

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHANDLER, ARIZONA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026, HELD IN-PERSON HELD IN-PERSON AT CHANDLER CITY HALL, 175 S. ARIZONA AVE., CHANDLER, ARIZONA.

Board Present: Julie Graham, Chair
Micah Miranda, Secretary
Neil Calfee, Board Member
Raj Chakraborty, Board Member
Ron Hardin, Board Member
Jacob Knudsen, Board Member
Mike Mobley, Board Member
Ryan Smith, Board Member
Anthony Deard, Board Member
Chris Dobson, Board Member
Marc Valenzuela, Board Member
Cecilia Ashe, Board Member
Terri Kimble, Ex-Officio

Board Absent: John Pombier, Ex-Officio
Jennifer Hewitt, Vice Chair
Lana Berry, Board Member
Rommie Mojahed, Board Member

Others Present: Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins, City of Chandler
Councilmember Jane Poston, City of Chandler
Marge Zylla, City of Chandler
Brittany Barba, City of Chandler
Kristin Slice, Arizona State University
Brett Kennedy, Arizona State University
Dawn Castle, Arizona State University
Kristin Irwin, Arizona State University
Janet Hartkopf, Chandler Unified School District
Tiffany Bellows, Chandler Unified School District
Alex Ortiz, City of Chandler
Chandler Escalante, Economic Development
Joe Abeita, Economic Development
Kimberly Janes, Economic Development
Michael Winer, Economic Development
Odette Moore, Economic Development

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Julie Graham called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Chris Dobson made a motion to approve the minutes from Wednesday, September 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Hardin. Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Action Items
None

4. Briefing Items

- A. Arizona Legislative Update

Ms. Marge Zylla, Strategic Initiatives Director for the City of Chandler, and Brittany Barba, Government Relations Program Manager for the City of Chandler, provided an update on the current Arizona legislative session and Chandler City Council legislative priorities.

Ms. Barba began with an overview of the legislative session and City Council's priorities. She noted that Chandler's legislative principles are protecting local authority and preserving local revenues. Chandler's 2026 legislative priorities are focused on fiscal sustainability, economic development, neighborhoods, transportation, public safety, land use planning, water and environmental resources.

Ms. Zylla then provided an overview of key bills, including HB4030/HCR2052, which proposes a moratorium on fee and rate increases. Ms. Zylla expressed concern that the measure could prevent the city from gradually adjusting its fees and rates, potentially requiring larger increases once the moratorium is lifted. Mr. Miranda added that, from an economic development perspective, uncertainty makes it more difficult to position Chandler competitively against other cities outside Arizona.

Ms. Zylla also highlighted water legislation. She said Chandler has invested more than half a billion dollars to diversify its water portfolio and expressed concern that some of the proposed bills could limit how the city uses storage credits and impact long-term water planning.

- B. ASU Chandler Innovation Center/Chandler Endeavor Activity Update

Ms. Kristin Slice, Director of Community Entrepreneurship for the J. Orin Edson Entrepreneurship + Innovation Institute at Arizona State University, and Mr. Brett Kennedy, Assistant Director of ACIC Operations at Arizona State University, provided an update on the ASU Chandler Innovation Center and Chandler Endeavor Venture Innovation Incubator.

Mr. Neil Calfee, Board member and also Executive Director for Economic Development + Innovation Zones at Arizona State University, introduced the presenters and expressed appreciation for the city's continued partnership with ASU.

Mr. Kennedy then gave an overview of the ASU Chandler Innovation Center and how the facility is utilized. He said the facility serves ASU students and

faculty and also functions as a community hub for local organizations and entrepreneurs.

Ms. Slice then provided an overview of the city's Chandler Endeavor business incubator program, which is managed by Arizona State University and based at the ASU Chandler Innovation Center. She said Chandler Endeavor has served more than 1,500 people since July 2025. She then described resources provided to entrepreneurs to help grow their businesses.

Mr. Miranda praised the ASU Chandler Innovation Center team for fulfilling City Council's direction to keep the building active and well-utilized. He noted the parking lot is consistently full and the center is providing strong value to the community.

C. Chandler Unified School District Semiconductor CTE Program Overview

Ms. Janet Hartkopf, Emerging Technologies Coordinator for Chandler Unified School District, provided an overview of the district's career and technical education program for the semiconductor industry.

Ms. Hartkopf said the program was developed in response to the CHIPS Act, rapid expansion of the semiconductor industry in Arizona, and the growing number of semiconductor companies and suppliers in Chandler.

She shared that Chandler Unified School District has partnered with the University of Arizona and aligned the program with Rio Salado College, which offers students the opportunity to earn college credits. She also noted that more than 20 industry partners have helped shape the program over the past two years, making it a highly collaborative and community-driven effort.

Ms. Hartkopf explained that curriculum was intentionally designed based on industry needs and focuses on developing critical reasoning, applied math, and foundational science.

Ms. Hartkopf also discussed how the program provides students with real world experiences, highlighting a weeklong camp where students spent each day with a different semiconductor company. She shared that many of the students currently enrolled in the program first participated in the district's Chips and Wafer Semiconductor camp.

Ms. Hartkopf explained how the program also builds pathways to other types of advanced manufacturing in response to a question from the Board. When asked how the community could support the program, she said company introductions, internship and shadowing opportunities, and other hands-on industry exposure are valuable.

5. Advisory Boardmember Comments

Staff encouraged board members to attend the City of Chandler Boards and Commissions Appreciation Event on Wednesday, April 15, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Chandler City Hall courtyard.

6. Next Meeting

Ms. Graham announced the next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026. A calendar invite will be sent to all board members in advance.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Graham adjourned the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Graham, Chairwoman

Micah Miranda, Board Secretary