



# TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL  
January 8, 2026 AT 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
500 N. GONZALES BLVD.  
HUACHUCA CITY, AZ 85616**

**A. Call to Order – Mayor**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call and Ascertain Quorum

**B. Roll Call.**

**Roll Call.**

**Present: Johann Wallace, Christy Hirshberg, Danielle Cardella, Cynthia Butterworth, Nallely Arreola (online), Geovona Thompson, Town Manager Suzanne Harvey (Not voting), Town Clerk Brandye Thorpe (not voting), Town Attorney Thomas Benavidez (Not voting).**

**Absent: Debra Trate**

- c. Invocation

*Any prayer/invocation that may be offered before the start of regular Council business shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen, for the benefit of the Council and the citizens present. The views or beliefs expressed by the prayer/invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council, and the Council does not endorse the religious beliefs or views of this, or any other speaker. A list of volunteers is maintained by the Town Clerk's Office and interested persons should contact the Town Clerk's Office for further information.*

**B. Call to the Public – Mayor**

*A.R.S. 38-431.01 states the Public Body may make an open call to the public during a public meeting, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions, to allow individuals to address the public body on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Public Body. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the Public Body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the Public Body, may ask staff to review a matter or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Public Body shall not discuss or take legal action on matters raised during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.*

Andre Newcob speaks about options for a Thanksgiving meal.

Lonnie Brock speaks about the crosswalk by Circle K and the danger it poses since the lights are not visible. He wants something safer to be installed.  
Tami Ackerson speaks about the crosswalk and her daughter being hit while using it properly. Cars do not see the lights and stop. She wants something better and safer in place.

### **C. Consent Agenda - Mayor**

*All items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered routine matters and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Member of the Town Council requests that an item or items be removed for discussion. Council Members may ask questions without removal of the item from the Consent Agenda. Items removed from the Consent Agenda are considered in their normal sequence as listed on the agenda, unless called out of sequence.*

- C.1 Consider approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 11, 2025.
- C.2 Consider approval of the Payment Approval Report.

**Motion: Items listed on the Consent Agenda Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

**Motion:** Approval of the items on the Consent Agenda, **Action:** Approve, **moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**  
Motion passed unanimously.

### **D. Unfinished Business before the Council – Mayor**

*Public comment will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by staff. Any citizen, who wishes, may speak one time for five minutes on each agenda item before or after Council discussion. Questions from Council Members, however, may be directed to staff or a member of the public through the mayor at any time.*

### **E. New Business Before Council - Mayor**

*Public comment will be taken at the beginning of each agenda item, after the subject has been announced by the Mayor and explained by staff. Any citizen, who wishes, may speak one time for five minutes on each agenda item before or after Council discussion. Questions from Council Members, however, may be directed to staff or a member of the public through the Mayor at any time.*

**E.1 Discussion and/or Action [Mayor Wallace]: Presentation of awards for best holiday decorated homes.**

**Motion: Item E.1 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

Mayor Wallace presents awards to two of the four winning homeowners.

**E.2 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Authorization to make repairs on the Caterpillar D6 dozer/tractor in the approximate amount of \$47,282.63.**

**Motion: Item E.2 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.**

Michael Fox explains that these repairs are needed to keep the machine running. Issues were discovered during routine checks/maintenance. Parts being replaced wear out with time. Council discusses.

**Motion: Repairs on the Caterpillar D6 dozer/tractor in the approximate amount of \$47,282.63. Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg. Motion passed unanimously.**

**E.3 Discussion [Town Attorney]: There will be three Council seats up for election [incumbents: Butterworth, Trate and Thompson], plus office of the Mayor [incumbent, Wallace], during the general election on November 3, 2026. These offices are non-partisan. The Town does not have a primary election for these offices; all seats are decided at the general election. Voter registration closes October 5, 2026, at midnight (ARS §16-120, 16-134), and early voting begins (ARS §16-542(C)). The Attorney will briefly discuss whether incumbent candidates need to first resign their current positions before running for one of the available offices.**

**Motion: Item E.3 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.**

Attorney Benavidez explains that if an incumbent wishes to run for one of the available seats and their term expires this year, they may do so without resigning, however if their term does not expire this year, they must resign prior to running. Council discusses. Mayor Wallace would like advertising to begin now.

**E.4 Discussion and/or Action [Town Attorney]: Authorization to prepare ordinances for needed Town Code amendments concerning state preemption of firearms regulation. Specifically, Section 18.100.210(D)(1) [Weapons Merchant Prohibited Home-Based Business Use], Section 9.20 [Minors Prohibited From Carrying Firearms] and Section 2.55.070 [Fees Chargeable By Police Before Firearms Transfer] should be amended to comply with changes to state laws and legislative priorities.**

**Motion: Item E.4 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.**

Attorney Benavidez advises he would like authorization to prepare these ordinances to bring us current with state law. We currently prohibit things which the state does not.

**Motion Prepare ordinances for needed Town Code amendments concerning state preemption of firearms regulation. Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**E.5 Discussion and/or Action [Chief Berry/Town Attorney]: Authorization to prepare ordinances for needed Town Code amendments concerning animals.**

**Motion: Item E.5 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.**

**Chief Berry explains that this removes some parts of code that are no longer relevant regarding the animal shelter and would make working with county easier if they do put a shelter in town.**

**Motion: Prepare ordinances for needed Town Code amendments concerning animals.**

**Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**E.6 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Council direction concerning a potential collaboration with Cochise County for an Animal Shelter in Huachuca City.**

**Motion: E.6 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

**Manager Harvey advises it would be a benefit to the town to work with Cochise County. Council discusses.**

**Motion: The submission of a letter stating that we are in favor of the idea and we support the proposed county animal shelter here in Huachuca City, Action: Authorize, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**E.7 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: After action report on the Town's Polar Express, Christmas Parade and Holiday Gift Basket events.**

**Motion: E.7 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.**

**Manager Harvey provides her reports on each of the events. Council discusses.**

## **F. Reports of Current Events by Council**

**Councilmember Butterworth- Karen Lambertson retired. Justin is interim. MPO meeting in February. Polar Express, got to see the Grinch. Food distribution next third Friday. Christmas Parade. Helped with gift baskets.**

Councilmember Cardella- no report

Councilmember Trate- Absent

Mayor ProTem Hirshberg- no report

Councilmember Arreola- no report

Councilmember Thompson- no report

Mayor Wallace- Crosswalk is getting lots of attention. KOLD and KGUN9 both spoke to. Meeting with ADOT hopefully next week. New Years Eve reception on Sunday for Netcom Commander. Not attending the Hispanic Mixer.

## G. Adjournment

**Motion:** To Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Johann Wallace, **Seconded by** Christy Hirshberg.

Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by Mayor Johann R. Wallace on January 26, 2026.

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Mr. Johann R. Wallace  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Brandye Thorpe,  
Town Clerk

Seal:

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Meeting for the Huachuca City Town Council held on January 8, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

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Ms. Brandye Thorpe,  
Town Clerk