

DRAFT

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF EL MIRAGE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM -TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Alexis Hermosillo; Vice Mayor Jacquelyn Parsons; Councilmember Monica Dorcey; Councilmember Ryan Eldridge; Councilmember Scottie Gentry; Councilmember Anita Norton; Councilmember Donna Winston

2. CALL TO ORDER - meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence
Introduction of new City Employees

Nick Russo, Public Works Director, introduced and provided a brief background for Alec Eigenberger, Operations Superintendent.

3. PROCLAMATIONS

- 1.** Proclaiming May 3-9, 2026, as National Small Business Week in the West Valley. (Economic Development)

Mayor Hermosillo proclaimed May 3-9, 2026, as National Small Business Week.

- 2.** Proclaiming May 17-23, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week in the City of El Mirage. (Fire)

Mayor Hermosillo proclaimed that May 17-23, 2026, as Emergency Medical Services Week.

4. 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.

Marion Balash, resident, stated she lives next to Basin Park and wanted to address issues at the Park. She stated there is still overgrowth at the 125th Avenue entryway of the park, and anyone could easily hide in those bushes, creating a safety concern. There is caution tape that has created a roadblock due to bees that has come undone, and the clearing between the two basins was done very poorly, leaving uprooted bushes and large

branches lying around. She stated there are large parts of the basin not getting water, and she relocated several drip lines back to the bushes and there is a broken sprinkler in the median along El Mirage Road.

Phillip Bynum, resident, stated that item 6.2 on the agenda is another rate hike. He stated it is listed as a miscellaneous fee, but it is, in fact, a water rate hike.

Arturo Borunda, resident, commented on the incoming Compass Data Center including the draw on the power grid, and that its warming effect will not be confined to the facility. He requested that the council acquire independent water- quality monitoring and a dedicated industrial wastewater feed to ensure El Mirage is not paying for industries' clean solution. He stated that the water we depend on could be contaminated because of the data center.

5. **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 City Council Work Session held Monday, April 13, 2026, and the Regular Council meeting held Tuesday, April 21, 2026. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to extend the agreement with Maricopa County Human Services Department for fiscal year 2026/27 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. (Administration)
3. Consideration and action to approve an amendment to an existing License and Right of Way Use Agreement with Crown Castle Fiber, LLC to renew their license and allow micro-trenching within the City. (Development Services)
4. Consideration and action to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the El Mirage Police Department to participate in the West Valley Investigative Response (WVIRT) for a period of five years through July 1, 2031. (Police)

At the request of staff, Consent Agenda 5.4 was pulled for consideration and action at a future council meeting.

Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve Consent Agenda items 5.1 through 5.3, seconded by Councilmember Winston. Motion passed 7/0

6. **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. Public Hearing, closure of Public Hearing, followed by consideration and action, reference the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control, for a new license #DINP070037631 for the Discount Store located at 12101 W Thunderbird Rd STE 1A, El Mirage, AZ 85335 (Police).

Mayor Hermosillo opened the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

Chief Marzocca gave background on the application for a liquor license for Discount Store located at 12101 W. Thunderbird Road, Suite 1A. He stated there was no recommendation from the Police Department.

Mayor Hermosillo closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve the liquor license application for Discount Store located at 12101 W. Thunderbird Road, Suite 1A, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (7/0)**

2. Public Hearing, closure of Public Hearing followed by consideration and action to approve Resolution R26-05-09 setting miscellaneous fees and service charges for Fiscal Year 2026/27. (Administration)

Mayor Hermosillo opened the public hearing at 6:28 p.m.

Macy Walker, Budget Manager, presented on the setting of fees and service charges for Fiscal Year 2026/27, including City Clerk, Development Services, and Rate Study Changes. Combined water, wastewater, and sanitation rates, rate comparisons, and summaries of water and wastewater fee changes and property tax changes were also provided.

Phillip Bynum asked why the city is comparing rates to other cities that are five times larger than El Mirage. Mr. Bynum commented on the impact of data centers on the water and the current high cost of living.

Councilmember Winston asked for clarification on the rate comparison, use per household consumption, not population size. Ms. Walker stated that the rate is measured per household at a single-family residence, not based on city size.

Mayor Hermosillo closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Councilmember Dorcey clarified that the data centers are not on city water or sewer, are serviced by EPCOR, and do not factor into the presented rates. She stated that El Mirage has implemented a plan to prevent the large increases as seen in other cities.

Mayor Hermosillo agreed with Councilmember Dorcey's statement, noted the conversations occurring across the state, and emphasized the importance of staying on top of the increases to ensure the least possible impact.

Councilmember Winston stated the increase was originally proposed 5% and has been reduced to 3%.

Vice Mayor Parsons spoke to the increase in infrastructure costs and operating expenses.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel stated there was a water rate increase in 2013 to pay for water meters, and once that process was completed, the water rates never decreased.

Councilmember Eldridge stated that El Mirage should receive a break this year and maybe look at this again next year when things have improved.

Mayor Hermosillo spoke to the need for responsible spending and the impact of going long periods without increases would penalize residents down the road with large increases at once.

Councilmember Gentry stated she does not support this proposal.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve Resolution R26-05-09 setting miscellaneous fees and service charges for Fiscal Year 2026/27; seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (4/3) NAY Councilmember Eldridge, Councilmember Gentry, Councilmember Norton-McDaniel**

3. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R26-05-10 adopting the tentative budget, thereby setting and establishing the maximum expenditure limit for FY2026-2027. (Administration)

Macy Walker, Budget Manager, gave a presentation on the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 26-27. She provided the four components to the budget and reserve strategy: structural balance, intentional use of fund balance, reserve strength and conservative budgeting practices. She discussed a budget comparison by fund and by department. She stated the personnel cost information included the implementation cost of the new Fire Memorandum of Understanding and the recommendations from the compensation study. She stated the next steps are to adopt the final budget on May 19, 2026, and then adopt the property tax on June 2, 2026.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve Resolution R26-05-10 adopting the tentative budget, thereby setting the maximum expenditure limit for FY26-27; seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (4/3) NAY - Councilmember Eldridge, Councilmember Gentry, Councilmember Norton-McDaniel**

4. Authorize a budget increase in an amount of \$50,000 due to increased resident participation per the YMCA Services Agreement. (Parks and Recreation)

Sean VonRoenn, Parks and Recreation Director, introduced Mary Davis, Executive Director of the Northwest Valley YMCA. Mr. VonRoenn and Ms. Davis provided information on the updated services agreement with the Northwest Valley YMCA, as well community engagement and use of the facility. The agreement provides a defined subsidy to incentivize El Mirage resident participation in YMCA membership and programming. He stated El Mirage resident participation in YMCA membership and programming services, and corresponding costs, has increased significantly due to this updated partnership agreement. El Mirage residents are benefiting from the variety and quality of health and wellness and quality-of-life opportunities available through the Northwest Valley YMCA.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to increase the budget in an amount of \$50,000 due to increased resident participation per the YMCA Services Agreement, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (7/0)**

5. Consideration and action to approve a purchase with Technology Providers Inc. utilizing the state of Arizona cooperative contract CTR075322 in an amount not to exceed \$162,368.25, requiring expenditure of \$150,000 from Capital Improvement Project 62607 and the use of contingency funds in an amount not to exceed \$12,368.25, and authorizing the finance department to make the necessary budget transfer. (Information Technology)

Tom Bacome, Information Technology Director, provided a brief background on the council chambers configuration history. He stated that since the construction of City Hall in 2016, various enhancements have been made over the years. Those enhancements included a large direct-view monitor behind the dais, acoustic wall panels, cameras and portable wireless microphones, Granicus live streaming, and new carpets and chairs. Over the past year and a half, Council has requested additional enhancements, including speaker-tracking cameras, an integrated voting system, a microphone queuing system, and improved sound. He stated that the details of this project include: replacing discontinued and unsupported equipment, new portable microphones with integrated queuing and voting, additional speakers for enhanced audio, a new projector and screen, and Bluetooth capabilities for ADA hearing-impaired users.

Councilmember Dorcey asked if there would be a new microphone for the podium. Mr. Bacome stated a new microphone for the podium would be included.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked if the cameras would be of better quality. Mr. Bacome stated that the cameras are of better quality, and he would look into the Granicus system to see if it may be causing a problem with video quality.

Councilmember Eldridge asked whether the cameras could zoom in on whoever was speaking. Mr. Bacome stated the cameras are preset and do not zoom in.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked if this project was put out for bid and how many bids were received. Mr. Bacome stated that another company bid, but they did not come in at the same level.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve a purchase with Technology Providers Inc. utilizing the state of Arizona cooperative contract CTR075322 in an amount not to exceed \$162,368.25, requiring expenditure of \$150,000 from Capital Improvement Project 62607 and the use of contingency funds in an amount not to exceed \$12,368.25, and authorizing the finance department to make the necessary budget transfer, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (7/0)**

6. Consideration and action to approve the five-year agreement with PowerDMS (NeoGov) for a total cost of \$344,284.85, including taxes. (Police)

Chief Marzocca stated that PowerDMS is a cloud-based compliance, policy, and accreditation management software designed primarily for public safety, government, and healthcare organizations. The system consists of individual components to address identified departmental needs. This product allows officers to have policies and procedures at their fingertips. This also allows updated policies to be pushed out and signed off by officers, ensuring the most up-to-date procedures are in hand. This product also allows the Police Department to send out text and surveys to customers to rate our service, as well as inform the citizens of the estimated time of arrival for event calls.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve the five-year agreement with PowerDMS (NeoGov) for a total cost of \$344,284.85, including taxes, seconded by Councilmember Norton-McDaniel.
Motion passed (7/0)**

7. 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.

8. 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 stated the music in the park was a great event and commented on the increase in attendance in the new location at the Senior Center courtyard.

Councilmember Dorcey recognized that this has been a tough week for the Police Department, with difficult cases to investigate, and expressed appreciation for the officers.

Councilmember Eldridge stated he completed the Parks and Recreation Scavenger Hunt over the weekend. He also acknowledged the recent passing of Hartlie and thanked everyone who helped her this past year.

Councilmember Gentry attended the funeral for former El Mirage employee and City Councilmember Cecil Skaggs.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel requested an update on the newly installed cameras and commented on the ribbon-cutting last week at the El Mirage Learning Center.

Councilmember Winston stated that Captain Jeff Kincaid and Detective JD Vargas received awards at the Knights of Columbus Banquet. She is working with Hartlie's grandmother on trying to pass a law in her name.

9. ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Alexis A. Hermosillo, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk

I hereby certify the aforementioned minutes are a true and accurate record of the Regular El Mirage City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, and a quorum was present.



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk