other meetings scheduled if necessary.

Councilmember Evans moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Rizzi that an executive session at 6:00 p.m. for Monday, May 2 and Tuesday, May 3, 2022 be held in the City Council Conference room located at 300 E. Superstition Boulevard, Apache Junction, Arizona and other meetings be scheduled if necessary.

## M. CALL TO PUBLIC

Mo Mohiuddin 2304 N. Cortez Rd. commented on the work session item mentioned a few weeks ago about work on Idaho Rd. He requested council consider horse crossing signs.

Donna Carr 2178 W. Virginia St. commented on the economic development proposal. She expressed concern that Apache Junction is home to many low income families and would not like to see these individuals ran out of town due to the increased development.

Michelle Theis, 8109 E. Apache Plumb Dr. Queen Creek stated she had been working with Superstition Harley Davidson and was recently told the police escort that was arranged for the International Female Ride Day (IFRD) was no longer available. She asked if Council or the city could assist her and the group with an escort through town to the freeway as they will be heading to Superior.

Darryl Cross 1018 N. Acacia Rd. commented on Mr. Mohiuddin's request for safety for horses and riders, Coconino National Forest recently closed a 5 mile perimeter around Flagstaff due to hazardous waste from humans and because of the fire danger. While cleaning up certain areas in the city, he noticed a severe burn of underbrush and wondered if the city would consider a no fire zone around the city.

He commented on the economic strategic plan, and having a tiny home community.

## N. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA.

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WALTER "CHIP" WILSON  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

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