



**Regular Session**  
**Queen Creek Town Council**  
Community Chambers, 20727 E. Civic Parkway  
July 1, 2020  
6:30 PM

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:54 p.m.

**2. Roll Call:** (Members of the Town Council may attend electronically and/or telephonically)

Gail Barney	Mayor	Present
Julia Wheatley	Vice Mayor	Present via WebEx
Robin Benning	Council Member	Present
Jeff Brown	Council Member	Present via WebEx
Jake Hoffman	Council Member	Present
Dawn Oliphant	Council Member	Present via WebEx
Emilena Turley	Council Member	Absent

**3. Pledge of Allegiance:**

**4. Invocation/Moment of Silence:**

A moment of silence was observed for our communities across the nation that are hurting with a reflection on the importance of supporting one another.

**5. Ceremonial Matters (Presentations, Proclamations, Awards, Guest Introductions and Announcements):**

A. None.

**6. Committee Reports:**

A. Council summary reports on meetings and/or conferences attended. This may include but is not limited to Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport; MAG; East Valley Partnership; CAG. The Council will not propose, discuss, deliberate or take legal action on any matter in the summary unless the specific matter is properly noticed for legal action.

See attached.

B. Committee and outside agency reports (only as scheduled)

1. None.

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- 7. Public Comments:** *Members of the public may address the Town Council on items not on the printed agenda and during Public Hearings. Please address the Town Council by sending an email to [PublicComment@queencreek.org](mailto:PublicComment@queencreek.org) by 6:30 p.m. on July 1, 2020 (limited to 500 words – identify your name, address and whether you wish your comment to be read at the meeting or just submitted as part of the written record). The Town Council may not discuss or take action on any issue raised during public comment until a later meeting. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Only one comment (either by email or by WebEx) per person per Agenda Item will be allowed and comments without identifying name and address will not be read or submitted as part of the written record.*

None.

- 8. Consent Agenda:** *Matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. Members of the Town Council and or staff may comment on any item without removing it from the Consent Agenda or remove any item for separate discussion and consideration.*

A. None.

- 9. Items for Discussion:** *These items are for Town Council discussion only and no action will be taken. In general, no public comment will be taken.*

A. Rittenhouse Road Project Update

Public Works Director Troy discussed the Rittenhouse Road project timeline and the opportunity to complete the project ahead of schedule by extending the duration of the Rittenhouse Road closure.

Due to changes in United Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Spur-Track schedule, the Town's timeline has been moved up with a substantial completion date in November vs. December. Mr. White outlined the benefits of keeping the road closure in place so the Town can complete work prior to the UPRR work in August. He said that by consolidating the road closure, rather than having three additional future closings, it will reduce motorist's frustration; align with school openings; and take advantage of reduced vehicular traffic on Rittenhouse Road.

Mr. White said that Schnepf Farms, The Olive Mill and Pinal County fully support this revised schedule. The Town will provide public outreach on the road closure and project timeline.

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**10. Public Hearing Consent Agenda:** *Matters listed under the Public Hearing Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. Please address the Town Council on any of the items on the Public Hearing Consent Agenda by sending an email to [PublicComment@queencreek.org](mailto:PublicComment@queencreek.org) (limited to 500 words – identify your name, address and whether you wish your comment to be read at the meeting or just submitted as part of the written record) or by WebEx (instructions at [QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings](http://QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings)). Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Only one comment (either by email or by WebEx) per person per Agenda Item will be allowed and comments without identifying name and address will not be read or submitted as part of the written record.*

A. None.

**11. Public Hearings:** *If you wish to speak to the Town Council on any of the items listed as a Public Hearing, please address the Town Council by sending an email to [PublicComment@queencreek.org](mailto:PublicComment@queencreek.org) (limited to 500 words – identify your name, address and whether you wish your comment to be read at the meeting or just submitted as part of the written record) or by WebEx (instructions at [QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings](http://QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings)). Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Only one comment (either by email or by WebEx) per person per Agenda Item will be allowed and comments without identifying name and address will not be read or submitted as part of the written record.*

A. None.

**12. Final Action:** *If you wish to speak to the Town Council on any of the items listed under Final Action, please address the Town Council by sending an email to [PublicComment@queencreek.org](mailto:PublicComment@queencreek.org) (limited to 500 words – identify your name, address and whether you wish your comment to be read at the meeting or just submitted as part of the written record) or by WebEx (instructions at [QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings](http://QueenCreek.org/WatchMeetings)). Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each. Only one comment (either by email or by WebEx) per person per Agenda Item will be allowed and comments without identifying name and address will not be read or submitted as part of the written record.*

A. Consideration and possible approval of Resolution 1361-20 directing staff to implement a grant program and related budget adjustments based on the direction of the Town Council, and declaring an emergency.

Intergovernmental Relations Manager Heather Wilkey provided an overview of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security (CARES) Act signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020. Governor Ducey announced a \$441M distribution to counties, cities, and towns that did not receive a direct appropriation. She said Queen Creek's share of these funds is \$5,842,506.

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Economic Development Director Doreen Cott presented a grant program and its goals to assist the business community with economic relief and enhance the public safety of our residents using a simple application process that avoids duplication of other county or federal assistance programs.

Ms. Cott said grants will be given to for-profit, brick and mortar small businesses located in town limits in the form of reimbursement costs related to enhanced sanitation and employee and customer safety. Ms. Cott said this may include disinfection efforts; personal protective equipment; physical distancing techniques; installation of physical barriers (plexi-glass shields); signage; hand sanitizers and other expenses related to these activities.

Ms. Cott outlined how grant money will be distributed and how businesses will qualify for funding. The maximum award per business is \$12,500 and grant money will be distributed on a first come first serve basis until dedicated funds are exhausted. Staff recommends setting aside \$500,000 for the small business assistance program.

Town Attorney Scott Holcomb discussed the Emergency Clause that is included with both items 12(A) and 12(B) so they can be effective immediately, which requires an affirmative vote of all 6 council members (3/4 of 7).

Council Member Hoffman would like to see the inclusion of home-based businesses.

Council Member Brown is interested to hear more about home-based businesses and how they were negatively impacted in regards to mandated closures and enhanced sanitation requirements and how to apply awards in those instances.

The Council had discussion on the requirements that were tied to State funding, particularly the gift clause. Council asked the Town Attorney for direction and discussed the option to move into Executive Session for legal advice.

<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>To adjourn into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Approved. (5-1)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Robin Benning, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Brown, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Oliphant
<b>NAYES:</b>	Hoffman
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Turley

The Regular Session reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

Attorney Holcomb explained the gift clause parameters in the Arizona Constitution, prohibiting towns, counties and government entities from providing a credit or gift funding to any corporation, person or entity. Public funds expended must have a public

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benefit. He further explained that the parameter did not apply to entities that receive funds directly from the Federal Government such as instances in Phoenix or Tucson. He said our funds were received at the state level first and then went to the Town, therefore the gift clause applies. He said the funds cannot be used to offset income loss and must be expended for a public purpose.

Council Member Hoffman proposed an amendment to remove brick & mortar language from the grant program enabling home based businesses to apply. He also suggested amending the distribution requirement based on the number of full time employees (FTE) to include contract or 1099 employees.

<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>To approve Resolution 1361-20 directing staff to implement a grant program and related budget adjustments based on the direction of the Town Council; amend language in Exhibit A to remove brick and mortar businesses to allow home based businesses to apply; amend distribution requirements to include contract or 1099 employees; and declaring an emergency.</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Approved unanimously (6-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jake Hoffman, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jeff Brown, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Turley

- B. Consideration and possible approval of Ordinance 735-20 directing staff to waive new business license and business license renewal fees beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Director Cott presented the business license waiver program which would include all new and existing business that have physical location in town limits. This would affect approximately 865 businesses. Business license fees would be waived beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, and would eliminate any reimbursement challenges for business who have already paid. Ms. Cott said those business that have recently paid their license fee will benefit when their license is up for renewal next year. Information on the program will be shared via news releases; social media; the Town website; and by email or mail when their license is up for renewal.

The Council discussed their support for the program and the importance of supporting our business community during COVID -19.

<b>MOTION:</b>	To approve Ordinance 735-20 directing staff to waive new business license and business license renewal fees beginning July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and declaring an emergency.
<b>RESULT:</b>	Approved unanimously (6-0)
<b>MOVER:</b>	Robin Benning, Council Member
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Dawn Oliphant, Council Member
<b>AYES:</b>	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Turley

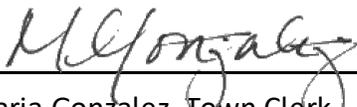
### 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK

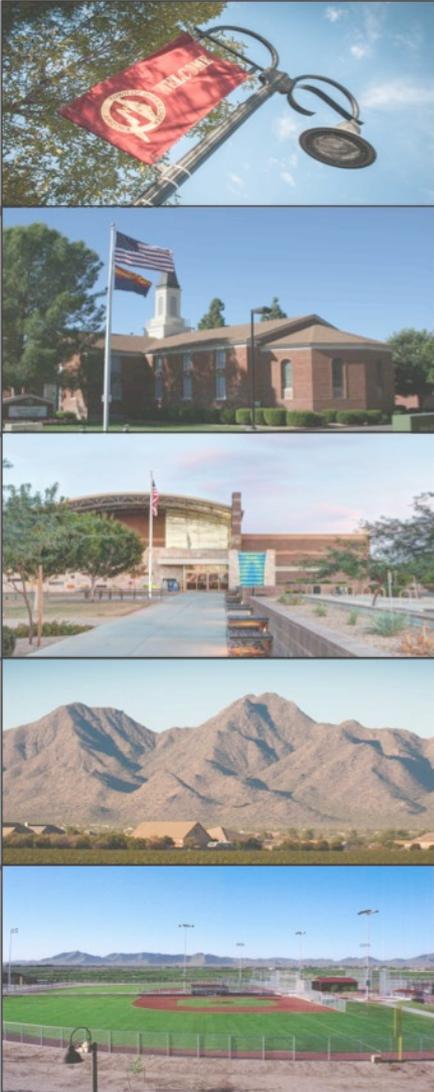
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Barney, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Maria Gonzalez, Town Clerk

I, Maria Gonzalez, do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the July 1, 2020 Regular Session of the Queen Creek Town Council. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Passed and approved on July 15, 2020.



## Council Committee Reports

- 06/18 – Valley Metro Board Meeting (Benning)
- 06/19 – Pinal County Mayors Update (Wheatley)
- 06/22 – MAG Regional Council Executive Committee Meeting (Barney)
- 06/24 – White House COVID-19 Briefing Call with State, Local, and Tribal Officials (Barney)
- 06/24 – MAG Regional Council Meeting (Barney)
- 06/24 – CAG Regional Council Meeting (Benning)
- 06/27 – Racism Relationships Solutions at the Queen Creek Library (Benning)
- 07/01 – NLC Conversation on Addressing COVID and Inequity In Your Community (Oliphant)