

Meeting Minutes

City Council Special Meeting

Budget Briefing

April 26, 2024 | 8:15 a.m.
Chandler City Council Chambers
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Hartke at 8:15 a.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

Mayor Kevin Hartke
Vice Mayor OD Harris
Councilmember Angel Encinas
Councilmember Christine Ellis
Councilmember Mark Stewart
Councilmember Matt Orlando
*Councilmember Jane Poston

*Councilmember Poston attended telephonically.

Staff in Attendance

Josh Wright, City Manager
Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager
Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer
Matt Dunbar, Budget and Policy Director
Catherine Dixon, Budget and Research Principal Analyst
Savana Martinez, Budget and Research Senior Analyst
Helen Parker, Budget and research Principal Analyst
Enrique Sandoval, Budget and Research Senior Analyst

Discussion

1. Opening Remarks

MAYOR HARTKE thanked the City Manager, budget team, and department directors for their time and preparation of the budget presentation. He provided comments regarding the robust conversations about the 2024-2025 budget and CIP.

2. Introduction

JOSHUA WRIGHT, City Manager, presented the following presentation.

- What Makes Chandler Different
- “Making it Happen” Ensuring Fiscal Strength and Low-Cost Services
- Budgeting to Meet Strategic Framework Focus Areas
- Budget Direction
- FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget
- Operating Budget Highlights
- FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget Drivers (all funds)
- FY 2024-25 Ongoing Decision Package Recommendations (All Funds)
- Council Priorities for One-Time Dollars
- FY 2024-25 One-Time Decision Package Recommendations (All Funds)

3. Overview of Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets

DAWN LANG, Deputy City Manager / CFO, presented the following presentation.

- Overview of FY 2024-25 Annual Proposed Budget
- Total Annual Proposed Revenue Budget (-1.6%) All Funds (in millions)

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked why the general fund balance increases so much year after year.

MS. LANG said this slide will provide an explanation.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART questioned if without the carryforward, there was lower inflation, then it would have been lower budget.

MS. LANG said that was correct. In Arizona, if any capital improvement project is still underway if previously approved, the appropriation rolls forward and must be reapproved in the next year. The fund balance is vital to continue with projects.

MS. LANG continued the presentation.

- Total Annual Proposed Expenditure Budget (-1.6%) All Funds (in millions)
- Total Actual Expenditures Compared to Adopted or Proposed Budget

MATT DUNBAR, Budget and Policy Manager continued the presentation.

- Total Annual Proposed Revenue Budget (-5.4%) General Fund (in millions)
- Total Annual Proposed Expenditure Budget (-5.4%) General Fund (in millions)
- Modified Zero Based Budgeting (MZBB)
- Modified Zero Based Budgeting (MZBB) results

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if individual cost centers were reviewed bottoms-up.

MR. DUNBAR clarified if he meant a zero-base budget.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said yes.

MR. DUNBAR said research through the Government Finance Officer Association yielded the result that true zero-base delivers little value. Most line items are core services that will be considered anyways. With a modified zero-base budget, line items with underspending or overspending are considered and quantified if lines can be reduced or increased due to historical trends. Any anomalies are examined to make changes to the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said this makes sense and asked what the budget is modelled against.

MR. DUNBAR said there is not an industry standard between divisions. It is on an individual division basis. Moving forward, the team will be able to better quantify sample statistics over time and adjust accordingly.

MS. LANG continued the presentation.

- General Fund 5-Year Ongoing Forecast and Fund Balance Projections
- Revenue and Expenditure Assumptions

MAYOR HARTKE suggested that PSPRS payment could be better labeled as the City has paid off the unfunded liability.

MS. LANG said it can be labelled differently.

MS. LANG continued the presentation.

- 5-Year General Fund Ongoing Forecast Revenues vs Expenditures
- Proposed 5-Year One-Time General Fund Balance Projection
- Proposed 5-Year Enterprise Funds Fund Balance Projection
- Average Residential Cost Comparison for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste
- Average Annual Residential Cost Comparison for Direct Services
- Impact of Tax Rate Reduction on Median Value Homeowner
- Breakdown of \$1 of Typical Chandler Property Tax Bill

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if a decrease in property tax is anticipated, and what is new from Economic Development that can maintain this rate.

MS. LANG answered that the assumptions about property tax revenue were that it would increase by 4% per year. Most of the increase in assessed value is due to new property. The current increase is due more to appreciation rather than new property. The secondary tax collected has gone up 4% or more per year. Primary tax collected has not increased as much due to the rate reductions implemented.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said new builds were considered, even though cities are behind in seeing results from assessed values.

MS. LANG confirmed the projection shows as almost two years behind on assessed values – what is happening today is a result of what happened two years ago. Another year of higher appreciation despite new property is expected. New property is considered in this revenue projection.

MR. DUNBAR continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Capital & Debt Management
- 2025-2034 CIP Process
- History of 10-Year CIP (in millions)
- 2025-2034 CIP Highlights
- Summary of Proposed Key General Government Capital Projects in the 1st 5-Years
- General Voter Bond Authorization
- Proposed FY 2024-25 CIP Appropriation (all funds)

4. Departments Operating and Capital Budget Presentations

MR. DUNBAR continued the presentation.

- Department Operating and CIP Presentations

Information Technology

SANDIP DHOLAKIA, Chief Information Officer, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked for more detail on the support analyst role.

MR. DHOLAKIA responded that this role would reside on the support team, the primary function is working on virtual meetings and Office365. Office365 features are currently being rolled out to all departments. The position would also assist in the help desk and support role.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if this was a former contract position or brand new.

MR. DHOLAKIA said this is a new position and the department will be reducing the number of contractors that we have by one to accommodate.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said the conversion is from a one-time cost every year for a contractor to an FTE position.

MR. DHOLAKIA said yes.

MR. DHOLAKIA continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked for more information with the information security analyst FTE.

MR. DHOLAKIA said this position is for incident response triage. This would allow the department to have one FTE to fully focus on vulnerability management like policies, procedures, and standards for security.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if this is proactive.

MR. DHOLAKIA explained that vulnerability management is the proactive aspect, the incident management is reactive.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if this was previously contracted or is a new position.

MR. DHOLAKIA said it was previously contracted being transferred to FTE.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if this helps with our ransom insurance cost.

MR. DHOLAKIA said the position is not correlated to the cybersecurity insurance; the insurance coverage will be raised the end of this fiscal year due to multifactor authentication being implemented.

MR. DHOLAKIA continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Information Technology
- 2025-2034 CIP – Information Technology

Communication & Public Affairs

MATT BURDICK, Communication and Public Affairs Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if the position currently exists.

MR. BURDICK said correct, it has been funded previously with one-time funds.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS said one-time positions are being converted into ongoing.

MR. BURDICK said correct. Funds have been allocated; at this point the ask is to convert to ongoing. The number of staff will increase from three to four.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO noted it will be an expansion of services as well.

MR. BURDICK said with the upgrades to the studio set, the quality of production will increase. Having staff to utilize technology and help other department use will help. This was part of the vision of the capital project. The upgrade is to a full digital media production studio.

MAYOR HARTKE asked about the \$100 one-time amount for the digital media producer.

MR. BURDICK said staff will provide that information (followed up that day).

MR. BURDICK continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages

Community Services

COREY POVAR, Assistant Community Services Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked what contributes to the number of calls for service for security services at the Downtown Library.

MR. POVAR said the proximity of the library to the downtown area contributes to the number of calls for service. Other locations attached to school systems are served by school resource officers.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked for more information on these calls for service.

MR. WRIGHT said the information will be provided.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked if this is a full-time position.

MR. POVAR said it will be a temporary full time security officer.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON requested more information on security officers throughout the city.

MR. WRIGHT said that we have worked with departments that use contracted security services. We learned that it varies by department how contracted security services are obtained. The focus is to standardize the process across departments.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON said it is important to have someone familiar with the building location and that can work cohesively with other departments.

MAYOR HARTKE noted that any information requested will be provided to all councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if we have seen an increase in disturbances during summer due to sites being used as heat relief cooling centers.

MR. POVAR said we will come back with that information.

MR. POVAR continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE requested the results of the tree study.

MR. POVAR said we will come back with that information.

MR. POVAR continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked about the item for the Chandler Nature Center Owl's Nest Store.

MR. POVAR said this is the gift shop that is at the Chandler Nature Center which is a revenue offset. The items for the store have increased in price.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if the store is profitable.

MR. POVAR said the cost is to account for increased expenses for goods sold at the store.

MR. DUNBAR said that the store must have appropriation to purchase store inventory, this is to allow the store to bulk up inventory and anticipate more sales. This is intended to be 100% revenue offset.

MR. POVAR continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked if Chandler shares pool chemical costs with the school district.

MR. POVAR said the cost is not shared. The city owns and operates the sites with utilities shared.

MR. POVAR continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if of the two new FTE, the one new FTE who will staff the new Tumbleweed Multi-Gen Expansion will be at a new entrance.

MR. POVAR said there will be a separate front desk at the multi-gen area.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked for elaboration behind the second desk.

MR. POVAR said there will be separate programming and different activities within the expansion.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if these costs may be offset by increased revenues due to the expansion.

MR. POVAR said that our goal is for the expansion to lead to greater programming opportunities and revenue offset with enhanced programming.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked what the maintenance service on the trees is.

MR. POVAR said the tree item is a separate service than regular park maintenance. This will be specific to professional services focused on tree care only. Parks staff have worked on trees historically, but the goal is to enhance the level of care.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked what requires this level of care.

MR. POVAR said there are a variety of tree species. Part of tree care is removal or replanting. This contract crew can assess, make recommendations on retention, then decide on removal and replanting. This is more holistic way to assess tree health.

MAYOR HARTKE asked about tree watering schedules.

MR. POVAR said our urban forester position keeps track of tree watering schedules. The whole team hopes to address this on a large scale, as water is one of the most valuable assets in parks and recreation.

MICKEY OHLAND, Community Services Planning Manager, continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Community Services

MAYOR HARTKE mentioned that the Sunset Park improvements are a great addition.

MR. OHLAND said that it is a great example of ADA improvements, landscape conversions, and upgrades.

MR. OHLAND continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Community Services
- 2025-2034 CIP – Community Services

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART thanked staff for their work on Snedigar turf improvements.

MR. OHLAND said staff has done a great job on these improvements.

MR. OHLAND continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Community Services

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said that the desire for cricket sporting locations has been increasing.

MR. OHLAND agreed and noted that the department is looking into long term parks improvements.

MAYOR HARTKE noted the first Chandler cricket tournament took place last year.

Neighborhood Resources

LEAH POWELL, Neighborhood Resources Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

RIANN BALCH, Community Resources Senior Manager, continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked how the navigator program measures success. How many interactions does it take for a navigator to be able to transition an unhoused community member into housing.

MS. BALCH said there is not a solid number, as it varies on a case-by-case basis. One of the most important things the navigators do is establish trust with that person. The navigators' working relationship with community members helps build pathways to housing and resources.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked how effectiveness is measured.

MS. BALCH said effectiveness is measured in multiple ways. Staff has their own methods of documentation within our homeless management information system, their supervisor monitors their work performance. The department uses standardized measures by the Department of Housing and Urban Development that are measured locally and nationally. Exit rates are standardized in the industry.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked what a navigator's typical day looks like.

MS. BALCH invited councilmembers to a ride along with a navigator. The navigator's work is an iterative process and can take many different forms. Seven navigators and one supervisor are a right size, which allows seven days of service throughout the city.

MAYOR HARTKE asked what the average cost of an individual living on the streets was.

MS. BALCH said estimates are about five years old, but industry numbers indicate that it takes \$15,000-\$20,000 to house someone for one year in affordable housing but can cost up to \$250,000 in services per year to serve one individual living on the street, which includes public safety, medical, environmental services, behavioral health and more. It is financially effective to house individuals.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS said our community wants to know about the transfer that happens into housing.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if these positions would be part time.

MS. BALCH said the goal is to eventually convert to full time employees, but at this the request is for onetime funding for the supervisor position.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked what the grant funding was.

MS. BALCH said it was federal COVID-specific funding that is now coming to an end.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if the transition is now to general fund dollars to support this service.

MS. BALCH said yes.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked what happened to the two jobs remaining from the consolidation into one position.

MS. BALCH said when this started, it was three people due to the high demand. Since settling, these activities have rolled into one position. These calls come from all over the city, residents, social service agencies. One position can take care of the demand at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if the other positions were released, and if they continued working in the city.

MS. BALCH said the individuals are employed in the city, for example one is now a senior management analyst.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked if we partner with non-profit services.

MS. BALCH said we partner with every possible resource. Staff works with other partners in the valley. A lot of what we do is referrals for service, but calls start in the city. We still serve in a navigation position to make the connection and ensure they get the service they need.

MS. BALCH continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS asked about the total number of units and percentage of occupancy.

MS. BALCH said there are two contracts with room providers, one for 10 two-bedroom units, and one for 15 one-bedroom units. The occupancy rate is high due to high demand, at a 99.9% occupancy rate nightly.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if there have been any immigration issues.

MS. BALCH said there has been no immigration issues. The intake criteria are specific.

MS. POWELL continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked how illegal dumping is investigated or enforced.

MS. POWELL said it is difficult to determine responsibility. Under current code, the property owner is responsible for maintenance, even though owners are rarely responsible for illegal dumping. It takes a great deal of staff effort to investigate the issue, a hauling contractor can take care of the issue quickly. Analysis of alley maintenance found that a hauling contract was an economical choice.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked what can be done to discourage illegal dumping behavior.

MS. POWELL said that having a dedicated staff member can identify hotspots and begin identification of hotspots around Chandler. Signage and monitoring cameras can help staff react depending on the circumstances.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS asked to see more collaboration with police about the illegal dumping issue.

MS. POWELL continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

Fire

TOM DWIGGINS, Fire Chief, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART commented that it is great to hear about the effectiveness of the cancer screenings and asked how we can expand this program. Councilmember Stewart asked what is being solved with changes in fire code and fee changes.

CHIEF DWIGGINS responded that over last year's inspections, 70% of last year's inspections were reinspections. Inspectors are not able to complete all categories of inspections due to the amount of reinspections. Most of the time code violations are minor and are resulting from regular service needs and annual checks. Fire code inspectors need to enforce any violations they may see otherwise the liability would fall upon the city. Inspectors advocate for the business to find sensible solutions especially when it comes to costs for small businesses.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART thanked staff.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS said the cancer screening program is working to save firefighters' lives, to hear that 94% of the department takes advantage of the program is great so it should be continued. Councilmember Ellis commented that fire code inspection is important to save lives and the focus is on educating the community.

CHIEF DWIGGINS noted that the employee buy-in has been great.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked about the 28 new firefighter positions.

CHIEF DWIGGINS said this was from the current budget year, the firefighters were completing the academy. The eight rover positions allow for fulltime employees to take time off. If a firefighter is leaving their position early, a new firefighter is enrolled in the academy to anticipate the vacancy ahead of time.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO thanked and congratulated retiring employees.

Law

KELLY SCHWAB, City Attorney presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

MS. SCHWAB and DANA DELONG, City Clerk presented this presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments Records Management – Law Department and City Clerk

City Clerk

MS. DELONG presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO thanked the departments and looked forward to sharing the Archived Records Search with residents.

City Magistrate

ALICIA SKUPIN, City Magistrate, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said the night court services save a great deal of funds.

JUDGE SKUPIN explained that there has been a small court historically, having afternoon jail court reduces the time spent in detention, and allows officers to process individuals quicker. These accommodations are a great benefit to the city.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO encouraged the expansion of these programs.

City Manager and Organizational Support

City Manager

STEVEN TURNER, Sustainability and Performance Officer, presented the following presentation.

- City Manager Team
- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Non-departmental

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

NIKI TAPIA, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE noted the Sister Cities program has returned and looked forward to where it goes with new leadership.

Council recessed at 11:29 p.m.

Council reconvened at 12:18 p.m. with all members present.

Human Resources

RAE LYNN NIELSEN, Human Resources Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

Economic Development

MICAH MIRANDA, Economic Development Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Economic Development

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked about the progress of the infill development program.

MR. MIRANDA said the program is active. A roundtable will be hosted with experts to push the project out. There are not any formal contracts at this time but will continue to work to gain traction.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked about Maricopa Community College scholarships.

MR. MIRANDA said the funds have been placed, our workforce development project manager published these with the school district and worked to understand student needs. The scholarship program is accepting applications.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS expressed excitement to hear more about the scholarship once awarded.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked to hear more about the workforce development position in the department.

MR. MIRANDA said the new position was hired in October. The first few months we met with stakeholders to understand their needs from the business and education side. Formal partnerships with other organizations met to discuss each need. The delivery of the scholarship program targets advanced manufacturing jobs, and the plan is to move forward to implement the website with CGCC and pair up students with companies in demand. This allows a single point of contact for these workforce development questions. It has proven to be very useful with local businesses.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked to see objectives, metrics, and how we measure success.

MR. MIRANDA said the metrics are in development which will be different focus areas with these partners.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked when Council can anticipate seeing results.

MR. MIRANDA answered that after the website is implemented in May.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if the goal is business retention in the city.

MR. MIRANDA said that is one of the goals is to serve as a community connector to connect supply and demand between employees and employers.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if this is considered a pilot program.

MR. MIRANDA said yes.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked what we are doing to reach K-12 students.

MR. MIRANDA said the department works with CUSD with their workforce development team and CTE professionals to share these opportunities. At the K-12 level, exposure is difficult. It depends on a company-by-company basis.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON thanked staff for their work with educational partners.

MAYOR HARTKE noted that the STEAM night at Hancock Elementary was impressive with our different partners and engaging students.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS added that it is important to incorporate local companies into the Innovation Fair and other activities.

Building and Facilities

MICHAEL HOLLINGSWORTH, Facilities & Fleet Manager, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP General Government – Building & Facilities
- 2025-2034 CIP General Government – Building & Facilities

MAYOR HARTKE asked about the mezzanine area in City Hall.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH answered that the plan is to convert it into an enclosed exercise and employee activity area, event hosting, and food preparation area.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if this will require HVAC improvements.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH replied that HVAC, electrical, and audio-visual improvements will be made.

MAYOR HARKE asked if this was the first time this item was being presented.

MR. WRIGHT said this item has appeared before, but staff are still reviewing plans. This will come before Council later.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH clarified we are still in design development.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said the original idea behind this was to rent out the space for a revenue stream.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH said that is still a possibility.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said the city is short on meeting spaces and rooms and asked to research this.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked about the right size study of city buildings.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH said improvements in City Hall are being made. In regard to the IT building, the expense to move the systems out of the building was costly and would not have been effective. There are other efficiencies to improve within existing buildings.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART requested more information.

MR. WRIGHT said the study is to find ways to offload real estate and avoid need for future real estate. Current renovations are to make better use of space as the city grows. There are some facilities being investigated to see if they can be consolidated with other areas. One challenge is due to the systems within the buildings, such as the IT data center, relocation costs were high.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH said there are other examples of systems which are expensive to relocate.

MAYOR HARTKE said part of the Tumbleweed expansion was to repurpose the existing senior center, and asked what the current philosophy behind the expansion was.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH responded that this is still underway.

MR. WRIGHT mentioned that there are decision points about these buildings coming forward in the future – the community center and senior center are linked with each other. The buildings were built in 1986 and have been updated, but once the multigenerational center is functioning at Tumbleweed, that would be a good time to see how people use these services and survey options.

Fleet Services

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE asked how the remote solar charging stations are coming along.

MR. HOLLINGSWORTH said it was purchased two years ago, it is effective and works great.

Airport

RYAN REEVES, Airport Manager, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Airport
- 2025-2034 CIP – Airport
- 2025-2034 CIP – Airport
- 2025-2034 CIP – Airport

MAYOR HARTKE asked about future Airport Days.

MR. REEVES said the plan moving forward is to host Airport Days biannually. Smaller events are in development with local airport-based community group organizations.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked to communicate with the public clearly that the runway improvements are in a planning phase and will have public input with open communication.

MR. REEVES agreed, the study is underway to look at the FAA requirements. The study looks at environmental studies which studies residential interaction.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked about the hangar maintenance program item, are these owned or leased hangars.

MR. REEVES said these are the city-owned hangars that are leased monthly to tenants. The other hangars are on long term development lease agreements with the city for exclusive use of hangars. The department currently has operating budget funding to replace mechanicals within hangars on an as-needed basis. This item is for the structural steel of the hangars that are corroding.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if this would cause the lease rent to increase.

MR. REEVES said the first strategic plan is underway; the financial analysis is in progress and taking community input.

MAYOR HARTKE requested more information on the enterprise fund covering the operational budget.

Transportation Policy

RYAN PETERS, Strategic Initiatives Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP General Government – Transportation Policy
- 2025-2034 CIP General Government – Transportation Policy
- 2025-2034 CIP General Government – Transportation Policy

Management Services

MS. LANG presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Financial Highlights: Non-Departmental
- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages – Non-Departmental

Development Services

ANDY BASS, Deputy City Manager / Acting Development Services Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Development Services

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked for an overview of what expenses are involved in a general plan update.

MR. BASS mentioned that the expenses are from hiring a consultant to lead the process and public meetings. Staff has reached out to surrounding cities who have recently updated their general plans to get this cost estimate.

MAYOR HARTKE added that Council will discuss this at our next Council meeting retreat.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said there has been a lot of focus on fiber, independent hubs serve as a backchannel.

MR. BASS said it is a redundant system.

Cultural Development

KIM MOYERS, Cultural Development Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Cultural Development
- 2025-2034 CIP – Cultural Development
- 2025-2034 CIP – Cultural Development

MAYOR HARTKE asked what the percentage of occupancy of use of facility rentals are.

MR. WRIGHT said that information will be provided.

MAYOR HARTKE asked when the Dr. A. J. Chandler Park item would be up for Council discussion.

MR. WRIGHT said there will be a work session in May to discuss the park improvements.

MAYOR HARTKE asked when the start date for downtown construction begin.

MS. MOYERS said the project will start in May, from San Marcos hotel to California St. through the summer. This item is a different project which will occur later.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked about communication with business owners.

MS. MOYERS said staff has been working with businesses downtown communicating about construction changes.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked to hear about the Arts and Economic Development event that was just hosted.

MS. MOYERS said the results would be shared with council.

Public Works & Utilities

JOHN KNUDSON, Public Works and Utilities Director, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked where the chargeback is charged to for the project manager.

MR. KNUDSON said there is a 2% staff charge included in budgets. 80% of salary comes from CIP accounts, not drawn directly from general fund.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if the department pays the percentage.

MR. KNUDSON said that is correct.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets
- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets
- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets
- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets
- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets

MAYOR HARTKE asked about how improvements are made in collaboration with businesses.

MR. KNUDSON said staff works with businesses closely during design and construction of intersections.

MR. WRIGHT said other information will be presented.

MR. KNUDSON continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets
- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets

MAYOR HARTKE asked when the turf to xeriscape program study will be complete.

MR. KNUDSON said it is in design. There are 56 acres to investigate. Some neighborhoods do use these retention basins, so the number of areas up for the conversion may reduce. There is a time limit on the grant, so the program will advance to see construction next year, after public outreach.

MAYOR HARTKE asked to see more information.

MR. WRIGHT said this will come back for a construction contract as well.

MR. KNUDSON continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets

MAYOR HARTKE asked when will the Queen Creek Road project be pushed back due to other construction.

MR. KNUDSON said there is not a direct link between the I-10 and Price interchange projects. A safety study of the intersection is underway; work is still years out.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if there is a timeline for state work.

MR. KNUDSON said a timeline is unknown.

MR. KNUDSON continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Streets

JEREMY ABBOTT, Public Works and Utilities Assistant Director, continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages

VICE MAYOR HARRIS mentioned that the principal engineer job position needs to be competitive in this job market.

MR. ABBOTT with the recent HR class and comp study, the principal engineer is right sized for the experience and licensing needed.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked how the payback of the Ocotillo Brine Reduction Facility works.

MR. ABBOTT explained that Intel receives a monthly bill and plans their budget in close coordination with the city to ensure the fees are paid monthly.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART said Intel is aware of the increase and asked if all the cost will be recovered.

MR. ABBOTT said yes, and all the cost will be recovered.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if the FTE onboard here is due to the expansion of physical services like repair and increase services for residents.

MR. ABBOTT said some of the positions are related to infrastructure and provide an increased level of service.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Wastewater
- 2025-2034 CIP – Wastewater

- 2025-2034 CIP – Wastewater
- 2025-2034 CIP – Wastewater

MAYOR HARTKE asked where the Santan Freeway 66-inch sewer line is.

MR. ABBOTT said it is located between Dobson and Price roads.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Water
- 2025-2034 CIP – Water

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked about the water treatment plant improvements.

MR. ABBOTT said there are no changes, this year and next year there is a significant CIP. Currently testing to see how the system is performing in treating water from the SRP system is being conducted. This includes the rehab of existing filters, and identification of the need for additional filters, and any additional treatment processes to meet our water quality.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said this is not an expansion of the plant, but rather adapting to anticipated different kinds of water.

MR. ABBOTT said yes, the capacity is not increasing, the treatment processes can just handle different water quality.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Water
- 2025-2034 CIP – Water

MAYOR HARTKE asked if the automatic meter infrastructure would provide real-time updates.

MR. ABBOTT said the reality is that the system can be programmed based on number of meters – the end results will not be second-to-second, but in set intervals of relaying water use information.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Water

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if this is connected to the fire department emergency operations center.

MR. ABBOTT say it is similar, the same technology for communication would be implemented and would allow for redundancy.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked what this accomplishes in case of emergency.

MR. ABBOTT explained that the department needs a central location to communicate with department staff in case of an emergency.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if there is currently a location that would serve the department in an emergency.

MR. ABBOTT said there is not.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked what else is needed.

MR. ABBOTT explained that the ability to communicate with the outside world, such as satellite phones to communicate with staff.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART requested more information later.

MR. ABBOTT continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Water
- 2025-2034 CIP – Solid Waste

Police

MELISSA DEANDA, Acting Police Chief, presented the following presentation.

- Top 5 FY 2023-24 Accomplishments
- Financial Highlights: Operating Proposed Budget
- Financial Highlights: Operating Funding Sources
- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE said there has been recent investment in cameras, would this be accessible into the real time crime center.

CHIEF DEANDA said the goal is for the new cameras to be integrated into the real time crime center to support our officers and our community.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked about the progress on hiring for the two FTE.

CHIEF DEANDA said two FTE are in the hiring process, the ask is for two additional.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said there will be two new FTE after July 1.

CHIEF DEANDA confirmed.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if the technology is on backorder and asked about the operational timeline.

CHIEF DEANDA said the technology has been ordered. The goal is to be operational shortly.

CHIEF DEANDA continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if there are three Solari counselors.

CHIEF DEANDA said there is one counselor working 20 hours a week.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if there is anyone taking calls.

CHIEF DEANDA said they assist personnel with triaging 911 calls.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS thought there were three counselors.

CHIEF DEANDA said there is one counselor embedded in the department. There has been multiple Solari employees over time working in the department, one at a time.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if this is a part time employee.

CHIEF DEANDA said this is a part time employee that works 20 hours per week.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if this is one-time funding.

CHIEF DEANDA said yes.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if there was enough support for the demand.

MR. WRIGHT requested clarification from staff.

CHIEF DEANDA explained that this employee helps triage incoming 911 calls and helps train all communications staff to ensure our staff has the knowledge on these calls when the counselor is not there.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if the goal to phase out the Solari employee after training communication staff.

CHIEF DEANDA said the goal is to phase the program. There are many vacancies in our communications center. The need will be assessed on a yearly basis.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS mentioned looking for a mental health services background when hiring new employees.

CHIEF DEANDA said our communications division will continue Solari training.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if the intention was to relieve dispatchers from calls for mental health services.

CHIEF DEANDA said this is occurring. The partnership with Solari allows staff to hand off calls to a Solari counselor. Solari takes these calls away from our communications center, we can also respond appropriately with a crisis response team or other resources.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if calls are transferred if the Solari counselor is not there.

CHIEF DEANDA said the Solari counselor is embedded in the division, but staff can also transfer calls at any time. The Solari liaison helps triage and transfer calls.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked for more discussion on this.

MAYOR HARTKE said this pilot program was to build the relationship with Solari to build mental health resources within the communication staff to work collaboratively as well as the embedded employee.

CHIEF DEANDA said the department wants to be able to partner with mental health services to better serve our community.

DAVID RAMER, Assistant Police Chief, continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE commented that the savings from LED light conversions should not be the language used to communicate about these FTE.

MR. WRIGHT said the messaging is about the general plan funds.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked about the embedded clinician contract services.

CHIEF RAMER said the department is working with a company that may have many clinicians.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if this is a continuation of the mental health services in the department.

CHIEF RAMER said this is specifically to identify a clinician that supports personnel.

CHIEF RAMER continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE asked how many over hires are there.

CHIEF RAMER said there are ten ARPA funded and 15 over hires in the current year.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if we are short any of the authorized amount.

CHIEF RAMER said we are short of the authorized amount considering vacancies. The total count is 363 officers.

CHIEF RAMER continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages

MAYOR HARTKE asked about the outcome of the School Education Engagement Program.

CHIEF RAMER said the department is happy with the results. This is an engagement opportunity with this generation to teach safety skills.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS asked if School Education officers are available to present at other community events.

CHIEF RAMER said that can be arranged.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS said this is an opportunity engage the community at conferences and events.

CHIEF RAMER said we love to engage the community.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if it is easier to hire officers now that the program has kicked off.

CHIEF RAMER said it depends on the officers; it is easy to do an internal transfer.

JASON SIECZKOWSKI, Acting Assistant Police Chief, continued the presentation.

- Decision Packages
- 2025-2034 CIP – Police

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART asked if there is potential to combine with other municipalities to work on the Forensic Services Facility.

MR. WRIGHT said staff is actively discussing partnerships with other municipalities.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART said this is a great opportunity.

MR. WRIGHT said it is in discussion.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS requested more information on the business plan for this facility.

MR. WRIGHT said they are working on design now, with construction to follow later.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS said it is not uncommon to share facilities like this.

CHIEF SIECZKOWSKI continued the presentation.

- 2025-2034 CIP – Police
- 2025-2034 CIP – Police

5. Wrap-up

MR. DUNBAR presented the following presentation.

- Final Comments
- Thank you!

MR. WRIGHT thanked Mayor and Council. The effort to put together the budget is a huge undertaking, and thanked budget staff for this work.

COUNCILMEMBER STEWART commented that the city continually invests better services and better value for our neighbors.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS noted that this budget is very fiscally sound and represents the people of Chandler.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS said our work done daily serves our residents, and it is important to be able to share budget information.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS said this is one of the most important duties of a councilmember with our commitment to our residents.

MAYOR HARTKE thanked staff for their work on the budget presentation. Mayor Hartke thanked Council for their diligence to create a great budget that represents our city.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

ATTEST: 
City Clerk


Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: June 13, 2024

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the City Council of Chandler, Arizona, held on the 26th day of April 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 13th day of June, 2024.

Dana R. DeLong

City Clerk

