



**Minutes
Regular Session
Queen Creek Town Council**

Community Chambers, 20727 E. Civic Parkway
June 3, 2020
6:30 PM

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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 – electronically via WebEx
Robin Benning	Council Member	Present
Jeff Brown	Council Member	Present – electronically via WebEx
Jake Hoffman	Council Member	Present
Dawn Oliphant	Council Member	Present – electronically via WebEx
Emilena Turley	Council Member	Present

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Council Member Hoffman.

4. Invocation/Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was held for communities across the nation that are hurting and to reflect on how we can support one another.

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

A. Proclamation: 245th Birthday of the United States Army (June 14, 2020)

Mayor Barney read the proclamation recognizing the 245th birthday of the United States Army, which will take place on June 14, 2020.

B. Proclamation: Dust Awareness Week

Mayor Barney read the proclamation recognizing Dust Awareness Week, which takes place from June 1st through June 7th.

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C. Proclamation: Monsoon Awareness Week

Mayor Barney read the proclamation on Monsoon Awareness Week, which takes place June 9th through June 14th, with the season lasting through September.

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 report.

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

1. Economic Development Commission (May 27, 2020)

Mr. Shane Randall, Chair of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) provided an update of the May 27, 2020 EDC meeting. The Commission elected Shane Randall as committee chair and Grant Tayrien as committee vice chair. Planning Administrator Erik Swanson introduced a Major General Plan Amendment that was received by the Town. Town staff provided updates on outreach to small businesses during COVID 19 and new projects in Town limits.

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 by 6:30 p.m. on June 3, 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.*

MOTION:	To approve the Consent Agenda
RESULT:	Approved unanimously (7-0)
MOVER:	Robin Benning, Council Member
SECONDER:	Emilena Turley, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant, Turley

- A. Consideration and possible approval of the May 6, 2020 Regular Session Minutes.
 - B. Consideration and possible approval of Expenditures over \$25,000. (FY20 Budgeted Items)
 - 1. East Valley Wellness Center LLC - Annual medical exams required for Fire Personnel: \$52,000 (Fire & Medical)
 - C. Consideration and possible approval of a Cooperative Purchase Agreement with Toter, LLC using the City of Tucson contract #171717 in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the purchase of residential trash and recycling carts. (FY20 Budgeted Item)
- 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. None.
- 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 (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). 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.*

MOTION:	To approve the Public Hearing Consent Agenda
RESULT:	Approved unanimously (7-0)
MOVER:	Emilena Turley, Council Member
SECONDER:	Jake Hoffman, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant, Turley

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- A. Public Hearing and Possible Action on Ordinance 731-20, Case P18-0193 Empire Point, a request from Sean Lake, Pew and Lake PLC, to Rezone from R1-43 to R1-5/PAD and C-2 for a 533 lot single-family residential subdivision on approximately 180 acres located at the northwest corner of Empire Boulevard and Gary Road.

The public hearing was opened. No comments were received by the public and the public hearing was closed.

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 (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). 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 (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). 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.*

MOTION:	To approve Resolution 1352-20 to be adopted with an Emergency Clause
RESULT:	Approved unanimously (7-0)
MOVER:	Robin Benning, Council Member
SECONDER:	Emilena Turley, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant, Turley

- A. Consideration and possible adoption of Resolution 1352-20 authorizing the execution and delivery of a purchase agreement, a trust agreement, a continuing disclosure undertaking and an obligation purchase contract as well as agreements with a financial advisor and special counsel; approving the sale and execution and delivery of excise tax and state shared revenue obligations, Series 2020, evidencing a proportionate interest of the owners thereof in such purchase agreement; approving an official statement; adopting post-issuance continuing disclosure compliance procedures in connection with issuance of obligations of the Town; delegating the determination of certain terms of such obligations and matters related thereto to the Manager and Chief Financial Officer of the Town; authorizing the taking of all other actions necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this Resolution and declaring an emergency.

Finance Director Scott McCarty reviewed the legal component of issuing debt and outlined the schedule for the bond issue calendar. The purpose of the bonds is to complete the buildout of the Fire Masterplan and continue street projects outlined in the 10-year Transportation Masterplan. Mr. McCarty explained that the first step tonight is to consider the adoption of the authorizing resolution and associated documents.

Mr. McCarty outlined the repayment pledge and repayment sources. He provided details on debt service ratio, interest rates, terms and annual payments. He broke down costs for new street projects and construction of three fire stations and a Fire Resource Center.

Mr. McCarty explained that this is a market sensitive transaction and it includes an emergency clause so the resolution can take effective immediately. The emergency clause requires six affirmative votes for adoption. He said this allows the Town to move quickly based on market rates and provides flexibility. He noted that we have used this type of clause in the past.

There were no public comments. Council appreciated the focus on public safety and transportation.

- B. Consideration and possible action on the Town's FY 2020/21 Tentative Budget of \$409.1M and request to set the Public Hearing for June 17, 2020 for both the Final Budget and the Truth-In-Taxation per requirements under Arizona State Statutes.

Mr. McCarty shared a summary of the Town's Scrapbook of Major Financial Results which highlighted financial accomplishments over the past years in the following categories:

- One-time saving costs/ cost avoidances amounting to \$76.6M.
- Operating budget annual savings costs/cost avoidance from FY15-16 - FY17-18 amounting to \$6.7M.
- Direct tax and fee reductions/refunds (on-going and one time) amounting to \$4.7M.

- Other accomplishments that are important but harder to quantify
 - Lower interests costs on future bond issues
 - Improved ISO ratings
 - Delegation Resolution to get projects to market quicker
 - Comprehensive Employee Wellness Program
 - Overhaul of impact and capacity fees
 - Expanded Utilities Financial Policies
 - Created \$65M placeholder for transportation
 - Aggressive water supply acquisition strategy
 - Strategic annexations
 - Created numerous sinking funds for replacement of infrastructure
 - Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Program change regarding funding water resources

Council complimented staff on the teamwork involved to accomplish these results and said they were proud to work together to bring savings benefits to the residents.

Town Manager Kross gave a brief overview of the FY2020-21 Tentative Budget. He discussed the current economic overview and financial impacts tied to COVID-19. He said the budget is reflective of Queen Creek's guiding principles which include the preservation of reserves; priority for public safety and transportation; maintaining existing essential service levels; identifying expense reductions; and re-balancing the 5-Year Operating Budget Plan. He said that it will be extremely important to monitor regional and state forecasts which will vary by sector.

Mr. McCarty outlined the details of the operating budget, effects from COVID-19 and major policy items. He said the total recommended budget is \$409.1M which is ten percent less than last year. He discussed new staffing positions for FY20-21 and reported twenty-three new positions, all in the area of public safety for police and fire. All other vacant positions are frozen due to COVID -19 and will be filled on a case by case decision.

Mr. McCarty discussed the 5-Year Planning Goals relative to the operating budget. He outlined operating revenue sources of \$65.9M which reflects an 11% decrease from last year. He summarized three of the major Operating Budget expenses 1) create Queen Creek Police Department (\$2.8M) 2) increase Fire staffing (\$1.6M) and 3) debt service for non-growth share of infrastructure (\$1.7M). He summarized reductions taken in other areas to balance the budget due to COVID 19. He said the operating expenses are tied to Council policy with a focus on public safety and transportation. Mr. McCarty reported on the FY20-21 ending reserves totaling \$42.5M which will go toward pension liability and still maintain our policy of a 25% reserve requirement.

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Mr. McCarty summarized other major budgets including Streetlight Improvement District; Water Fund (self-funded); Wastewater Fund (self-funded); Solid Waste/Recycling (self-funded); Town Center Fund and Healthcare Fund (self-funded).

Mr. McCarty summarized the Infrastructure Budgets and said a significant amount of our budget is to continue building our masterplan and solid strategic objectives to keep up with population growth. He noted that approximately \$300M of the total budget is for infrastructure.

Mr. McCarty said that Debt Budgets are a new section added to the budget to provide a summary about debt across the entire organization. He explained that 90% of outstanding debt will be for Transportation, Fire and Law Enforcement.

Mr. McCarty explained the purpose of contingencies and reported the total amount for FY2021 is \$122.2M in four areas: 1) projects under contract 2) projects budgeted and approved (not yet under contract) 3) unanticipated expenses (true contingencies) and 4) Police Service contingencies.

Mr. McCarty outlined key budget dates and said approving the Tentative Budget is the required first step by state law, followed by a Truth and Taxation Hearing, Final Budget Hearing and Budget Adoption and a Property Tax Levy Adoption.

Mr. McCarty discussed primary property tax requirements. Primary property tax is dedicated to fund public safety. He explained the property tax formula which starts with assessed property value, which increased by 25% this year. Assessed value is set by the County and then Council sets the levy rate to decide how much revenue we want to receive each year. He presented three options for the Council to consider and discussed how it will affect tax payers. He noted that approval of Options A or B, would result in no action required for the Truth in Taxation matter.

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	Rate	Aggregate Impact	Individual Parcel Impact
Option A	\$1.56 levy	Receive same revenue as last year (\$8.3M)	-\$70 Decrease in property tax (based on median home value)
Option B	\$1.83 levy	Receive same revenue from existing properties; but get increase for new construction (\$9.8M)	-\$7 Decrease in property tax (based on median home value)
Option C	\$1.95 levy (Current rate)	Receive maximum revenue (\$10.4M)	+\$21 Increase in property tax (based on median home value)

Mr. McCarty concluded the presentation with an overview of five recommended policy changes and a draft ordinance:

1. Create a Police Services Reserve. Set aside \$4.5M from current fiscal year close out. Potentially fund start-up expenses in addition to the \$2.8M included in the FY20-21 Budget. Would require Council approval to use.
2. Adopt reports for Impact Fees; Capacity Fees and Impact Fee audit. Mr. McCarty said this item is administrative and it is our practice to do these reports annually and place on the Town website. This change would have Council formally adopt the reports on an annual basis.
3. Budgets for projects underway will automatically roll forward into next year. Mr. McCarty explained that this is mainly for Transportation and Waste Water. The suggestion is that once Council approves a project to consider allowing staff to administratively move money in and out of contingency into individual projects at the beginning of the fiscal year as opposed to requiring formal Town Council approval.
4. Create a COVID-19 Reserve using year-end excess of revenues over expenses from the operating budget in FY19-20. Set aside money to create a COVID reserve to give us a buffer. Funds not used for the COVID-19 would take Council action to repeal.
5. Part 1 - Clarification on how pension liabilities are funded. Year-end excesses of revenues over expenses will be used to fund pension reserves in the following order: Fire, Police, all other employees in terms of ASRS.

Part 2 - Ordinance 730-20. Establishes a new debt reserve; accumulates resources for early payoff of debt after ASRS pension is fully funded.

Assistant Town Manager Bruce Gardner read public comments submitted via WebEx from the following residents in favor of funding for recreation programs (*see attached*).

- Daniel Babcock, 19137 E. Raven Drive, Queen Creek
- Stephanie Lema, 21285 E Via Del Sol, Queen Creek

Council Member Oliphant, Chair of the Budget committee thanked all involved, especially staff for their time and effort. She thanked colleagues for continued support in the budget process and input from the Budget Committee.

Mr. McCarty addressed the public comments and said they were related to an informational staff memo addressing a fiscal analysis if we were to reduce recreation programs. He clarified that there will be no level of service reductions in the budget for Parks & Recreation.

Mr. McCarty asked the Council for comments and direction on the financial policy items to be presented for adoption at future meeting. The Council provided the following comments on the policy items:

1. Create a Police Services Reserve: No Comments
2. Adopt reports for Impact Fees; Capacity Fees and Impact Fee audit: No comments
3. Budgets for projects underway will automatically roll forward into next year:
 - Council Member Hoffman had concerns if a future staff or council would uphold the same practices. Prefers to keep current practice.
 - Council Member Brown is comfortable with the policy and said it can easily be undone if the process is not working in the future.
 - Council Member Oliphant is comfortable with this policy.
 - Vice Mayor Wheatley is comfortable with this policy.
 - Council Member Benning supports the policy as written.
 - Mayor Barney supports the policy, but agrees with Council Member Hoffman that if things change it could be a problem.
 - Council Member Turley feels similarly to Council Member Hoffman.
4. Create a COVID-19 Reserve: No comments
5. Part 1: Clarification on how pension liabilities are funded: No comments; Part 2: Ordinance 730-20- creating a debt reserve:
 - Council Member Brown opposes the Ordinance. Worries of potential opportunity costs. There could be a time where it is beneficial to use reserve to pay off another debt first. Historically, the Town has done what was necessary.
 - Council Member Benning opposes the Ordinance. Flexibility to react to conditions is key. Retiring debt is important to him and is proud of what the town has accomplished. Concerned about providing services to residents and opportunity costs. Wants to ensure that future councils have flexibility to react to changing economic conditions.

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- Council Member Turley supports the Ordinance. If this is what's been done historically, why isn't it in policy? If at any point it makes sense to do something different, then it can be changed. Supports putting it into policy.
- Mayor Barney supports the Ordinance as long as it takes a simple vote of the Council to change the policy if needed. Mr. Kross confirmed that it would only take a simple majority of 4 members.
- Council Member Hoffman supports the Ordinance. One of the reasons we have so many financial accomplishment is what we have been doing. He supports putting it into a policy to ensure the support of public safety reserves. Also, it is just a simple majority if it needs to be changed.
- Council Member Oliphant opposes the Ordinance. She appreciates the flexibility and doesn't see a need for this to be memorialized.
- Vice Mayor Wheatley opposes the Ordinance and said if it is not broke don't fix it. In 2015 Council adopted a policy to fully fund the pensions by resolution and it is already a priority. Flexibility is key and preserves local control.

Mr. McCarty explained staff's perspective and said there are two parts to this item. The pension part cleans up the language and acknowledges what we are currently doing. The second part is introducing the new debt when ASRS is fully funded. He said that both of these issues are contained in the Ordinance.

Mr. McCarty thanked the Council for their feedback and asked for motions on Ordinance 730-20; the primary property tax item; and the tentative budget.

MOTION:	To approve Ordinance 730-20
RESULT:	Defeated (3-4)
MOVER:	Jake Hoffman, Council Member
SECONDER:	Emilena Turley, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Hoffman, Turley
NAYS:	Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Oliphant

Mr. McCarty asked Council to consider the three options presented on the primary property tax and to provide direction on the Truth-in-Taxation item. Council discussed the options and they all agreed that Option B (reduce the tax levy rate to \$1.83 and receive the same revenue as current year plus new construction) would best support citizens and businesses during these economic times.

MOTION:	To adopt Option B: Same revenue as Current Year plus New Construction (\$9.8M; including Encanterra)
RESULT:	Adopted unanimously (7-0)
MOVER:	Julia Wheatley, Vice Mayor
SECONDER:	Jake Hoffman, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant, Turley

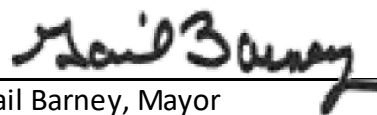
Mr. McCarty said with the adoption of Option B we will not need a Truth-In-Taxation hearing as there is no tax increase. Action to collect the \$9.8M can be done in July. Attorney Scott Holcomb concurred.

MOTION:	To approve the FY2020/21 Tentative Budget of \$409.1M and set June 17, 2020 as the date of the Public Hearing for the FY2020/21 Final Budget.
RESULT:	Adopted unanimously. (7-0)
MOVER:	Dawn Oliphant, Council Member
SECONDER:	Emilena Turley, Council Member
AYES:	Barney, Wheatley, Benning, Brown, Hoffman, Oliphant, Turley

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK



Gail Barney, Mayor

ATTEST:



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 June 3, 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 (1)

- 05/21 – “What's Next for Arizona's Transportation Infrastructure?” E-Meeting (Brown)
- 05/21 – Valley Metro Board Meeting (Barney)
- 05/21 – COVID-19 Conference Call with Senator Synema (Barney)
- 05/21 – Maricopa County Elected Officials Update: COVID-19 (Barney, Benning, Oliphant, Wheatley)
- 05/27 – EDC Meeting (Brown)
- 05/27 – White House COVID-19 Briefing Call with State, Local, and Tribal Officials (Barney)
- 05/27 – Governor Ducey’s Office Conference Call (Barney)
- 05/28 – COVID-19 Conference Call with Senator Synema (Barney)
- 05/28 – Maricopa County Elected Officials Update: COVID-19 (Barney, Benning, Oliphant)
- 05/29 – League Executive Committee Meeting (Barney)
- 05/29 – Pinal County Elected Officials Update: COVID-19 (Barney)



Council Committee Reports (2)

- 05/29 – Ellsworth Ranch Meeting (Benning)
- 06/02 – League PSMAC Meeting (Wheatley)
- 06/02 – Pinal County Economic & Workforce Development Conference Call (Barney)
- 06/02 – League TIPW Meeting (Brown, Oliphant)
- 06/03 – League NSQL Meeting (Oliphant)
- 06/03 – PHX East Valley Virtual Event: Preparing for the Future Post-COVID-19 (Benning, Brown)



Maria Gonzalez <maria.gonzalez@queencreek.org>

Public Comment - Dan Babcock 06/03/20 Council Meeting

Daniel Babcock <azbabcockfamily@gmail.com>
To: publiccomment@queencreek.org

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 4:43 PM

Hello -

My name is Dan Babcock, I am a Queen Creek resident and live at [19137 E. Raven Dr. Queen Creek, AZ 85142](#) (602) 617-2212.

I wish my comment to be read at the meeting if the topic of the Parks and Recreation operating budget is discussed.

I have attached a statement below. it is 500 words. I would be happy to discuss my thoughts further with any member of staff or council.

STATEMENT:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion with the Town Council.

I have been a Queen Creek resident since 2005 and I have been an active member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), as well as its predecessor the Parks, Trails and Open Space Committee (PTOS) for 13 years. I have coached and managed teams in the San Tan Valley Youth Football League and in Queen Creek Little League (QCLL). In addition, I have served on the QCLL Board for 5 years, including my current role as President for the last three.

I am sharing my thoughts and comments as I am deeply concerned about the section of the FY20-21 Budget Committee Follow-Up Memo that is purposefully eliminating the recreation program from the operating budget. The direction here, in my opinion, seems very shortsighted and will significantly erode recreational sports opportunities for our citizens over time. That trend is already underway in other parts of our country as club and travel sports grow, and is contrary to the underpinning of the town's vision for the community.

In my league, it takes about 20,000 volunteer hours to support over 600 participating families. The support we get from the parks and recreation staff on scheduling, special event planning and general operations is absolutely critical to our success. It is a true partnership and I would consider the Town one of our most important partners in the success of our league's operation. Suggestions like "first-come, first-serve" scheduling in the document are not even close to feasible to operate a league our size. If concepts like this are implemented, our league will not be able to sustain the 50+ teams which use the fields for 20-30 practices each per season.

Recreational sports are so important for the youth of our town. Unlike travel or club baseball, these are sports opportunities where everyone gets to play; regardless of their athletic abilities or their ability to pay. The primary focus is creating better citizens. Our league's mission is to focus on building character, teaching life lessons, socialization and sportsmanship that will benefit all the children and volunteers from our community that support these efforts.

From the beginning of March through the end May over 400 members of our community gather at our fields each night, Monday through Saturday to support our kids and each other. We provide opportunities for dozens of teenagers to learn how to umpire or assist in concessions. It allows them to be community role models as well. I am amazed each weeknight or weekend when I am at our parks and see how much of our community comes together.

The efforts of our parks and recreation department to help provide and protect these inclusive recreational sports opportunities have been so important. It is one of the things that make Queen Creek a great place to live. They are long-term investments in our community. Current events are showing us right now just how important these investments in our community are.



Maria Gonzalez <maria.gonzalez@queencreek.org>

June 3 Council Meeting - Public Comment - Recreation Program

Stephanie Lema <stephanietlema@gmail.com>
To: PublicComment@queencreek.org
Cc: TownCouncil@queencreek.org

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 5:02 PM

Stephanie Lema
21285 E Vial Del Sol, QC, AZ 85142
602-291-7784
Submitted for written record.

Honorable Mayor and Town Council,

I'm writing you today in regard to our Town's Recreation Program and the approval of the FY 2020/21 budget. You may know I've been an active member of our community since my family moved here in 2013. I'm a Citizen Leadership Institute graduate and served on the Transportation Advisory Committee. I also advocated for the inclusive playground at Mansel Carter Oasis Park that helped lead to the \$130,000 partnership with Banner Ironwood Medical Center. I love our town and how our recreation program continues to support our strong community.

I was alarmed to see notes in the council packet that referred to the "implications, cost savings, and revenue losses for eliminating the Recreation Program from the Operating Budget" for FY 2020/2021. You can reference these notes in the 5/26/2020 budget committee follow-up memo, item #12. The list of recreation programs includes youth sports leagues, sponsored partnerships, recreation class offerings, ramada rentals, meeting room rentals, event permitting, senior programs, special town events and more. Events such as Founders Day, Trunk or Treat, Splash Pad Party, Love Bug Dance are also listed.

I was informed later the tentative budget you're voting on tonight and final budget you're voting on during the June 17 meeting has a fully-funded recreation program although elimination was considered. I'm happy to hear the recreation program in part or whole will not be cut. I still feel compelled to submit my comments in support of our recreation program.

I know we are in a time of crisis because of COVID-19 and are still learning the extent of revenue loss due to town business closures. The financial impact of the pandemic will not be fully understood for some time. As we recover, and we will, recreation is how we can continue to build the strong community we all value. An elimination of the recreation program would impact our entire community. From toddlers to seniors, our recreation program is far reaching with positive outcomes and is instrumental in the quality lifestyle we enjoy by being residents of Queen Creek.

Please vote yes for the recreation program funding tonight and please also vote yes for funding in the final budget vote on June 17. As we get back out in the community, we will continue to thrive because our recreation program offers social opportunities, educational pursuits, community celebrations and healthy activities that benefit all of us.

Thank you for your time and service to the community.
Stephanie Lema