

Meeting Minutes

City Council Regular Meeting

May 7, 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 Vice Mayor Angel Encinas at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Council Attendance

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

Appointee Attendance

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

Absent

Mayor Kevin Hartke – excused

Invocation

The invocation was given by Councilmember Ellis.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Harris.

Scheduled Public Appearances

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS invited Councilmember Poston to join him for the recognition.

1. Recognition: I Rise Foundation AI Bots

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS recognized the I Rise Foundation for advancing to the world competition representing Chandler. The I Rise Foundation AI Bots Team consists of elementary school students from Chandler Unified School District who will represent Chandler in the 2026 FIRST LEGO League

Robotics Worldwide Competition in Boston, Massachusetts, in June.

RAMYA GODAVARTHY, Coach, introduced the team members and shared that they are among the top five teams to advance to the world competition. Representing the state of Arizona, they will compete against more than 100 teams worldwide in the field of archaeology. She thanked Alberto Esparaza, CEO of I Rise Foundation, for his support and leadership.

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS shared that on Wednesday, May 6, the Chandler Unified School District Governing Board voted to name Frye Elementary School's soccer field in honor of Alberto Esparaza.

Consent Agenda and Discussion

City Clerk

1. Approval of Minutes
Move City Council approve the Council meeting minutes of the City Council Special Meeting held on April 20, 2026, the City Council Work Session held on April 20, 2026, the City Council Study Session held on April 20, 2026, the City Council Work Session held on April 23, 2026, and the City Council Regular Meeting held on April 23, 2026.

City Manager

2. Professional Services Agreement No. TP2501.101, with Y2K Engineering, LLC, for the Roadway Safety Action Plan Pre-Design Services, Citywide
Move City Council award Professional Services Agreement No. TP2501.101 to Y2K Engineering, LLC for the Roadway Safety Action Plan Pre-Design Services, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000, and authorize an appropriation transfer of \$560,000 from the General Fund, Non-Departmental, Contingency Account to the Grants Fund, Transportation Policy Division, Other Professional Services Account.

Development Services

3. Job Order Project Agreement No. DS2201.404 with Caliente Construction, Inc., Pursuant to Job Order Master Agreement No. JOC JOC2409.401 for the Outside Plant Fiber Telecommunications Remote Buildings – Brooks Crossing Located at Brooks Crossing Park
Move City Council award Job Order Project Agreement No. DS2201.404 to Caliente Construction, Inc., pursuant to Job Order Master Agreement No. JOC JOC2409.401, for the Outside Plant Fiber Telecommunications Remote Buildings – Brooks Crossing, in an amount not to exceed \$1,171,543.00.

Law

4. Settlement in William Vannasap vs. City of Chandler, et al.
Move City Council approve the settlement of \$340,000 in the matter of William Vannasap vs. City of Chandler, et al., case no. CV2024-090659, in full and final satisfaction of all claims asserted without admitting liability, 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

5. New License Series 10, Beer and Wine Store Liquor License Application for Michael Raymond Kaffer Jr., Agent, Fly Hi Smoke Shop, LLC, DBA Fly Hi Smoke Shop
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 385235, a Series 10, Beer and Wine Store Liquor License, for Michael Raymond Kaffer Jr, Agent, Fly Hi Smoke Shop, LLC, DBA Fly Hi Smoke Shop, located at 701 S. Arizona Avenue, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 10, Beer and Wine Store Liquor License Number 311674.
6. New License Series 12, Restaurant Liquor License Application for Rafid Joseph Jamil, Agent, Yo Pauly's Chandler, LLC, DBA Yo Pauly's New York Pizza
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 385484, a Series 12, Restaurant Liquor License, for Rafid Joseph Jamil, Agent, Yo Pauly's Chandler, LLC, DBA Yo Pauly's New York Pizza, located at 4040 W. Ray Road, Suite 12, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 12, Restaurant Liquor License No. 311710.
7. License Series 11, Hotel/Motel Liquor License Application for Amy S. Nations, Agent, 920 N. 54th Street Property Owner, LLC, DBA Sonesta Select Phoenix Chandler
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 384485, a Series 11, Hotel/Motel Liquor License, for Amy S. Nations, Agent, 920 N. 54th Street Property Owner, LLC, DBA Sonesta Select Phoenix Chandler, located at 920 N. 54th Street, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 11, Hotel/Motel Liquor License No. 311701.
8. New License Series 18, In-State Craft Distillery Application for Pamela Fulton, Agent, Happy Jack Distillers, LLC, DBA Happy Jack Distillers
Move for recommendation to the State Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for approval of the State Liquor Job No. 385789, a Series 18, In-State Craft Distillery, for Pamela Fulton, Agent, Happy Jack Distillers, LLC, DBA Happy Jack Distillers, located at 6710 W. Chicago Street, Suite 5, and approval of the City of Chandler, Series 18, In-State Craft Distillery No. 311320.

Public Works and Utilities

9. Introduction and Tentative Adoption of Ordinance No. 5163, Authorizing the Abandonment of Two Temporary Drainage Easements Located at the Southwest Corner of Pecos and McQueen Roads
Move City Council introduce and tentatively adopt Ordinance No. 5163 authorizing the abandonment of two temporary drainage easements located at the southwest corner of Pecos and McQueen roads, in Chandler, Arizona that are no longer needed for public use.

Consent Agenda Motion and Vote

Councilmember Harris moved to approve the Consent Agenda of the May 7, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting; Seconded by Councilmember Poston.

Motion carried unanimously (6-0), Mayor Hartke absent, excused.

Unscheduled Public Appearances

NOAH JAMES MARKHAM, Tempe, expressed concerns regarding the sewer odor in Chandler. He commented on the importance of police relationships with the disabled community. He noted he would like to see light rail service expand in Chandler.

JINHUI CHEN, 4944 W. Buffalo St., Chandler, spoke to advocate for the repeal of Chandler's 1.5% grocery tax. He shared that the tax places a burden on those with the least ability to pay, such as low-income families, working-class households, and seniors on fixed incomes. He acknowledged Chandler's reputation for innovation and suggested relief for taxpayers.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS inquired if this food tax is regulated by the state.

DAWN LANG, Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer, explained that it is not regulated by the state. Various cities and towns have a 1.5% transaction privilege tax on food and retail.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS asked whether removing the tax would affect Chandler's operating budget.

MS. LANG responded that if the tax were removed, the city's revenue would be reduced by approximately \$17 million on an ongoing basis.

Current Events

Vice Mayor's Announcements

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS announced the Downtown Chandler Community Partnership Annual Celebration, where Mayor Hartke will deliver his State of the Downtown address. This event will take place at Soho63 on Friday, May 14, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS shared the event Arizona 250: History, culture, and community will take place on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Sunset Library, in celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Chandler Library is hosting a special lecture series that explores the state's natural environment and its relationship to our history, culture, and lived experiences.

VICE MAYOR ENCINAS recognized Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10.

Council's Announcements

COUNCILMEMBER POSTON announced the Asian American Community Connection event will be held on Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 4:45 p.m. in the ASU Innovation Center. This event will be a chance to connect with community members, listen, learn, and engage in meaningful conversation. This year's event will feature five organizations offering opportunities to connect, share resources, and build understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER ELLIS shared that the Women's Empowerment Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, May 8 beginning at 10:15 a.m. at the Avion Center. She invited residents to join for an inspiring afternoon featuring lunch, a keynote presentation, a panel discussion with accomplished women and opportunities to connect with the community. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Judith Robles, CEO, Vice President and Co-founder of Robles Unstoppable Foundation.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS wished his family and the community a happy Mother's Day.

COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS wished the community a happy Teacher's Appreciation Week.

COUNCILMEMBER HAWKINS shared that Downtown Chandler businesses have many special events for Mother's Day, including Black Sheep Wine Bar, SanTan Brewing Company, The Perch Brewery, The Crowne Plaza Phoenix – Chandler Golf Resort, and The Brickyard. Visit downtownchandler.org for more information.

City Manager's Announcements

JOHN POMBIER, City Manager, shared that the City of Chandler celebrated Public Service Recognition Week earlier that day. He thanked Someburros and the Vasquez family for their support of this event.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

ATTEST: 
City Clerk


Mayor

Approval Date of Minutes: May 21, 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 7th day of May 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DATED this 21st day of May, 2026.

Jennifer Ehlman

City Clerk





COMMENT CARD

If you wish to submit written comments to the City Council regarding any item, agendaized or not, please complete this form and submit to the City Clerk.

Date: 05/07/20

Agenda Item No. _____
(If applicable)

☐ Support

☐ Oppose

Comments:

The repeal of Chandler's 1.5% Tax on
raw groceries.

Name: Jinhui Chen

Address: 4944 W Buffalo ST

City/State/Zip: Chandler, AZ 85226

Phone: 734-262-0262

*Note: Contact information is included as part of the Public Record.

Speech to Chandler City Council

Subject: Request to Repeal the 1.5% Tax on Food for Home Consumption

Good evening, Mayor and members of the City Council,

My name is Jinhui Chen, and I am a resident of Chandler. I am here to advocate for a common-sense change that is long overdue: the repeal of Chandler's 1.5% tax on raw groceries. This is not merely a policy adjustment; it is a matter of fundamental fiscal principle and community compassion.

Currently, this tax is deeply regressive. It places the heaviest burden on those with the least ability to pay—our low-income families, working-class households, and seniors on fixed incomes. While 1.5% may seem small to some, for a family living paycheck to paycheck, it is the difference between a full grocery cart and a hungry week. In an era where the price of housing, utilities, and raw staples is at an all-time high, this 'bread tax' is an unnecessary penalty on survival.

Furthermore, we often celebrate Chandler as a hub for innovation and technology advancement. However, the purpose of progress should be to lower the cost of living and improve efficiency, not to serve as a justification for maintaining or increasing taxes. As our city becomes more technologically advanced, that efficiency should translate into direct relief for the taxpayer, rather than being swallowed by the municipal budget.

From a fiscally conservative perspective, the government should not tax the basic necessities of its citizens. Chandler is in a position of immense strength; we maintain a structurally balanced budget of over \$1.6 billion and the highest possible AAA bond ratings. With our recent history of revenue surpluses, we have the 'cushion' necessary to return this money to the people.

True fiscal responsibility means prioritizing essential services without leaning on a regressive tax on raw food. I ask this Council to stand for affordability and limited government by repealing the tax on food for home consumption.

Thank you for your time.



COMMENT CARD

If you wish to submit written comments to the City Council regarding any item, agendaized or not, please complete this form and submit to the City Clerk.

Date: 5/7/26

Agenda Item No. _____
(If applicable)

☐ Support

☐ Oppose

Comments:

SEE Attached

Name: CINDY BARNES
Address: 1601 N GARDEN ST #203
City/State/Zip: CHANDLER AZ 85225
Phone: 480 685 0116

*Note: Contact information is included as part of the Public Record.

From the April 20th Study Session meeting, I am wondering when homeless entered city council responsibilities? Streets, parks, potholes, neighborhoods, water, police, fire have nothing to do with homelessness. Coupled with behavioral and mental health services, laundry services and recreational activities.

I understand the housing recreation specialist makes \$92,217 a year. This is obscene. Great ideas but not at the expense of so many neighborhoods because homelessness can be handled by enforcing the laws on the books. It's called loitering!! Then the city can focus on the neighborhoods of community members.