

Meeting Minutes

City Council Special Joint Meeting

December 16, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.
Chandler Museum, Saguaro Room
300 S. Chandler Village Dr., Chandler, AZ



Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kevin Hartke at 4:13 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

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

Appointee Attendance

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

*Councilmember Encinas arrived at 4:28 p.m.

Absent

Councilmember Mark Stewart

Staff in Attendance

Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager / CFO
Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager
Ryan Peters, Strategic Initiatives Director
Cherie Stone, Government Relations Senior Program Manager

Others in Attendance

Senator J.D. Mesnard, LD-13

Representative Jeff Weninger, LD-13

*Representative Stacey Travers, LD-12

*Representative Travers departed at 4:45 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

MAYOR HARTKE welcomed guests and staff.

Discussion

1. Discussion of the 2025 Legislative Session

MAYOR HARTKE asked the group to discuss their priorities and what they hope to address this legislative session.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVERS discussed her upcoming projects including school safety, election security and accessibility, protections for small businesses, mandatory reporting for abuse of minors, and agricultural to urban development. She looks forward to continuing to work on economic growth and development for Chandler and Arizona.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER said he is on four committees this session. His priorities are to fund public schools, support innovative economic development, and keep police records private for minors during an active investigation.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if this is for minors specifically.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER said it would depend but focusing on protecting minors.

SENATOR MESNARD said his focus will be tax policy, such as increasing business personal property tax exemption and reducing tax liability. Additionally, Proposition 123 of state trust land to fund education ends June 30, and he is working on maintaining this funding for teachers. Senator Mesnard said he will continue to work on a bill regarding the counting of election results.

MAYOR HARTKE asked what areas Chandler can help with.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER said he will reach out to collaborate. A lot of the work now is theoretical. He looks forward to returning to discuss specific questions and having an open dialogue.

MAYOR HARTKE affirmed that frequent meetings to discuss local issues has been helpful and hoped to continue this collaboration.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVERS mentioned partnership working on bills to support veterans.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER added that some projects are part of working with new administration and cleaning up old bills. This includes the expansion of sports betting and Business One Stop for new businesses, which partner with the Corporation Commission and Governor's Office.

MAYOR HARTKE asked Council if there were any Chandler priorities they would like to address.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if there will be any more action on housing bills.

SENATOR MESNARD said much of the action was at the state level where housing became a top issue for constituents, but there may be less action after this past election.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVERS said housing bills may be brought up from someone in her caucus.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER added there may be more progress on the low-income housing tax credit program. Chandler has been doing the work and encouraged private sector solutions and innovative partnerships.

MAYOR HARTKE said an additional site is being developed to have a 250-unit housing unit to serve low-income housing. Chandler has some projects in the works.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO requested to provide information about these projects to legislators.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS commented that she looks forward to building better relationships. Some areas of focus are the State Nursing Board, the caregiver and assisted living industry, and human trafficking.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVERS suggested partnering with Representative Julie Willoughby and Senator Janae Shamp, who have nursing experience, and Representative Patty Contreras on the Health and Human Services Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS added that domestic violence and trafficking efforts will focus on prevention.

MAYOR HARTKE thanked legislators for their collaboration on the Intel project.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVERS encouraged Council to reach out to discuss their priorities and provide feedback.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER added that communication over time when it comes to the budget especially helps.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS thanked the legislators for their support and collaboration.

COUNCILMEMBER ENCINAS discussed protecting water and land resources, affordable housing, transportation, and safeguarding Chandler's revenue streams to ensure the continuation of providing quality services to residents.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON echoed protecting local revenue streams. She thanked legislators for their work in supporting small businesses.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER looked forward to continuing to work with cities to support local control and emphasized communication for collaboration.

MAYOR HARTKE mentioned protecting water resources and ensuring infrastructure that supports water.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER agreed.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said one concern is the definition of assured water supply which affects communities differently.

VICE MAYOR HARRIS spoke about small businesses providing feedback to the Chamber of Commerce and asked how this is used in legislative decision-making.

SENATOR MESNARD said it is helpful to receive feedback.

REPRESENTATIVE WENINGER agreed and said receiving feedback from individuals is helpful in making incremental legislative change to help small businesses.

RYAN PETERS, Strategic Initiatives Director, thanked everyone for their attendance and collaboration at the state level.

CHERIE STONE, Government Relations Senior Program Manager, said she looks forward to being a partner for endeavors at the state level.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 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 16th day of December 2024. 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