

Meeting Minutes

City Council Regular Meeting

February 26, 2026 | 6:00 p.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 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

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

Appointee Attendance

John Pombier, City Manager
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney
Jennifer Ekblad, City Clerk

*Councilmember Ellis attended virtually.

Invocation

The invocation was given by Pastor Preston Dobbins, Bethel SonRise Church Chandler.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Harris.

Scheduled Public Appearances

MAYOR HARTKE invited Councilmember Hawkins to join him for the recognitions.

1. Recognition: Basha High Football

MAYOR HARTKE recognized the Basha Bears Football Team for their second open state football title win in four years. Basha continues to stand out as one of Arizona's top high school football

programs, and this title win marks a moment of tremendous pride for the team, the school, the Chandler community, and the Chandler City Council. Their hard work, discipline, teamwork, and dedication both on and off the field exemplify the spirit of excellence Chandler is proud to recognize and celebrate.

CHRIS MCDONALD, Basha Football Head Coach, thanked Mayor and Council for their recognition. He congratulated the team and thanked the community for their support. The team is proud to represent Basha High and Chandler.

2. Proclamation: Disability Awareness Month

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS read the proclamation and invited Bill Hespel, Chair of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, and members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, Steven Briggs, Geoff Foote, Julie Lazzara, and Jenny Miller, to accept.

BILL HESPEL, Chair of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation in recognition of Disability Awareness Month.

3. Recognition: Disability Awareness Awards

MAYOR HARTKE invited Chair Hespel to present the 2026 Disability Awareness Awards.

CHAIR HESPEL invited recipients forward and presented each with an award.

- Employee of the Year - Natalie Tate
- Student of the Year - Caleb Giannoccaro
- Volunteer of the Year - Gary Jantzen
- Educator of the Year - Donneen Mundt
- Disability Ally of the Year - Irma Andrade Garcia

Consent Agenda and Discussion

Discussion was held on items 4 and 11.

Budget and Policy

1. Resolution No. 5981, Adoption of Updated Pension Funding Policy
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5981, adopting the updated Pension Funding Policy which accepts the city's share of assets and liabilities under the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) June 30, 2025, Actuarial Valuation Report.

City Clerk

2. Approval of Minutes
Move City Council approve the Council meeting minutes of the City Council Special Meeting held on February 2, 2026, the City Council Work Session held on February 2, 2026, the City

Council Study Session held on February 2, 2026, the City Council Work Session held on February 5, 2026, and the City Council Regular Meeting held on February 5, 2026.

3. Boards and Commissions Member Appointments

Move City Council approve the Board and Commission appointments as recommended.

MAYOR HARTKE recognized newly appointed board and commission members in attendance.

City Manager

4. Resolution No. 5957, Authorizing the Agreement with Salt River Project to Conduct the Annual City of Chandler Family Bike Ride

Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5957 authorizing the execution of a license to use Salt River Project property, located at the consolidated canal between Germann Road and Chandler Boulevard, to conduct the annual City of Chandler Family Bike Ride.

BROOK BEALL, 85 W. TEAKWOOD PL., CHANDLER, spoke in favor of pedestrian SRP canal use but requested increased police patrol on canals for illegal activity such as using electronic bikes. He suggested the use of monitoring equipment on SRP canals similar to the red light traffic signals elsewhere in the city. Mr. Beall spoke in opposition to Item 4.

5. Resolution No. 5974, Authorizing the Submittal of Applications for Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant to Gila River Indian Community

Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5974 authorizing the submittal of Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant Applications to Gila River Indian Community for \$320,125 for the Chandler Fire Department to purchase Hurst Combi Tools ("Jaws of Life") for Engine and Low Acuity units with newer E3 battery technology and \$187,047.25 for the Chandler Police Department to purchase a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GCMS) to participate in the Global Uniform Analysis and Reporting of Drug-related Substances (GUARDS) .

6. Resolution No. 5975, Authorizing the Submittal Pass-Through Indian Gaming Applications to Gila River Indian Community

Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5975 authorizing the submittal of pass-through Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant Applications to the Gila River Indian Community of \$25,000 from Arizona FACTS of LIFE for Summer Youth Program, \$183,000 from AZCEND for Drive to Deliver vehicle replacement, \$20,000 from Chandler Cultural Foundation for Connect Kids Program, \$130,000 from Chandler Education Foundation for Chandler Unified POW WOW, \$100,000 from Dignity Health Foundation for Oral Health Connect: Bridging Care from Hospital to Home, \$40,000 (\$20,000 per year for two years), from Firewheel STEM Institute for STEM Enrichment Programming, \$100,000 for Positive Youth Development, and \$25,000 from Matthew's Crossing for Emergency Food Assistance Programs.

7. Resolution No. 5976, Authorizing the Submittal Pass-Through Indian Gaming Applications Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5976 authorizing the submittal of pass-through Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant Applications to Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation of \$75,000 from AZCEND for NourishPlus Nutritional Program for seniors and adults with disabilities, and \$15,000 from Firewheel STEM Institute for Firewheel Mobile STEM Center.
8. Resolution No. 5977, Authorizing the Submittal Pass-Through Indian Gaming Application To Tohono O'odham Nation
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5977 authorizing the submittal of pass-through Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant Application to the Tohono O'odham Nation of \$50,000 from AZCEND for the Family Resource Center Early Literacy Program.
9. Resolution No. 5978, Authorizing the Submittal Pass-Through Indian Gaming Application To Ak-Chin Indian Community
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5978 authorizing the submittal of pass-through Indian Gaming Revenue Sharing Grant Application to Ak-Chin Indian Community of \$150,000 from Dignity Health foundation for Histotripsy A Transformative Advance in Noninvasive Cancer Therapy.
10. Resolution No. 5986, Authorizing a Section 5310 Grant Application of \$90,000 for Chandler Flex Operations
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5986, authorizing a grant application for and acceptance of grant funds from the Section 5310 federal grant program in the amount of \$90,000.
11. Resolution No. 5985, Authorizing SRP License Agreement for Kyrene Branch and Highline Canal Paths
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5985 authorizing the execution of a license agreement with Salt River Project (SRP), granting the City access to construct, maintain and operate the Kyrene Branch and Highline Canal Shared Use Paths.

BROOK BEALL, 85 W. TEAKWOOD PL., CHANDLER, spoke in favor of pedestrian SRP canal use but requested increased police patrol on canals for illegal activity such as using electronic bikes. He suggested the use of monitoring equipment on SRP canals similar to the red light traffic signals elsewhere in the city. Mr. Beall stated his opposition to Item 11.

Community Services

12. Agreement for Park Restroom Cleaning Services
Move City Council approve Agreement No. CS5-910-4862, Amendment No. 1, with UBM Enterprise, Inc., for park restroom cleaning services, in an amount not to exceed \$183,500 for the period of one year beginning January 24, 2026, through January 23, 2027.

Fire Department

13. Purchase of Fire Turnouts and PPE
Move City Council approve Agreement No. FD2-340-4440, Amendment No. 3, with LN Curtis, Swift Group, Velocity Fire, and United Fire, for fire turnouts and PPE, in a combined amount not to exceed \$1,100,000, for a one-year term, February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027.
14. Purchase of Ten Cardiac Monitors
Move City Council approve the purchase of ten cardiac monitors, from Zoll Medical Corporation, utilizing the State of Arizona Contract No. CTR073591, in an amount not to exceed \$592,642.73.
15. Purchase of Portable Radios for the Chandler Fire Department (CFD)
Move City Council approve the purchase of portable radios, from Motorola Solutions, utilizing the State of Arizona Contract No. CTR046830, in the amount of \$239,423.10.
16. Purchase of Fire Emergency Medical Supplies
Move City Council approve Agreement No. FD4-345-4690, Amendment No. 4, with Bound Tree Medical, LLC, for fire emergency medical supplies, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000, for a one-year period, April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.

Human Resources

17. Agreement for Temporary Staffing Services
Move City Council approve Agreement No. HR9-962-4689, Amendment No. 2, with Marathon Staffing, for temporary staffing services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,079,378, for a one-year term, April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.

Information Technology

18. Purchase of Customer Engagement Portal and Relationship Management Software
Move City Council approve Agreement No. 4577, Amendment No. 1, with N. Harris Computer Corporation, for the implementation of Infinity CIS Version 5, to include the customer engagement portal and Solid Waste relationship management software, in an amount not to exceed \$1,095,512.
19. Purchase of Fiber Equipment for Data Center Fiber Refresh
Move City Council approve the purchase of fiber equipment for the data center fiber refresh, utilizing the State of Arizona Contract No. CTR062464, with Tel Tech Networks Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$230,279.

Law

20. Settlement in Weinstein vs. City of Chandler
Move City Council approve the settlement in the matter of Weinstein vs. City of Chandler in full and final satisfaction of all claims asserted without admitting liability for the amount of \$350,000 and further authorize the City Attorney to sign any necessary documents in such

forms as are approved by the City Attorney to effectuate the terms and conditions of settlement of this matter.

Management Services

21. Agreement for Phase 2 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Post-Construction Program Implementation
Move City Council approve Agreement No. 5042, with Hazen and Sawyer, PC, for the phase 2 municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit post-construction program implementation, in an amount not to exceed \$190,000.
22. License Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License Application for Theresa June Morse, Agent, Hotter, Drier, Broke-r, LLC, DBA Casual Pint
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 375874, a Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License, for Theresa June Morse, Agent, Hotter, Drier, Broke-r, LLC, DBA Casual Pint, located at 1095 W. Queen Creek Road, Suite 8, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License No. 311004.
23. New License Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License Application for Andrea Dahlman Lewkowicz, Agent, Candeeland AZ, LLC, DBA Candeeland
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 372003, a Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License, for Andrea Dahlman Lewkowicz, Agent, Candeeland AZ, LLC, DBA Candeeland, located at 5955 W. Ray Road, Suite 15, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 7, Beer and Wine Bar Liquor License No. 309189.

Neighborhood Resources

24. Resolution No. 5980, Approving an Amendment to Add the City of Goodyear as a Member of the Maricopa HOME Consortium
Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5980, amending the Maricopa HOME Consortium Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, to add the City of Goodyear as a participating member.
25. Agreement for Non-Profit Blueprint Program
Move City Council approve Agreement No. 5037, with Chandler Chamber of Commerce, for the Non-Profit Blueprint program, in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, for the period of one year, beginning April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027, with the option of up to four one-year extensions.

Public Works and Utilities

26. Introduction and Tentative Adoption of Ordinance No. 5153, Approving the Abandonment of a Temporary Drainage Easement Located on the West Side of Lot 3, in the Chandler Airport Business Park that is no Longer Needed for Public Use

Move City Council introduce and tentatively adopt Ordinance No. 5153 approving the abandonment of a temporary drainage easement located on the west side of Lot 3, in the Chandler Airport Business Park that is no longer needed for public use.

27. Professional Services Agreement, Amendment No. 4, with Nfra, Inc., for the Delaware Street Parking Lot Improvements Design Services Located at 101 N Delaware Street, Chandler, AZ 85225
Move City Council award Professional Services Agreement No. ST2308.201, Amendment No. 4, to Nfra, Inc., for the Delaware Street Parking Lot Improvements Design Services, increasing the agreement amount by \$61,767.
28. Construction Services Agreement with Salt River Project (SRP), for the Chandler Heights Road Improvements (McQueen Road to Gilbert Road) Removal of Overhead Electrical Distribution Lines
Move City Council award Construction Services Agreement No. ST1614.512, SRP Contract No. 4224831, to SRP, for the Chandler Heights Road Improvements (McQueen Road to Gilbert Road) removal of overhead electrical distribution lines, in an amount not to exceed \$102,547.78.
29. Construction Services Agreement with Salt River Project (SRP), for the Chandler Heights Road Improvements (McQueen Road to Gilbert Road) Underground Conversion of the Electrical Distribution Lines
Move City Council award Construction Services Agreement No. ST1614.511, SRP Contract No. 4227459, to SRP, for the Chandler Heights Road Improvements (McQueen Road to Gilbert Road) underground conversion of electrical distribution lines, in an amount not to exceed \$782,712.
30. Rental of Belt Filter Press for the Pecos Surface Water Treatment Plant
Move City Council approve the competition impracticable purchase for the rental of a belt filter press, from Phoenix Process Equipment Co., for a period of two years, in an amount not to exceed \$392,300.

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Councilmember Orlando moved to approve the Consent Agenda of the February 26, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting; Seconded by Councilmember Poston.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Action Agenda

31. Resolution No. 5966, Amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Community Services, Cultural Development, Police, and Public Works & Utilities Departments

Move City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 5966 amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Community Services, Cultural Development, Police, and Public Works & Utilities Departments, with fee changes effective March 2, 2026.

MATT DUNBAR, Budget and Policy Director, presented the following presentation.

- Annual Fee Adjustment Resolution 5966
- Citywide Fee Study and Purpose
 - Will add clarity of methodology for setting category/type or rate for consistency year to year.
 - Scope will include a review of our fees to surrounding cities to understand where Chandler is in the market and a methodology recommendation for each category /type (i.e., cost recovery, % of market, lower fixed fee for societal/safety benefit).
 - Will coordinate with studies in process (i.e. Park and Recreation master plan, Airport Strategic Plan)
 - Outcome will provide a document that clarifies the purpose of fees to our city, a recommendation on methodology and policies for setting fees by category/type, a recommended cadence of fee adjustments and a calculation methodology for fee updates.
- Overview – Fee Characteristics
 - Fees assessed for use of facilities or services benefiting specific groups
 - Ensures fees are charged to those removing public space from availability to the public for private use
 - Fees provide full or partial recovery of cost of certain services, which offsets the subsidization from the General Fund
 - Authority to charge a fee must exist in City Code (fee amounts/specifics are set by resolution for the Citywide Fee Schedule)
- Fees vs. Taxes
- Overview – Fees as a Component of Total Revenue
- Overview – Annual Review
 - Departments review fees annually for
 - Administrative changes for clarity or to clean up old fees or language,
 - Review cost recovery options to include exclusive use of facilities
 - Make resident-recommended changes, or
 - Encourage compliance
- Departments Proposing Fee Updates
 - Cultural Development
 - Police
 - Public Works & utilities
 - Community Services
- Cultural Development
- Cultural Development: Special Events (Cost Recovery/Encourage Compliance)
 - Would add Temporary Sales & Promotional Events (TPSE) Application Expedited Fees:
 - Maintains zero cost for applications filed 60 days or more in advance

- \$50 for applications submitted 46-59 days before proposed event day
- \$100 for applications submitted 31-45 days before proposed event day
- \$200 for applications submitted 20-30 days before proposed event day

MAYOR HARTKE asked if there is a point in the application process where events are denied due to lack of time for processing their application.

MR. DUNBAR responded that it depends on the scope of the event, some small events can go through the review process quicker, while events requiring review by outside groups such as police and fire review take longer to complete. Sometimes the answer is yes and sometimes the answer must be no because there is not enough time to make sure that the event is safe for the public.

MAYOR HARTKE summarized that the Cultural Development Department tries to work with applicants to complete the process of review but sometimes it is not possible to approve the application if it is not submitted with enough time.

MR. DUNBAR continued the presentation.

- Police
- Police (Cost Recovery)
 - Would change Video Recording Copies – per report from \$25 to \$46 for up to 1st hour and \$46 prorated per hour per copy
 - Add a \$10 Letter of Clearance fee to allow for the recovery of administrative costs associated with processing individual clearance requests.
 - Other administrative fees proposed were removed to allow time for citywide policy direction.
- Public Works & Utilities
- Public Works & Utilities: Solid Waste Enterprise (Cost Recovery)
 - Would increase the monthly solid waste disposal fee from \$20 to \$21.05 and the additional monthly disposal fee for alley solid waste customers from \$1.61 to \$1.71, to reflect the 6% increase discussed as part of the utility increases
 - Would change the cost of Solid Waste Containers from \$148 to \$150
 - Would change the Special Collection Fee:
 - One-time special curbside refuse container pick-up from \$18.50 to \$23.50
 - One-time special alley refuse container pick-up from \$35 to \$41.50
 - Bulk material pick-up from \$35 to \$43
- Public Works & Utilities: Solid Waste Enterprise (Cost Recovery)
 - Would change the Residential use of the Recycling Solid Waste Collection Center Fee from \$50 to \$70 per ton prorated in 20 lb. increments
 - Would change City Services per ton fee from \$50 to \$70
 - Would change the Recycling Solid Waste Collection per-visit fee for the first 400lbs of material from \$10 to \$14 (after all free visits used)

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if these fees have increased because of higher costs from the trash service contractor.

MR. DUNBAR said that is correct. The city's contracts with haulers for waste management as well as out of the RSWCC facility, those contracts have built in escalators. This fee update reflects the new costs of those contracts.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO asked if there is any content in the proposed fee updates related to hazardous household waste.

MR. DUNBAR said there is nothing in the proposed fee updates related to the collection of hazardous household waste.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if the one-time pickup could be considered one of a resident's four free visits to the RSWCC.

MR. DUNBAR explained that one-time curbside collection costs \$23.50, but a visit to the RSWCC for drop-off or bulk pickup is \$43.

MAYOR HARTKE suggested the inclusion of one-time pickup into a resident's four free visits to allow for greater use of this program.

MR. DUNBAR continued the presentation.

- Community Services
- Community Services: Overview
 - Fees not being adjusted: facility entrance fees, swimming fees, library use, and non-exclusive use of facilities.
- Community Services: Sport Facilities (Exclusive Use)
 - New Archery Range Tournament Fee (Semi-Private)
 - Resident: \$20/hr. min. 4 hrs.
 - Non-resident: \$27/hr. min. 4 hrs.
 - Commercial: \$30/hr. min. 4 hrs.
 - New Pickleball Tournament Fee (Semi-Private)
 - Resident: \$10/hr. per court
 - Non-resident: \$14/hr. per court
 - Commercial: \$15/hr. per court
- Community Services: Recreation (Cost Recovery)
 - Community Recreation Program and Specialized Fitness Classes Formula Modification –the formula establishes the fee to participate in classes such as; arts/crafts, pom & cheer, dance, Spanish, photography, martial arts, ceramics, Zumba, racquetball, yoga, spin, tai chi, etc.

- Community Programming: (Class Length + Prep Time) x # of days x 3.75 (was 2.75) Factor Rate (includes wages) + \$Program Supply Cost pp + \$5 Admin (was \$3) = participant cost
- Specialized Fitness: (Class Length + Prep Time) x # of days x 5.5 (was 4.5) Factor Rate (includes wages) + \$5 Admin (was \$3) = participant cost
- Community Services: Recreation (Cost Recovery)
 - Would change the Education Exploration costs as follows:
 - Up to 30 students: Resident fee from \$65 to \$78, Non-resident from \$88 to \$106
 - Up to 31-60 students: Resident fee from \$169 to \$203, Non-resident from \$229 to \$275
 - Up to 61-90 students: Resident fee from \$283 to \$340, Non-resident from \$383 to \$460
- Community Services: Recreation (Cost Recovery)
 - Would change the Birthday Party Packages (1 to 10 children) costs:
 - Birthday Party Package: Resident fee from \$80 to \$96, Non-resident from \$108 to \$130
 - Nature Options Birthday Party Package: Resident fee from \$100 to \$120, Non-resident from \$130 to \$156
 - Sportacular Fun Options Birthday Party Package: Resident fee from \$130 to \$156, Non-resident from \$176 to \$211
 - Creative Delight, Outdoor Bounce, Main Event and Theme Option Birthday Party Package: Resident fee from \$155 to \$186, Non-resident from \$210 to \$252
 - Would remove the Birthday Party Add-Ons Fee (i.e. cake, pizza, drinks, etc. Cost of Goods + 50% markup = Retail Price
- Timeline
- Questions?

MAYOR HARTKE thanked staff for the presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO noted that the fee changes could be considered in two categories: contractual obligation and Council discretion. He proposed two separate motions, one to approve the contractual obligations regarding the Public Works & Utilities fees and one including the Community Services, Cultural Development, and Police Departments fees. He asked if a motion is needed to make two motions on this item.

KELLY SCHWAB, City Attorney, said a motion does not have to be made to split the motion.

Councilmember Orlando moved to pass and adopt Resolution No. 5966 amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Public Works & Utilities Departments, with fee changes effective March 2, 2026; Seconded by Vice Mayor Encinas.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO commented that at the previous work session, there was a lot of discussion on rate utilization between residents and non-residents. He suggested that for any existing fee that has a resident and non-resident structure, that the resident fee have no increase and to implement an increase on non-resident fees for cost recovery.

Councilmember Orlando moved to pass and adopt Resolution No. 5966 amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Community Services, Cultural Development, and Police Departments with the exception of no changes to resident fees where applicable, with fee changes effective March 2, 2026; Seconded by Councilmember Poston.

MAYOR HARTKE confirmed that this would not affect the Cultural Development and Police Department fee updates requested. It would only affect the parks and recreation costs.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO said yes.

MAYOR HARTKE asked how fee information will be tracked for future resident versus non-resident requests.

MR. DUNBAR explained that the formula would be affected by any change. If the desire was for the resident rate to remain flat, the cost would then increase for non-residents while residents would receive a discounted rate.

JOHN SEFTON, Community Services Director, further explained that the pricing policy in 2008 adopted by City Council would apply for any changes to Community Services fees. Resident rates would be subsidized if the rate increase applied only to non-residents. For exclusive-use requests, the fee is designed to recover 100% of the related usage costs. The birthday party and exploration package prices have increased by 20% to bring fees closer to the cost, as this fee has remained unchanged since 2008. The fee increase is proposed to cover current staff pay and higher supply costs. It is possible to keep the rate flat for residents and increase it only for non-residents, but he would need to do some calculations to estimate what that rate would be. For fees without the formula, the fee increase would apply only to non-resident fees. He mentioned that the majority of recreation users are Chandler residents. He mentioned that it could be challenging to capture additional revenue to offset increased costs.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO thanked staff for the answer. He would like to resume fee changes with a long-term plan to fix the fee structure once and for all. He wanted to examine the fee structure and any desired changes holistically to understand the goals and objectives behind the cost changes.

MAYOR HARTKE said he would personally like to see fees raised across the board for users who opt in to these services and programs, rather than the city subsidizing costs for some users.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS shared concerns about applying fees only to non-residents. She asked for a timeline of when costs would be calculated.

MR. SEFTON said he would share that information within the next two weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS said she would be comfortable moving forward with this, with the possibility for changes in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS supported not charging residents an increased fee for exclusive use of recreation facilities and events.

DAWN LANG, Deputy City Manager/CFO, asked for clarification whether Councilmember Orlando's motion would apply to the brand-new exclusive use fees instated for pickleball courts and archery ranges.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO clarified that he intended to only address existing resident and non-resident fees. He stated that he intended to pass and approve the new exclusive use fees instated for pickleball courts and archery ranges.

MAYOR HARTKE added that fees under Cultural Development and Police Department are not affected as there is no differentiation between resident and non-resident costs.

COUNCILMEMBER ORLANDO agreed.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON asked for more information on the total costs of providing a flat fee to residents and the increased costs to non-residents. She asked for an example of when a resident might host a pickleball or archery tournament.

MAYOR HARTKE shared that a nonprofit group had requested to use pickleball courts for a tournament fundraiser. Under this fee structure, they would be considered residents.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON confirmed that a nonprofit group would be categorized as a resident cost under the existing categories.

MAYOR HARTKE said yes. It can also be families hosting a private tournament.

MR. SEFTON agreed and added that there have been a significant number of requests to host pickleball tournaments. If changes are needed in the future, staff will return to Council.

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON requested a follow-up presentation in the future to address the pickleball courts and how rentals and use is going.

MAYOR HARTKE asked if rentals would be at Tumbleweed Recreation Center and Arrowhead Park.

MR. SEFTON said yes, these are the city locations currently with pickleball complexes.

Action Agenda Motion and Vote

Councilmember Orlando moved to pass and adopt Resolution No. 5966 amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Public Works & Utilities Departments, with fee changes effective March 2, 2026; Seconded by Vice Mayor Encinas.

Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Councilmember Orlando moved to pass and adopt Resolution No. 5966 amending the Citywide Fee Schedule relating to Community Services, Cultural Development, and Police Departments with the exception of no changes to resident fees where applicable, with fee changes effective March 2, 2026; Seconded by Councilmember Poston.

Motion carried by majority (5-2), Mayor Hartke and Councilmember Ellis dissenting.

Public Hearing

32. Proposed Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation - Home Rule Option Election, Second Public Hearing

Open Public Hearing

MAYOR HARTKE opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Staff Presentation

SYLVIA DLOTT, Budget & research Administrator, presented the following presentation.

- Home Rule Option Public Hearing | 2026 Proposed Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation
- Home Rule Origin
 - State law effective June 3, 1980
 - Sets maximum spending limits for Cities & Towns based on a formula
 - Maximum spending limit formula
 - Based on FY 1979-80 expenditures
 - Allows for annual population increase
 - Allows for inflation increases
 - Allows for exclusions of some expenditures
- Alternatives to Formula
 1. One-Time Override
 2. Local Alternative Expenditure Limitation (Home Rule)
 3. Permanent Adjustment of Base Limit
- 2026 Home Rule Option
 - Allows City to use adopted budget as the expenditure limit vs state formula set in 1980

- Provides flexibility to establish budget based on anticipated revenues and set programs and service levels based on resident needs
- Spending limit is reestablished every 4 years requires a majority vote of the public at Primary or General election
- Requires 2 Public Hearings prior to Council action
- Special Meeting held immediately following the 2nd Public Hearing
- Requires 2/3 majority
- Chandler Voters Have Approved the Home Rule Option 11 consecutive times since 1982 – most recently in August 2022
- 2026 Home Rule Option Financial Implications (preliminary)
- 2026 Home Rule Option Financial Implications
 - Potential impacts if Home Rule does not pass
 - Reductions in street maintenance funding
 - Reductions in public safety funding
 - Deferral or cancellation of capital projects
 - Reductions to recreation, aquatics, and library programs
 - Approval of Home Rule does not increase taxes
 - If Home Rule does not pass, revenue will continue to be received but not spent
- 2026 Home Rule Election Schedule
- Questions?

Council Discussion

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS asked if the Home Rule measure does not pass, the city will still receive revenue but cannot spend the funds.

MS. DLOTT confirmed that was correct.

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS asked what would happen to revenue funds collected and unspent.

MS. DLOTT said the funds would remain in the city's fund balance until the city had authorization to spend them.

DAWN LANG, Deputy City Manager / CFO added that the city would invest the funds to earn interest, but the Home Rule could not be reauthorized by voters until the next election. There would be a period of time where the city would need to operate with a reduced service plan, as the city's spending activities would be capped at that state limit.

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS asked if this would be in effect for two years, before the next election allows voters to potentially reauthorize the Home Rule measure.

MS. LANG said that is correct. The option for the one-time override can occur in a non-election year, so the city may use that tool in between elections.

MAYOR HARTKE asked how many Arizona cities and towns use Home Rule.

MS. DLOTT said around 45 Arizona cities and towns use Home Rule.

MAYOR HARTKE asked what the other cities and towns do. He asked if smaller cities and towns' budgets fit within the state expenditure limit.

MS. DLOTT said around eight cities and towns meet the state expenditure limit and this may be because they are smaller in size or are not experiencing growth.

MAYOR HARTKE asked about the remaining cities and towns.

MS. DLOTT said the other cities and towns have adopted permanent base adjustments.

Discussion from the Audience

None.

Close Public Hearing

MAYOR HARTKE closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Informational

33. Special Event Liquor Licenses and Temporary and Permanent Extensions of Liquor License Premises Administratively Approved

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS asked how the Police Department will be prepared for special events and temporary extensions of liquor license premises for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day holiday.

JASON SIECZKOWSKI, Assistant Police Chief, said the Police Department is ready for any events on St. Patrick's Day, as the department is resourced well thanks to the support of Council and the community. There will be a robust task force operating on St. Patrick's Day, including the bicycle patrol team, real-time operations center, and DUI enforcement squad operating in partnership with other municipalities.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS acknowledged that some downtown Chandler businesses will have extended hours on the upcoming weekend.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST: *Jennifer Ehlhard*
City Clerk

Kevin Hartke
Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: March 23, 2026

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of Regular Meeting of the City Council of Chandler, Arizona, held on the 26th day of February 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 23rd day of March, 2026.

Jennifer Eckel

City Clerk

