

Meeting Minutes

City Council Special Meeting

January 9, 2025 | 6:00 p.m.
Chandler City Council Chambers
88 E. Chicago St., Chandler, AZ



Installation of Newly Elected Councilmembers

Oaths of Office

1. Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins
JENNIFER HAWKINS was joined by her family and was given the Oath of Office by Alicia Skupin, Presiding City Magistrate.
2. Councilmember OD Harris
OD HARRIS was joined by his family and was given the Oath of Office by Pastor Drew Anderson, Legacy Christian Center.
3. Councilmember Christine Ellis
CHRISTINE ELLIS was joined by her family and was given the Oath of Office by Pastor Brad Davis and Pastor Becky Davis, Desert Springs Church.

Call to Order of New Council

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Hartke at 6:34 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

Mayor Kevin Hartke
Vice Mayor OD Harris
Councilmember Angel Encinas
Councilmember Christine Ellis
Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins
Councilmember Matt Orlando
Councilmember Jane Poston

Appointee Attendance

Joshua Wright, City Manager
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney
Dana DeLong, City Clerk

Invocation

Pastor Palmer Chinchon, The Grove Church.

Action Agenda and Discussion

1. Election of Vice Mayor for a One-Year Term
Move City Council elect a Vice Mayor of the Council with a term beginning January 10, 2025 and ending January 8, 2026.

Action Agenda Motion and Vote

Mayor Hartke moved to elect Councilmember Christine Ellis as Vice Mayor of the Council with a term beginning on January 10, 2025, and ending on January 8, 2026, Seconded by Vice Mayor Harris.

Motion to elect Councilmember Ellis as Vice Mayor carried unanimously (7-0).

Current Events

Mayor's Announcements

MAYOR HARTKE welcomed new Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins and congratulated her and the two returning Councilmembers, expressing confidence in their commitment and passion to help the city continue moving forward. Mayor Hartke looks forward to achieving great things in the upcoming year.

MAYOR HARTKE announced that today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and extended his gratitude to the police officers present. Mayor Hartke expressed deep appreciation for Team Chandler's courage, integrity, and dedication to serving the community, applauding their efforts to keep the city safe.

MAYOR HARTKE announced that the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Program Ceremony will be held on Friday, January 17 in the Council Chambers starting at 4 p.m. to celebrate the contributions of Chandler residents who are dedicated to promoting human and civil rights.

MAYOR HARTKE announced the 30th annual Multicultural Festival on Saturday, January 18 at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will feature international films, performances, a shopping market, and a custom cruise car show.

Council's Announcements

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS congratulated the new Vice Mayor, returning Councilmembers, and the new Councilmember. He looks forward to working with everyone to make 2025 successful. He is open to helping with each person's priorities. He thanked everyone and is excited about working together.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS expressed gratitude to the Mayor and colleagues for their trust as she takes on her role in Chandler. Councilmember Ellis stated her commitment to leading with compassion and maintaining an open-door policy. She emphasized the importance of community engagement and reflected on ways to enhance the city. Councilmember Ellis plans to elevate Chandler's global presence, confident in collaborating with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce. She concluded by celebrating her historic appointment as the first Black woman and first Haitian American Vice Mayor in the City's 113-year history.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS expressed his gratitude for the honor of serving as Vice Mayor in 2024 and praised Councilmember Ellis for their historic partnership – noting that they are likely the first two Black Councilmembers to serve together on the Council. Vice Mayor Harris emphasized that these achievements reflect the community's progress and its desire for representation which affirm Chandler's strength in embracing diversity. Vice Mayor Harris congratulated Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO congratulated Councilmember Christine Ellis, Councilmember OD Harris, and Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins.

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS thanked everyone for attending and congratulated her fellow Councilmembers. She is eager to collaborate and learn from them and looks forward to building on their successes together.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON congratulated Councilmember Ellis, Vice Mayor Harris, and Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins and offered assistance and an open door.

City Manager's Announcements

JOSHUA WRIGHT, City Manager, thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers and congratulated new Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins. Mr. Wright welcomed her to the City of Chandler and noted that the staff enjoyed working with her during her orientation. He expressed eagerness to collaborate with her in the coming year.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: January 23, 2025

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 9th day of January 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this _____ day of January, 2025.

City Clerk