



Minutes
Town Council Regular Session
Community Chambers, 20727 E. Civic Parkway
Wednesday, April 3, 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 Mayor Wheatley.

4) Invocation/Moment of Silence:

Mayor Wheatley held a moment of silence for Preston Lord and his family.

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

5.A) Star Student Recognition

The Council recognized the following students for their exemplary citizenship, service and integrity: Sterling Johnson, Benjamin Johnson Power Campus; Benson Cook, Benjamin Franklin Crismon Campus; Camden Howcroft, Heritage Academy Gateway; Hannah Droeg, Castille High School; Michael Desiderio Jr, Sossaman Middle School.

Mayor Wheatley also recognized the school principals and teachers and thanked local businesses who helped celebrate our students including Cold

Stone Creamery, Jeremiah's Italian Ice, Dairy Queen, Bahama Buck's and Menchie's Frozen Yogurt.

5.B) Recognition of Benjamin Franklin Spiritline Team

Council Member Padilla recognized the Benjamin Franklin Chargerettes who competed at the Arizona State Cheer and Pom Tournament. He said they took first place in Pom for fifth time in six years; first place in the Jazz category; and second place in the hip hop category. He said two soloists were selected to represent Benjamin Franklin High School and they swept the competition. Kaylee Jones received second place and Grace Skiba took home first, with a perfect score from the judges.

The teams and their coaches were congratulated and recognized at the dais with Council.

5.C) Proclamation: National Work Zone Awareness Week

Council Member Benning presented the proclamation for National Work Zone Awareness Week. He encouraged motorists to practice safety in work zones and also thanked the employees who work for the Town of Queen Creek Streets Division.

5.D) Proclamation: National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Council Member McClure presented the proclamation for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. He honored telecommunications personnel in the public safety community for their critical role in response to citizens who have an emergency.

5.F) Proclamation: Child Abuse Prevention Month

Vice Mayor Martineau presented the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. She said April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month and recognized the important actions that can be taken to make an impact on the well being of our children.

5.E) Proclamation: Week of the Young Child

Vice Mayor Martineau recognized April 6 - 12, 2024 as Week of the Young Child. Week of the Young Child is supported by many local organizations in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Vice Mayor Martineau introduced Sonia Soto, a Family Child Care Specialist from the United Way of Pinal County and Sheri Collins and Shilo Murillo, from First Things First who were in attendance to receive the proclamation. Ms. Murillo gave a brief summary of the services provided by her organization and spoke on the importance of child development and the involvement of all in the community to benefit young children.

5.G) Proclamation: Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Council Member Brown presented the proclamation for Distracted Driving Awareness Month and reminded residents of the dangers of distracted driving and cell phone use while driving.

5.H) Proclamation: Earth Month

Council Member Oliphant presented the proclamation for Earth Month. She outlined the sustainable policies practiced by the Town of Queen Creek and recognized the Public Works Environmental Services team for their efforts in keeping our Town a beautiful and sustainable place to live.

5.I) Presentation of SOAR Award to Environmental Operations Manager Ramona Simpson

Mayor Wheatley recognized the Town's Environmental and Fleet Operations Manager Ramona Simpson for her efforts to launch the Town's trash and recycling services in 2010 and for her leadership in the Solid Waste Association of North America for many years. Ms. Simpson is being recognized for her innovation in the solid waste industry with the 2024 Communication, Education and Marketing Technical Division Distinguished Individual Achievement Award.

6) Committee Reports:

6.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.

Committee Reports 

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

None.

7) Public Comments:

Comments related to teen violence were made by the following:


- Bridget Vega, Gilbert resident
- Jessica, Gilbert resident (comments delivered by Risa)
- Risa, Queen Creek resident
- Ann Doucet, Gilbert resident
- Brad Moore, Queen Creek resident
- Lesley Cain, Gilbert resident

8) Consent Agenda:

8.A) Consideration and possible approval of the March 20, 2024 Regular Session minutes.

Department: Town Clerk's Office


Staff Report 

Draft Minutes 03-20-24 (1).pdf 

- 8.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 

4_3_2024 Expenditures over \$25k.pdf 

- 8.C) Consideration and possible approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Town of Gilbert for the use of Gilbert's Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Department: Public Works

Staff Report 

Town of Gilbert HHW IGA.pdf 

MOTION: To approve the Consent Agenda.

RESULT: Approved unanimously (7-0)

MOVER: Robin Benning, Council Member

SECONDER: Jeff Brown, Council Member

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

9) Public Hearing Consent Agenda:

None.

10) Public Hearings:

None.

11) Items for Discussion:

- 11.A) Annual presentation and update to Council on the Town's Environmental Programs (Trash & Recycling, Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Air Quality and Outreach & Education).


Department: Public Works

Public Works Operations Manager Ramona Simpson provided the first annual presentation and update on the Town's Environmental Programs. Ms. Simpson provided an overview of average curbside collection in regards to recycling and the monthly rates for service in comparison to other cities, noting that we are the lowest.

Ms. Simpson shared a recycling video created in partnership with Waste Connections that will be on posted our website. She provided additional information on recycling audits; public outreach and education and a breakdown of recycling material.

Ms. Simpson provided details on QC Recycle events; Glass Recycling Pilot Program; Bigbelly Pilot Program containers at the splashpad; and household hazardous waste collections vouchers. Ms. Simpson concluded with areas of focus pertaining to public education and outreach and upcoming events.

Council thanked Ms. Simpson for the presentation and congratulated her on her award. Council comments and discussion were in regards to outreach and educational components; the importance of lower contamination rates; concerns regarding "hot loads" and partnerships with ASU.

FY 2024 Environmental Update 

- 11.B) Discuss initial projections for the 2024 Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR) fees, applying the use of groundwater allowances, groundwater extinguishment credits, and other sources in accordance with the CAGRDR policy (Resolution No. 1497-22) to reduce the fees, and recommendation to not use one-time Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Preservation Program funds to buy down the CAGRDR fees.

Department: Finance

Staff Report 

CAGRDR Policy 

Presentation CAGRDR Fees.pdf 

Finance Director Scott McCarty presented an overview of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRDR). He said the Town policy is to provide Council with annual information on CAGRDR fees that will be included on property tax bills in the fall. He noted that the policy is a financial success for the Town in regards to the cost savings for approximately 36K accounts that receive CAGRDR bills. He thanked Council and staff for their work on this policy.

Mr. McCarty provided a detailed explanation of AZ Water Resource requirements and CAGRDR rules for the different types of accounts and the strategies in place to reduce costs. He discussed that ICS Water Preservation Program Agreement that was approved to reduce costs for post-2004 customers. He explained that staff has revised the recommendation on the use of the one-time program funds to use in a different cost savings manner to

improve the financial condition of the Water Fund.


Mr. McCarty discussed 2024 CAGR fees based on 2023 water consumption and reviewed the reasons for the increase of \$1.2M. He said there is overall savings of \$9.2M to customers with bills being reduced from \$13.7M to \$4.5M. Cumulative saving to our customers since the adoption of the policy in 2018 will amount to \$45.1M.


Mayor Wheatley thanked Mr. McCarty and staff for their work on this policy and appreciated the saving for water customers.

11.C) Presentation of Public Works and Water/Wastewater Departmental Budgets for FY 2024-25

Department: Finance

Staff Report 

Public Works FY 2024-25 Budget Presentation 

Water and Wastewater FY 2024-25 Budget Presentation 

Public Works Director Mohamed Youssef and Utilities Director Marc Skocypec presented information on the budgets for Public Works and Water/Wastewater.

Mr. Youssef outlined the strategic goals for the Public Works Department in the areas of facility assessment, Advanced Traffic Management System, road maintenance and safe transportation.

Mr. Youssef reviewed metrics in the following areas and noted significant growth in all areas including the number of SeeClickFlix requests; the number of traffic signals; street maintenance paved lane miles; facility service operations for town-owned structures and fleet asset growth.

Mr. Youssef reported 15 new positions being requested for FY24-25 in the areas of transportation, facilities, streets and fleet. He said the FY2025 Public Works Budget is \$30.4M. Mr. Youssef discussed Capital Improvement Projects, the Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Plan and Transportation & Drainage Projects for the State Trust Land area.

Mr. Skocypec outlined the strategic goals for Water/Wastewater Department in the areas of water resource diversification; utility service response times; operations management and water conservation.

Mr. Skocypec reported 2 new positions for FY24-25 for a Utility Specialist and an Electrician Specialist. He said the FY2025 Water/Wastewater Budget is \$68.4M. Mr. Skocypec reported 33 active Capital Improvement Projects with Utility components and 42 future projects. He said the next two years are focused on the eastern service area and the State Land project.

Mr. Skocypec concluded with a recap on the Water Conservation Program and the importance of water saving outreach measures, including a new portal in

2025 for our customers. He discussed the benefits of water conservation and said there is a need for another Water Conservation Specialist. He said this budget does not include this position but it is a consideration that would help us better prepare for the upcoming HOA Program. Options to consider include either a full year (July 1) or mid-year (Jan 1) position for staff outreach and HOA Program development.

Council commented on the conservation program dollar amounts. They asked for more information on what the offset looks like if we add the additional position and what is the additional amount of HOAs we could work with and what savings might we see.

Town Manager Bruce Gardner said the another recommendation was to work with new neighborhoods on water conservation efforts in regards to landscaping, retention and low water use.

12) Final Action:

None.

13) Adjournment:

The Council reconvened into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. The Regular Session reconvened and adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK

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 April 3, 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: _____