

DRAFT

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
CITY OF EL MIRAGE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
6:00 PM -TUESDAY, MAY 19, 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

3. PRESENTATION

1. Presentation recognizing the El Mirage 75th Anniversary/America 250th Coloring Contest Winners.

Mayor Hermosillo announced the winners of the 75th Anniversary and America's 250th Coloring Contest and presented each winner with a ribbon and a certificate. The winners were: Wyatt Hynes, Grace McManus, Reynaldo Calviz and Joslyn Casillas-Martinez.

4. PROCLAMATION

1. Proclamation: Building Safety Month

Mayor Hermosillo signed a proclamation proclaiming May as Building Safety Month.

5. 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.

Amanda Evans stated her son, Ashtin Raische Evans, was murdered in El Mirage on April 27th by a teenager, and she is seeking justice for her son. The memorial created on 124th Drive and Dreyfus was vandalized for the second time and has been overlooked by the El Mirage Police Department. She does not feel like this case has been treated with

compassion by the El Mirage Police Department.

Kylee White stated that Ashtin Evans was her little brother and explained how she found out about her brother's death. They were not treated fairly by the Police, but she is very happy that the person who committed this crime is in custody. She stated she would like justice for anyone who knew this was going to happen. There are a lot of shootings going on in El Mirage, and we need answers as to how these kids are getting assault rifles that only enforcement officers should have access to.

Harry Wilson stated he is the father of Ashtin Evans, and he and his family created a memorial for his son that has been repeatedly damaged. Items have been destroyed, removed, damaged, and disrespected. Memorials for loved ones should not become targets. He is asking the council to help find solutions for stronger protections for memorials, better enforcement against vandalism, community awareness, improved lighting, working cameras, and to work directly with families grieving the loss of loved ones.

Yulitza Epps spoke about the death of Ashtin Evans. She stated that a family lost their son, brother, and family member, and the response from the city has felt distant, quiet, and incomplete, as if his death was just another headline. When a young person dies under a violent or preventable circumstance, the community should come together to demand answers, support the family, and make sure justice is pursued. She stated she is asking the council to acknowledge the loss publicly and to treat this case with seriousness.

Andy Hernandez, a resident, stated he was from a group called Rush Hour Resistance Rally. His group is protesting the detention center located across from El Mirage. His group is smaller than the larger protests happening, but it will still stage a protest at that facility.

Phillip Bynum, a resident, stated that when citizens are called to speak at the call to the public during council meetings, the records should reflect most of what they say. The recorder of these minutes should be more thorough in recording remarks. He stated the council should go full force with whatever influence they have on investigating the young man's death.

Todd Balash, a resident, stated that an item on the agenda was to approve the purchase of a police vehicle, and that details need to be presented to the citizens so they have a full understanding of what happened and why their tax dollars are being spent on a new vehicle. He stated his research found that an officer was involved in an accident on January 24, 2026, while responding to an emergency call. El Mirage citizens should be aware of incidents involving employees. He asked why the legal team is not going after the insurance company to replace the entire vehicle.

Jim McPhetres, a resident, stated he agreed with Todd Balash and would also like to discuss another agenda item: budget transfers. He stated he asked a Councilmember what this item referred to, and they had no idea. He stated that citizens should be aware of how budget funds are being spent, since the money comes from taxpayers. He stated there needs to be more transparency in the budgeting process.

Aaron Flannery, a resident, stated that water rates were raised 3%, but it is over four years, which means it will be a 12% increase. He stated the property tax was lowered, but the amount being collected is actually increasing. El Mirage City taxes have accounted for 33% of the yearly statement over the past six years. There was a request in 2023 to borrow \$40 million to remodel City Hall and build a Fire Station, and that 81% of voters said no. There needs to be a focus on roads, security from fire and crime, and revising and enforcing city codes. There have been instances in which four Councilmembers were photographed together without prior notice, and that this needs to stop immediately.

6. 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 Special Meeting and Regular Council meetings held Tuesday, May 5, 2026. (City Clerk)
2. Consideration and action to approve Resolution R26-05-08 designating Robert Weddigen as the City of El Mirage Chief Fiscal Officer for FY2027 as required by Arizona Revised Statutes §41-1279.07(E). (Finance)
3. Consideration and action to approve an updated Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) funding policy for Police and Fire for Fiscal Year 2027. (Finance)
4. Consideration and action to authorize the Finance Department to make transfers as necessary for FY 2025-2026 to adjust fund and department balances to comply with state law. (Finance)

At the request of Councilmember Eldridge, this item was pulled for consideration and action on the Regular Agenda as item 7.1.

5. Consideration and action to authorize the Finance Department to make budget adjustments for FY 2026-2027 to adjust the budgeted amounts of FY 2025-2026 carry-forward: projects involving grant funding, any capital projects, and any special projects. (Finance)

At the request of Councilmember Eldridge, this item was pulled for consideration and action on the Regular Agenda as item 7.2.

6. Consideration and action to approve expense for annual fire department personnel physical examinations, provided by 1582 Medical Group, LLC, aka, Burroff and Associates, LTD, in an amount not to exceed \$33,125.00. (Fire)
7. Consideration and action to approve the purchase of one replacement 2026 Ford F150 at a total cost not to exceed \$92,320.52 using contingency funds and authorize the Finance Department to make necessary transfers (Police).

At the request of Councilmember Eldridge, this item was pulled for consideration and action on the Regular Agenda as item 7.3.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve Consent Agenda items 6.1. through 6.3 and 6.6, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (6/1) NAY - Councilmember Gentry**

7. REGULAR AGENDA**7.1 Consideration and action to authorize the Finance Department to make transfers as necessary for FY2025-2026 to adjust fund and department balances to comply with state law. (Finance)**

Mayor Hermosillo stated this item was pulled by Councilmember Eldridge.

Councilmember Eldridge stated he pulled this item for transparency. He asked staff to explain where the money is going, whether this is a standard practice, and the purpose of this practice.

Robert Weddigan, Finance Director, stated this gives staff the ability to quickly transact during the process of preparing financial statements and to adjust the budget in the general fund between two departments. One department may have overspent its budget limit while another department has underspent its budget, so transfers between the departments would make them whole. This process does not happen frequently. When money is transferred from one department to another, it then comes back to the council for approval.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked if he could give an example and what would happen if the majority of the council said no to the transfer.

Mr. Weddigan stated that an example from the past was when the council incurred additional expenses in a particular fiscal year due to an unanticipated event, and transferred funds from the contingency fund to cover those expenses. In these cases, the fiscal year has lapsed and a transfer is necessary. Financial statements could not be produced in those instances. In the middle of May, he does not believe any department will be over budget, but invoices may be received for payment after the close of the fiscal year.

Councilmember Dorcey stated that this process is routine.

Councilmember Eldridge asked if a department is under budget, do they overspend to not lose the funds. Mr. Weddigan stated that El Mirage does not have a common practice of spending down its budget.

Councilmember Winston stated that citizens are able to click on an item on the agenda, and it will explain and give more detail for the item. She stated that on this item, it says that approving this item will not increase the budget but will ensure state law is followed. The council will be notified of any changes the Finance Department makes to comply with the law.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel stated that she did not approve this budget and will not approve any transfers.

**Mayor Hermosillo moved to authorize the Finance Department to make transfers as necessary for FY 2025-2026 to adjust fund and department balances to comply with state law, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion passed (5/2) NAY - Councilmember Gentry, Councilmember Norton-McDaniel**

7.2 Consideration and action to authorize the Finance Department to make budget adjustments for FY 2026-2027 to adjust the budgeted amounts of FY 2025-2026 to carry forward: projects involving grant funding, any capital projects, and any special projects. (Finance)

Mayor Hermosillo stated this item was pulled for discussion by Councilmember Eldridge.

Councilmember Eldridge stated that he also pulled this item for transparency.

Macy Walker, Budget Manager, stated that this item includes capital projects, grant funding, and any special projects. She stated that funds are carried forward to FY 2027 to ensure there is sufficient budget to complete any project scheduled for FY2025/2026.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel stated that she did not approve the budget and would not approve any adjustments to it.

Councilmember Gentry stated that she did not approve this budget and will not approve it either.

Vice Mayor Parsons moved to authorize the Finance Department to make budget adjustments for FY 2026-2027 to adjust the budgeted amounts of FY 2025-2026 carry-forward: projects involving grant funding, any capital projects, and any special projects, seconded by Councilmember Winston.

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

7.3 Consideration and action to approve the purchase of one replacement 2026 FORD F150 at a total cost not exc using contingency funds and authorize the Finance Department to make necessary transfers (Police).

Chief Marzocca stated the collision occurred on January 24, 2026, at 9:30 p.m. The City of Surprise investigated the collision, and the vehicle was a total loss. The vehicle was a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado with 58,820 miles and had no significant mechanical, electrical, or structural issues. They are salvaging as much as possible out of the vehicle to be repurposed. The net insurance payout from Berkley Risk was \$26,879.

Mayor Hermosillo stated Councilmember Eldridge pulled this item for discussion. She stated she absolutely supports replacing the vehicle and supports police having the resources and tools to do their job.

Councilmember Eldridge asked whether equipment being salvaged has been removed from the proposal amount for equipment to be purchased for the new vehicle, which vehicle the officer has been driving since the accident, and whether bids from other companies are being sought for upfitting. Chief Marzocca stated that the salvaged equipment is not being removed from the proposal because the old equipment may not work in the new vehicle, as modifications occur as the vehicle ages. He stated there are sufficient vehicles right now for officers to drive, but it puts pressure on the fleet when additional vehicles are needed. He stated that additional bids are sought for equipment, but it depends on the service received.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked why the insurance does not cover the outfitting of the vehicle. Jill Boltz, City Clerk, stated that typically, car insurance does not cover specialty equipment. She stated that, in this instance, since the equipment is needed in a police situation to perform a specific job, she has emailed the risk pool to see if any additional funding is available.

Councilmember Dorcey stated that specialized equipment is usually excluded under auto policies, and if it were included, the premiums would be extremely high. She stated the risk pool is like an insurance company and would be aggressive about pursuing subrogation rights if available.

Councilmember Winston stated that it has only been four months since this accident, and litigation may not be completely done.

Councilmember Gentry asked how many vehicles are in the fleet. Chief Marzocca stated there are approximately 60 vehicles in the fleet.

Councilmember Norton-McDaniel asked why the truck couldn't be replaced with a sport

utility vehicle since it can not be used for its original intention of patrolling the wash areas. Chief Marzocca stated they are transitioning to pick-up trucks for the fleet because of the number of repairs needed for the sport utility vehicles.

**Vice Mayor Parsons moved to approve the purchase of one replacement 2026 Ford F150 at a total cost not to exceed \$92,320.52, using contingency funds, and authorize the Finance Department to make the necessary transfers, seconded by Councilmember Winston.
Motion Passed (6/1) NAY - Councilmember Gentry**

8. 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.

Crystal Dyches, City Manager, noted a schedule adjustment to the FY2027 final budget and levy adoption process. She stated that after the tentative budget was adopted, staff encountered unexpected challenges in meeting Arizona's statutory newspaper publication deadlines due to changes in publication schedules. Following consultation from legal counsel and the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, the final adoption dates have been moved to the next available meeting to ensure compliance. The final budget adoption will be on June 2, 2026, with levy adoption at the subsequent June 16, 2026, meeting.

9. 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.

Councilmember Dorcey stated that the replacement work done at the YMCA looks really good.

Councilmember Eldridge stated that the 75th Anniversary is approaching and thanked the Firefighter Charities for the work they did this year on Dysart Scholarship funds.

10. ADJOURNMENT - meetig adjourned at 7:19 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 19, 2026, and a quorum was present.



Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk