



**DRAFT**

**Minutes**  
**Town Council Regular Session**  
Community Chambers, 20727 E. Civic Parkway  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
6:30 PM

**1) Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2) Roll Call:**

**PRESENT:**

Julia Wheatley, Mayor  
Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor  
Robin Benning, Council Member  
Jeff Brown, Council Member  
Bryan McClure, Council Member  
Dawn Oliphant, Council Member  
Travis Padilla, Council Member

**3) Pledge of Allegiance:**

Led by Council Member Padilla.

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

A moment of silence was held for Preston Lord and all of the youth affected by teen violence.

**5) Remarks from Mayor Julia Wheatley and QCPD Police Chief Randy Brice regarding the ongoing October 28 homicide investigation.**

Mayor Wheatley thanked the community and the region for their support of Preston Lord's family and condemned the senseless unacceptable acts of violence. She expressed her sympathy for Preston's family, friends, classmates and teammates. She spoke about the recent high school basketball game between Combs High School and Poston Butte High School where the teams came together in support of Preston and said we have seen acts of kindness and community support as a result of this tragedy.

Police Chief Randy Brice provided an update on the October 28 homicide investigation and said they continue to work to get this case to trial. Chief Brice said they are working with the County Attorney as they continue to review case. Both the

County Attorney's Office and QCPD are continuing to seek new information and asked the community to contact them if they have any information whatsoever. Chief Brice addressed the many public record requests that have been received on this case and said pending records are being redacted and cannot be released until they get to a certain point in the investigation. He said the focus continues to be on justice for Preston and finding a solution to teen violence. He said this is a top priority and they are committed to the case, the community and the teen violence effort.

Mayor Wheatley spoke about the second meeting of "For Our Town" on Jan 23. She said the attendance and response from the group was encouraging in regards to ideas to reach out to our youth and get them involved in discussions. Mayor Wheatley announced the creation a Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee. She said we are currently hiring for the individual who will oversee that program, in addition to the teen programming at the new Recreation Center.

Connor Jarnagan, high school student from Queen Creek, spoke of his assault and expressed support of Senate Bill 1183 regarding brass knuckles; prohibited weapons.

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

6.A) Proclamation: Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

Mayor Wheatley read the proclamation for Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Month and said it is an important reminder that all forms of violence are unacceptable.

6.B) Proclamation: School Resource Officer Appreciation Day

Council Member McClure read the School Resource Officer Appreciation Day Proclamation and said it is a critical element of community policing strategies. The Council took photos with several Queen Creek Department School Resource Officers who were in attendance.

6.C) Proclamation: Brock Purdy Recognition

Mayor Wheatley read the proclamation in honor of Brock Purdy who is a Queen Creek native and a positive role model for leadership on and off the field. Mayor Wheatley wished him great success in Super Bowl 58 on Sunday, February 11, 2024.

6.D) Proclamation: Black History Month

Council Member Brown read the proclamation for Black History Month and encouraged all Queen Creek residents to join in celebrating the contributions of African Americans to our community, state and nation. He said several members of the Council attended the reading of the proclamation hosted by the Black Heritage Connection at Desert Mountain Park last Saturday, February 3.

6.E) Proclamation: Blue Star Mother's Day

Vice Mayor Martineau read the proclamation for Blue Star Mother's Day which was founded with the purpose of uniting mothers with sons or daughters in the United States Armed Forces. She said the Council is grateful for our service men and women and in Queen Creek and their families.

Council presented the proclamation to Bridgette Crosby and several members of the Queen Creek Blue Star Mothers who were in attendance and recognized them for their sacrifice.

6.F) Proclamation: International Mother Language Day

Council Member Benning read the proclamation for International Mother Language Day and recognized this day to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world.

6.G) Proclamation: American Heart Association Go Red for Women Month

Council Member Oliphant read the proclamation for Go Red for Women Month to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease and focus on events and on prevention of cardiovascular disease.


**7) Committee Reports:**

7.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.

7.B) Committee and outside agency reports (only as scheduled):  
1. Economic Development Commission (January 24, 2024)

Council Member Brown provided the report for the January 24 Economic Development Commission (EDC) meeting. The EDC heard presentations on the Town Center/Downtown Core Plan Update; the Facade Improvement Program; and an overview of projects in the development pipeline. The EDC also discussed ideas for the upcoming 2024 Economic Development Summit. The next meeting is scheduled for April 24.

**8) Public Comments:**

Public Comment Email- Heather Samson 


- Bridget Vega, 137 E Elliott Rd, Gilbert expressed her concerns regarding teen violence.

**9) Consent Agenda:**

9.A) Consideration and possible approval of the January 17, 2024 Regular Session minutes.

**Department:** Town Clerk's Office

Staff Report 

Minutes DRAFT 01-17-24.pdf 

- 9.B) Consideration and possible approval of Expenditures \$25,000 and over, pursuant to Town Purchasing Policy. (FY 23/24 Budget Items)

**Department:** Finance


Staff Report 


Expenditures over \$25,000.pdf 


- 9.C) Discussion and possible approval of 60-day Notice of Intention setting the time (6:30 P.M.) and the date (April 17, 2024) for the public hearing to amend the existing water meter installation fees.

**Department:** Finance

Staff Report 

Staff Report Utility Water Meter Fee Increase 

Notice of Intention to Increase the Water Meter Installation Fee 

New Water Meter Cost Analysis 

- 9.D) Consideration and possible approval of Amendment #1 to the contract with WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. for Sossaman Road Railroad Crossing at Germann Road (CIP Project No. A0904) increasing the contract amount by \$23,100 for a total amended contract not to exceed the amount of \$1,511,290 and a budget adjustment from CIP Contingency totaling \$23,100.

**Department:** Capital Improvement Projects

Staff Report 

Project Site Exhibit.pdf 

Amendment #01.pdf 

- 9.E) Consideration and possible approval of Resolution 1559-24 approving the Downtown Queen Creek Art & Placemaking Plan.

**Department:** Economic Development

Staff Report 


Queen Creek Art & Placemaking Plan Draft 010524.pdf 


Resolution 1559-24 DT QC Art and Placemaking Plan.pdf 

- 9.F) Consideration and possible approval of Resolution No. 1561-24 designating the Primary Election and General Election Dates and purposes of the elections; designating the deadlines for voter registration; and designating the place and last date for candidates to file nomination papers.

**Department:** Town Clerk's Office

Staff Report 


Resolution 1561-24 

Resolution 1561-24 (Spanish) 

- 9.G) Consideration and possible approval of Resolution No. 1562-24 authorizing the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney to enter into Intergovernmental Agreements with Maricopa County and Pinal County for 2024 election and voter registration services.

**Department:** Town Clerk's Office

Staff Report 


Resolution 1562-24 

IGA for Election Services\_Pinal County 

- 9.H) Consideration and possible position of support for the strike everything amendment to Senate Bill 1183 Brass Knuckles; Prohibited Weapons with an amendment limiting the prohibition to minors.

**Department:** Town Manager's Office

Staff Report 

SB 1183.pdf 

SB 1183 KERN amendment.pdf 

*Vice Mayor Brown requested to pull item 8(H) in order to propose an amended motion. Council Member Padilla proposed an alternative amended motion to item 8(H).*

**MOTION:** To approve Consent Agenda less Item 8(H)  
**RESULT:** Approved unanimously (7-0)  
**MOVER:** Dawn Oliphant, Council Member  
**SECONDER:** Bryan McClure, Council Member  
**AYES:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member, Travis Padilla, Council Member

**MOTION:** To approve an alternative motion to support for the strike-everything amendment offered to Senate Bill 1183 Brass Knuckles; so long as there was an enhancement for the penalties for use of brass knuckles in the commission of a crime.  
**RESULT:** Failed (2-5)  
**MOVER:** Travis Padilla, Council Member  
**SECONDER:** Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor  
**AYES:** Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Travis Padilla, Council Member  
**NAYS:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member

**MOTION:** To approve as amended support for the strike-everything amendment offered to Senate Bill 1183 Brass Knuckles; Prohibited Weapons with an amendment limiting the prohibition to minors and/or an amendment that would enhance the penalties for the use of brass knuckles in the commission of a crime.  
**RESULT:** Approved (5-2)  
**MOVER:** Jeff Brown, Council Member  
**SECONDER:** Robin Benning, Council Member  
**AYES:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member  
**NAYS:** Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Travis Padilla, Council Member


**10) Public Hearing Consent Agenda:**

Mayor Wheatley opened the public hearing. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.

10.A) Consideration and possible recommendation of approval on a Series 009 Liquor Store Liquor License application submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller on behalf of Fry's Fuel Center #656 located at 22101 E Queen Creek Road, Queen Creek.

**Department:** Town Clerk's Office

Staff Report 

Rule R19-1-702 (9-24-22).pdf 


LGB Report 

QCPD Report.pdf 

- 10.B) Consideration and possible recommendation of approval on a Series 010 Beer & Wine Store Liquor License application submitted by Jeffrey Craig Miller on behalf of Fry's Fuel Center #656 located at 22263 E Queen Creek Road, Queen Creek.

**Department:** Town Clerk's Office

Staff Report 

Rule R19-1-702 (9-24-22).pdf 

LGB Report 

QCPD Report.pdf 

**MOTION:** To approve 10) Public Hearing Consent Agenda:

**RESULT:** Approved unanimously (7-0)

**MOVER:** Jeff Brown, Council Member

**SECONDER:** Dawn Oliphant, Council Member

**AYES:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member, Travis Padilla, Council Member

**11) Public Hearings: None.**

**12) Items for Discussion:**

- 12.A) Presentation on the status of the State Route 24 Extension approved FY 2024-2025 State Budget Appropriation.

**Department:** Town Manager's Office

Intergovernmental Relations Director Heather Wilkey provided an overview of the SR24 extension and said Queen Creek's focus is on the Phase I portion from Ellsworth to Ironwood. She said the extension is in the interim status and Proposition 479 funding would complete this section to permanent status with full interchanges at Signal Butte and Meridian roads.

Ms. Wilkey said SB1722 was passed and appropriated \$87.5M to Queen Creek

and Pinal County to expend the funding for completion of SR24, which is still outstanding to date. She discussed the timeline in relation to the funding and discussed the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) details with the Town and ADOT to receive the funding. She said there have been many attempts by the Town to check on the funding status, including letters to the governor. Ms. Wilkey noted that we are one of two outstanding projects that have not received funding. She discussed the State budget process which included the proposed clawback of the SR24 extension and the Pinal Parkway and the \$87.5M funding which is needed to complete the project.

Public Works Director Mohamed Youssef discussed the consequences of a funding delay to Queen Creek and highlighted the rapid population growth in the area now and proposed for the future. He compared the number of interchanges serving the Chandler and Gilbert area versus the number of interchanges in Queen Creek and San Tan Valley and stressed the needs for this area due to the rapid economic growth. He said the extension is needed to meet level of services and discussed already at capacity conditions at Ellsworth and Ironwood roads. He said the money allocated that has been cut from the budget is absolutely needed. Mr. Youssef added that all the regional traffic studies included the Pinal Parkway and the SR24 extensions and without funding he said the studies are essentially invalid.

Ms. Wilkey said we will continue to advocate support for the appropriations to our legislature and work with other jurisdictions and partners and to raise public awareness.

Mayor Wheatley stressed the significance of this funding for the entire region and specifically the State Trust land that benefits the State and said letters from the Town have been unanswered at the governor level.

Representative Neal Carter, District 15, spoke in support of Queen Creek and SR24. He said it is a priority project and he said he was shocked that the money has not been released. He said he continues to work on behalf of this project and is opposed to the clawback of SR24 funding.

Council thanked Representative Neal for the support and for attending the meeting tonight. They asked him to keep up the good work on behalf of Queen Creek and the region.

SR 24 Extension Presentation 


**13) Final Action:**

- 13.A) Consideration and possible approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pinal County and the Town of Queen Creek for funding a portion of the design and construction of a realigned Germann Road between Ironwood Road and Kenworthy Road in the amount of \$9,800,000, and a budget adjustment from CIP Contingency totaling \$9,800,000 to be funded by Pinal County.


**Department:** Capital Improvement Projects

Staff Report 



[Staff Report Germann Road Realignment IGA with Pinal County.pdf](#) 

[AR100 Germann Road IGA Site Location Map.pdf](#) 

[4889-1656-8991 IGA Germann Road- Ironwood to Kenworthy.pdf](#) 

[Presentation - Germann Road Realignment.pdf](#) 

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Director Dave Lipinski presented the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Pinal County and Queen Creek for funding of a portion of the design and construction of a realigned Germann Road between Ironwood and Kentworthy. He said as part of the development agreement with LG the Town is obligated to construct six miles of infrastructure to service the site. He explained the reason for the realignment was based on a new traffic analysis for projected traffic volumes regarding additional phases of development for the LG project. Mr. Lipinski said at this point the Town stopped final design and focused on finding alternative alignment solutions.

Mr. Lipinski said the Town organized meetings with the stakeholders involved including SRP, Pinal County, LG and the Arizona State Land Department which resulted in the proposed realignment of Germann Rd. He discussed some challenges involved with the realignment, but said the final realignment was a mutually beneficially agreement between all parties and the IGA solidified the funding agreement between the Town and Pinal County to complete the project.

Council discussed the significance of the collaboration between all parties to find a solution. Council appreciated the expedited timeline and a solution that benefited the area residents and the business community. They appreciated that it did not increase Town funding and thanked Pinal County for their portion of the project.

**MOTION:** To approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between Pinal County and the Town of Queen Creek for funding a portion of the design and construction of a realigned Germann Road between Ironwood Road and Kenworthy Road in the amount of \$9,800,000, and a budget adjustment from CIP Contingency totaling \$9,800,000 to be funded by Pinal County.

**RESULT:** Approved unanimously (7-0)

**MOVER:** Bryan McClure, Council Member

**SECONDER:** Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor


**AYES:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member, Travis Padilla, Council Member

13.B) [Presentation of the 5-Year Operating Budget Revenue Forecast and approval of FY 2023-24 revenue budget amendments totaling \\$11,936,009.](#)

**Department:** Finance

Staff Report 

020724 Revenue Projections FINAL.pdf 

Presentation -5-YR Revenue Projections.pdf 

Finance Director Scott McCarty presented the 5-Year Operating Budget Revenue forecast. He said the purpose of the presentation is to 1) amend the FY23-24 adopted revenue estimates based on actual activity and 2) present the 5-Year forecast beginning with the next fiscal year starting on July 1.

Mr. McCarty discussed the uncertainty in the overall economy and highlighted some of Queen Creek's strengths. He said the actual results of the FY23-24 budget were better than expected and provided revised projections and introduced new policy decisions in regards to pay-as-you-go infrastructure funding. Mr. McCarty gave a detailed report on FY24-25 budget projections; long-term projections; population projections; housing permits and sales tax.

Council thanked Mr. McCarty for the thorough presentation. Mayor Wheatley commented on the economic development strides made in Queen Creek as a community over the years and the continued conservative approach to save for the future. Vice Mayor Martineau appreciated the cap and the policies put in place to look ahead to coming years.

**MOTION:** To approve FY 2023-24 revenue budget amendments totaling \$11,936,009.

**RESULT:** Approved unanimously (7-0)

**MOVER:** Robin Benning, Council Member

**SECONDER:** Bryan McClure, Council Member

**AYES:** Julia Wheatley, Mayor, Leah Martineau, Vice Mayor, Robin Benning, Council Member, Jeff Brown, Council Member, Bryan McClure, Council Member, Dawn Oliphant, Council Member, Travis Padilla, Council Member

**14) Adjournment:**

The Council reconvened into Executive Session at 8:39 p.m. The Regular Session reconvened and adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Julia Wheatley, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Maria E. Gonzalez, Town Clerk

I, Maria E. Gonzalez, do hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Town Council Regular Session Minutes of the February 7, 2024 Town Council 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: \_\_\_\_\_