

DRAFT

**WORK SESSION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10000 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
5:00 PM - MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Councilmember Anita Norton (excused)

2. CALL TO ORDER - meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m.

3. WORK SESSION PRESENTATION

1. Parks Capital Improvement Plan Presentation and Discussion. (Parks and Recreation)

Sean VonRoenn, Parks and Recreation Director, outlined the mission and goal of the work session. The discussion would establish investment priorities, prioritize capital investments, and provide direction for the five-year capital improvement plan. No projects will be discussed for approval. Staff is seeking policy direction to develop a phased capital investment strategy and will return with project-specific recommendations for future council action. The Master Plan reflects broad community input, with over 400 survey responses, a needs assessment, an open house, and virtual voting. A consistent message emerged across all engagement channels: the same top three amenities were requested: splash pads, multi-use trails, and shade areas. The community identified a need for additional community-scale amenities, as many existing parks require reinvestment to address aging infrastructure. As the council considers future parks capital investments, the following criteria are offered as a framework for evaluating projects consistently: preserve existing public assets, reflect community priorities, address system-wide needs, leverage outside funding, and deliver long-term value within available resources. Council can adopt this framework as proposed, revise it, or replace it, but a shared framework should take precedence over project-by-project decisions.

Council discussion included safety in parks; infrastructure needs; the role of community parks in influencing funding allocations; enhanced equipment and amenities; investment levels at Gateway Park, Bill Gentry Park, Sundial IV Park, and Basin Park expansion; and investment levels for existing parks and future community-scale amenities.

City Manager Dyches summarized the Council discussion as providing direction to pursue a Tier 2 approach for neighborhood playgrounds, a higher level of investment for Gateway Park as a community park, expedite the Sundial IV project as reasonably possible, and pursue broader planning for Bill Gentry Park. Council generally supported moving forward with projects already planned and budgeted and continuing planning for future improvements at Basin and Bill Gentry Parks. Councilmembers expressed differing priorities regarding the sequencing of future investments.

4. ADJOURNMENT - meeting adjourned at 6:10 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 El Mirage City Council Work Session held on Monday, August 17, 2026, and a quorum was present.


Jill A. Boltz, City Clerk