

DRAFT

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF EL MIRAGE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL - meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Alexis Hermsillo; Vice Mayor Jacquelyn Parsons; Councilmember Monica Dorsey; Councilmember Ryan Eldridge; Councilmember Scottie Gentry; Councilmember Anita Norton; Councilmember Donna Winston (phone)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Citizens desiring to speak on any issue within the jurisdiction of the public body may do so at this time. Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person and shall be addressed to the City Council as a whole. At the conclusion of the Call to the Public, individual City Council Members may (1) respond to criticism made by those who have spoken, (2) direct staff to review or follow up on the matter, and/or (3) direct that the matter be put on a future agenda.

Philip Bynum, resident, stated some elements of the Master Plan need to be revised because of cost, and businesses that have come into the area should help with the cost.

Donald Van Nevel, resident, requested that someone look into the stoplight that is located at Joe Ramirez Road. He stated he constantly has to stop at that light when there is no traffic in the opposite direction, and people are wasting a lot of gas stopping and starting. He stated that he does not understand why the city is paying for electronic vehicle charging at the library and city hall. He stated that citizens with electric vehicles should pay for their own electricity.

Jim McPhetres, resident, stated the city is spending a lot of money and should stop. He stated that the city should fix the current internal parks because the equipment is failing and is very dangerous.

Aaron Flannery, resident, stated there is vacant land on Thunderbird around 126th Avenue that is overrun with weeds and will become a fire hazard. He stated that the city is proposing to spend \$25 million on a park, or \$694 per resident. He stated he would rather fix the parks that are in disrepair.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted on with one motion. If discussion is desired regarding any Consent Agenda Item, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

1. Consideration and action to approve the minutes of the Work Session and Regular Council meetings held Tuesday, January 6, 2026. (City Clerk)

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilmember Dorcey.
Motion passed (6/1) - NAY Councilmember Gentry**

5. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Public Hearing, closure of Public Hearing followed by consideration and action in reference to the Arizona Department of Revenue Bingo License Application for Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort, 11021 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335. (City Clerk)

Mayor Hermosillo opened the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Jill Boltz, City Clerk, gave background on the bingo license for the Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort. She stated a bingo license was approved 25 years ago and was processed in accordance with state requirements. However, the license expired last year and now requires another approval process. She stated that the staff recommends the Council and Mayor recommend approval to the state.

Christine Finocchiaro, Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort Manager, stated they have held this bingo license for 25 years. She stated the new application process was interrupted, and the deadline was missed, which triggered needing local government approval again. She stated there is no money made playing bingo on Saturday nights because the money received to play is given out as prize money.

Jim McPhetres, resident, stated he showed his support because bingo is a fun recreational activity.

Donald Van Nevel, resident, stated it cost the Pueblo El Mirage money for the bingo games and people are adamant about their bingo.

Ms. Finocchiaro stated the bingo games are not open to the public.

Mayor Hermosillo closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to recommend approval of the action in reference to the Arizona Department of Revenue Bingo License Application for Pueblo El Mirage RV Resort, 11021 N. El Mirage Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335, seconded by Councilmember Dorcey.
Motion passed (7/0)**

2. Consideration and action to accept the Parks and Recreation System-Wide Master Plan. (Parks and Recreation)

Sean Von Roenn, Parks and Recreation Director, presented background on the Parks and Recreation System-Wide Master Plan. The Master Plan acceptance item tonight marks the culmination of this ongoing effort over the past year. The required components of the Master Plan included: documentation of official acceptance; an update process; a phased implementation program; mission and objectives; a recreation and leisure trends analysis; a needs assessment; community involvement and inventory; level-of-service standards; and capital improvement planning. He stated the council and the public were involved in the master planning process. City Council approved the scope of work in September 2024; planning and update sessions were conducted with City Council in January, June, and September 2025. In addition, council members participated in public workshops and open house sessions, and the final draft plan work session with the City Council was held on January 6, 2026. The impact of accepting the Master Plan would be a more robust, resilient, well-maintained, and appealing parks and recreation system. The Master Plan will complement the City's General Plan and align with the current strategic planning goals for Parks and Recreation. The acceptance of the Master Plan acknowledges the completed scope of work and final plan deliverables, recognizes the documented community interests, and provides a shared reference point for future decision-making.

Councilmember Eldridge stated he recently visited the parks around the city. The parks are really dirty, the equipment is worn out, the lighting in many parks is not working, and some of the rubber lining at the parks is torn and damaged. He stated that at one park, there was a homeless camp that was set up on park equipment, and it was not a safe environment. He stated that it is fiscally responsible to maintain the parks we currently have before spending money on new ones.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked why the item was on the agenda, since she had asked for a work session on it prior to a council decision just a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. VonRoenn stated that there was a work session on the preferred concept for Basin Park regarding the desired layout components, based on different renderings and possible amenities. The process would be part of the design process, so it would not make the acceptance of the Master Plan contingent on changes to the preferred concept.

Councilmember Gentry stated she feels there should be a work session before approving this item.

Councilmember Dorcey stated that it was clear in the work session and on the agenda that this is not an approval of the park plan, but an acceptance of the work done thus far by the consultant and the community outreach.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel stated she did not agree. She stated this is an approval of the preferred concept for Basin Park, which is what was shown at the work session a few weeks ago.

Vice Mayor Parsons read the agenda item for clarity. She stated, "Acceptance of the plan acknowledges the completion of the final plan. Deliverables from the consultant plan acceptance help recognize documented community interest, identify service gaps and inequities, and provide a shared reference."

Mayor Hermosillo moved to accept the Parks and Recreation System-Wide Master Plan, seconded by Councilmember Dorcey.

Motion passed (5/2) - NAYS Councilmember Gentry, Councilmember Norton-McDaniel

6. CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS & SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The City Council may not act upon any matter in the City Manager's summary, but may have general comments or questions.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS and COUNCIL SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

The Mayor and City Council may not discuss or act upon any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

Vice Mayor Parsons reported on her visit and tour of the Bishops' Storehouse and the resources available to the City of El Mirage.

8. ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular El Mirage City Council Meeting held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, and a quorum was present.



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk