



TOWN OF HUACHUCA CITY

The Sunset City

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
HUACHUCA CITY TOWN COUNCIL
June 11, 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, Geovona Thompson, Debra Trate, Cynthia Butterworth, Nallely Arreola (online), Town Manager Suzanne Harvey (Not voting), Town Clerk Brandye Thorpe (not voting), Town Attorney Thomas Benavidez (Not voting).

Absent:

- 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.

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 Council Meeting held on May 28, 2026, and the Work Session held on June 4, 2026.

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 Christy Hirshberg.

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.

Mayor Wallace changes the order of items on the Agenda.

E.7 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Approval of a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Lending Shed. The Town has an agreement with Family Healthcare Amigos, an Arizona non-profit corporation which operates the Lending Shed, distributing free durable medical equipment and incontinence supplies to seniors and low-income households. The agreement is due to expire at the end of the month.

Motion: Item E.7 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

A representative from the Lending Shed speaks about the benefit to the Town and their need for additional storage.

Council discusses and determines they do not want an additional conex on Town property and they would like to see the one already on our property painted and made to look better.

Motion: The MOU for another three years, making the adjustment to the storage so it identifies one shed and one conex Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Motion passed unanimously.

E.3 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Resolution No. 2026-07 - APPROVING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF: A LOAN REPAYMENT AGREEMENT FROM THE GREATER ARIZONA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ["GADA"] TO BE SECURED BY THE TOWN'S EXCISE TAXES AND SHARED REVENUES, A FINANCIAL GUARANTY AGREEMENT, AND A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING; ACCEPTING A LOAN FROM GADA PURSUANT TO THE LOAN REPAYMENT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000; AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE PORTIONS OF AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE TOWN AND THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE THEREOF; DELEGATING TO THE TOWN MANAGER THE AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE THE FINAL INTEREST RATE, MATURITY RATE, PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, PREPAYMENT PROVISIONS AND OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH LOAN REPAYMENT AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF ALL OTHER ACTIONS NECESSARY TO THE CONSUMMATION OF THE LOAN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion: Item E.3 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Cynthia Butterworth.

Manager Harvey explains that we have applied for \$5,000,000.00 and expect no higher than 5.5% interest rate. She then introduces Michael Vasquez who discusses the process and that we will need to move quickly. He also explains the emergency clause.

Mayor Wallace: So effectively, this emergency clause allows for the rapid acquisition and use and expenditure of the funds in support of those approved items that we've identified.

Attorney Benavidez advises that we can use the emergency clause, we just try not to when possible.

Mayor Wallace: But this is really about making sure that we, you know, we're enacting this clause that allows for the, you know, quicker disbursement of the monies. Because honestly, I do kind of see this as an emergency situation considering because I mean, I just heard the conversation you were having with Mike about something failing again, you know, from a fiscal austerity perspective, you know, having to keep putting money out for equipment that's on its last leg. Versus having brand new equipment under warranty and everything else like that. It's just from a financial austerity perspective, it's important. So I see this.

It's kind of an emergency situation. We need to get our equipment replaced because we're

spending more to maintain it than we are to operate it.

Motion: Ordinance 2026-07. Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

E.1 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey/Ruben Villa]: Approval of a tentative budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. All anticipated revenues and expenditures may be discussed, including property and sales taxes, enterprise funds, water, sewer and solid waste revenues and expenditures, potential grant revenue, capital improvements and expenditures, personnel salaries and benefits, Highway User Revenue Funds, police and fire services, and carryover funds from the current 2025-2026 budget. The final budget adoption process and schedule may also be discussed.

Motion: Discussion and/or Action Action: Open, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Ruben Villa: The Council had work session last week and there were only a few changes, all to the positive. In fact, \$9000 was cut from the draft to the tentative that was a result of a few things that I'll mention here. I'll just go down the list very quickly. Annexation costs will drop by \$11,000. Increase the court appointment attorneys by 7000 if you want the page numbers, I can do that as well. Decrease wage benefits in cost parts of rack that have to do with the reallocation of an employee. Most of the changes that go after this are just kind of a position of employee or readjusted to align with the performance of certain duties for each of the departments. Added just a cosmetic change in the budget in under the GOHS grant, just to separate the funding expenditures so we can clearly track them. That has no effect on the bottom line. Reduce transfers from fund balance to adjust downward for the change of that positions allocation, which it was an \$18,000 adjustment. Removed. That's a position from the department. Increase the connection fees as a result of our estimates on annexation improvements, but that has a related infrastructure line on the expenditure side. Right. So that doesn't happen. That money doesn't come in. That's when it doesn't happen. And the rest of them on my list are all have to do with the with the position allocation. All in all, for the record, your tenant or budget, if you approve tonight would be \$13,932,976. Now this is a reminder the Council may make changes from here to final adoption. We just can't increase the budget beyond this. OK. And if they if there's any specific questions I have in budget here and Suzanne and I can try to answer some of your questions.

Mayor Wallace: I would just like to say because \$13 million sounds like a lot of money. So I'd just like to say out loud that includes potential grants that may or may not get. So for the record, it's not all taxpayer dollars in there. I mean, that's a good point. If people actually pull up the budget and look at it, they're gonna see. I mean, we just approved a resolution for \$5,000,000 loan. You know, of course, that's only gonna pay back, but it's things like that. It's it's not like tax revenue. It's not, you know, it's like sales tax and stuff.

Motion: The tentative budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$13932976.00 Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

E.2 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Authorizing staff to begin the 60-day notice process for the Council's future consideration of increased residential and commercial trash service fees, including a request from Waste Management for a temporary energy/fuel cost fee to cover recent unanticipated energy and fuel costs which have risen sharply due to geopolitical events.

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

Manager Harvey: Council, I think we discussed this a little bit in the work session. The budget work session but Waste Management has requested a 70 cent per household, so \$0.70 a month per household increase to cover the increased cost of diesel and fuel. We all know we're all paying it ourselves. This would be a temporary increase. The plan is for six months with the review after three months, it wouldn't be effective until one September. At this point, I'm not asking mayor and Council to approve that increase.

I'm only asking for direction to post the required postings so that we can approve it before 1 September. We do have someone from waste management scheduled to come in July to one of our meetings so that he can speak to you directly and you can ask questions to him directly.

Motion: To begin the 60 day notice process for the Council's future consideration of increased residential and commercial trash service fees **Action:** Authorize Staff, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

E.4 Discussion and/or Action [Zoning Administrator]: First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-09 AMENDING THE TOWN CODE TITLE 15 "BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION" TO ESTABLISH A PREAPPROVED HOUSING DESIGN PLAN PROGRAM AND AN ONLINE PREAPPROVED PLAN LIBRARY, PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 9-461.19. This program would allow architects and design professionals to submit non-site-specific housing plan sets for Town pre-review. If deemed compliant with adopted building codes and local amendments, the plan sets would be listed in the Town's online Preapproved Plan Library. The Town may also accept housing plans that have been developed and preapproved by other municipalities, provided those municipalities have adopted the same building codes as the Town.

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

Motion: Discussion and/or Action **Action:** Openf, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Dr. Jim Johnson: This is basically housekeeping requirement by the State of Arizona and I want to thank Mr. Benavides. He was able to get this ordinance together really fast and get it to you tonight because it does go in effect per state law by July 1.
So we will make it. So I really thank him for jumping on top of that.

Basically, it's pretty much what it says. It's for architects and licensed design professionals to submit plans that can get pre approved in the municipality and be ready to go should someone come in and you have four or five plans that are already pre planned, checked and everything else like that and they go oh, I like plan A and it speeds up building permit process is all it does, but this is mandatory by the state.

E.5 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey] – Resolution No. 2026-08 - A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE TOWN'S CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER FOR OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT TO THE ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL.

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

Motion: Resolution 2026-08 Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

E.6 Discussion and/or Action [Suzanne Harvey]: Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fry Fire District for cooperation in applying for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to acquire a mobile pump testing trailer for annual fire pump recertifications.

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

Manager Harvey: Fry Fire has been checking or the pumps on our fire trucks all along. But we want to formalize this because they're asking for some grant money to get a mobile pump checker, and I was supposed to bring some bullet points and say the right name of it. It's a piece of machinery on a trailer, so they would be able to come to us to check the pump instead of us having to go to them. Theirs imploded recently, so they're asking for grant money to replace it and replacing it with a mobile 1 instead of the stationary one that they had at their station. There is no money involved. They aren't asking us to pay for this. They are already doing this. They just want to formalize and be able to show the grant committee. That they will be providing that service not just to fry fire district but to our district as well to dart down as well since they provide services here and in talking to Chief Savage, he probably is going to make it available to other fire departments that may need it as well.

Motion: The memorandum of Understanding with Fry Fire District for cooperation and applying for an assistance to firefighters grant to acquire mobile public testing trailer for annual fire pump recertification Action: Approve, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.
Motion passed unanimously.

E.8 Discussion and/or Action [Elizabeth Millias]: Update on planning for the Town's 4th of July celebration.

Motion: Item E.8 Action: Open for discussion and/or Action, moved by Johann Wallace, Seconded by Christy Hirshberg.

Elizabeth Millias presents the plans for the Town's 4th of July event.

F. Reports of Current Events by Council

Councilmember Butterworth- Went to the employee appreciation and staff lunch on Friday. Food distribution will be on Thursday next month.

Councilmember Cardella- Lots of summer stuff going on for kids. There's vacation Bible schools around the community. I know there's resources to help get kids there. There's a second session of summer splash that's coming up. The library has different events. All that is on the different Facebook pages, the library Facebook page posted around town, posted here at Town Hall. So if you're looking for something to do with kids of all ages. There's also summer nutrition programs at the school. Snacks at the library, so nobody should be sitting at home hungry. Just plenty to do. And I would just like to comment on staff's work on the park coming along for the 4th of July by the park. The grass is green, luscious, and you almost forget you're in Arizona for a second.

Councilmember Arreola- no report

Councilmember Trate- I attended the employee lunch on Friday. I think that's a great thing we're doing. I know other towns do that so I'm very glad to see that.

Mayor ProTem Hirshberg- I attended the appreciation luncheon as well on Friday and I thought it was a great event and I appreciate the staff members. I was here for the budget session last week and as much as I tried to convince the Mayor to stay, he's not gonna stay and I'm going on vacation next week. I'll be gone for two weeks, so I'll miss the food distribution, the SVMPO and the next council meeting. And this is my last Council meeting. I'm gonna resign from the Council because I'm going to put in my package to run for Mayor.

Councilmember Thompson- no report

Mayor Wallace- Yes, it is true. I am not running for reelection. I've done this for been the mayor for eight years. I've been involved with the town longer than that, but Christy's been involved in the town longer than me. But it's just I need to take a break. Got some personal things that I want to do and it's difficult to do with the amount of time that you know the town deserves from the mayor and just it's to the point where I don't have the time to give that time right now with some of the things I need to focus on personally and professionally. So Yep, I'm not running for reelection. Christy, it's been fun. You know where we're at. So I'll be here for the meetings. Yeah, just be here for the Council. Thank you. We'll look for the, you know, work through the legal process and we'll have to go through and actually formally accept a resignation at our, at our next Council meeting. OK then. Yeah, but it's the resign to run law. Because she's not at the end of her term, her current term, it's a resign to run law that we have.

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 June 25, 2026.

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 June 11, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Ms. Brandye Thorpe,
Town Clerk