



**City of Eloy
Minutes
City Council Regular Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025
City Council Chambers
595 North C Street
Eloy, Arizona 85131**

REGULAR MEETING AT OR AFTER 6:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Andrew Sutton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025, in the Council Chambers.

II. Roll Call

Present - 7

Andrew Sutton, Mayor
Michelle Tarango, Vice-Mayor
Sara Curtis, Councilmember
JoAnne Galindo, Councilmember
Jose Garcia, Councilmember
Dan Snyder, Councilmember
Michael Vodrazka, Councilmember

Staff

David Malewitz, City Manager
Stephen Cooper, City Attorney
Celine Kidwell, City Clerk
Mackenzie Letcher, Assistant City Manager

III. Moment of Silence

Mayor Sutton called for a moment of silence.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Michelle Tarango led the Pledge of Allegiance for the Council and the public.

V. Public Appearances

A. Scheduled

- **Community Outreach Funding Update - Pinal Hispanic Council**

CEO of the Pinal Hispanic Council, Ralph Varela expressed appreciation for the City of Eloy's ongoing support of community outreach initiatives, including the Eloy Veterans Day event and Wreaths Across America. He highlighted the significant impact of the City's financial contributions, which provided food for veterans and their families, and the successful wreath-laying ceremony at Eloy Memorial Cemetery. Ralph emphasized the vital role the City and its staff play in the success of these programs, which honor veterans and foster community unity. He thanked the City for its continued partnership and respectfully requested it maintain its support to ensure these important initiatives' growth and continued success.

- **Community Outreach Funding Update - Pinal Alliance For Economic Growth**

Patti King, Administrator of the Pinal Alliance for Economic Growth, updated the organization's community outreach programs, expressing sincere appreciation for the City of Eloy's ongoing support. She highlighted how the City's \$5,000 grant has been

instrumental in funding initiatives such as the third-grade reading program and the Career Expo. The reading program, which pairs seniors with at-risk students, has seen great success, with many students improving their reading levels. The Career Expo, held in person for the first time in 2025, served 425 high school students across Pinal County, offering valuable career insights. Ms. King emphasized the importance of the City's continued support to sustain and expand these programs, vital to local workforce development and community growth.

- **Community Outreach Funding Update - The Sparrow Campaign**

Michelle Garrison, representing the Sparrow Campaign, provided an update on the organization's recent events and shared gratitude for the City of Eloy's continued support. She highlighted the success of the "Steps of Love" walk, which saw a significant increase in participation compared to previous years and was partially funded by a \$1,000 grant from the City. The event helped raise awareness and support for those grieving loved ones, and it led to the creation of a support group. Additionally, the Sparrow Campaign's 5K event raised over \$6,000 for the local food pantry, made possible with the City's help, including support for barricades. Michelle expressed excitement for future events, including the 10th anniversary of the 5K and an upcoming First Responders Ball. She thanked the City's vital contributions to these efforts, which have made a meaningful impact on the community.

- **Community Outreach Funding Update - Eloy Ministerial Alliance**

Debra Miller, representing the Eloy Ministerial Alliance, provided an update on the organization's annual community Thanksgiving dinner. She expressed heartfelt gratitude for the \$1,900 in funding received from the City, which helped cover rising food costs. The funds were used to purchase ingredients for the meal, including 25 turkeys, stuffing, pies, and more, and served approximately 320 people at the Eloy Junior High School. The event brought the community together, with many individuals from various walks of life, including those struggling with homelessness, attending. Ms. Miller thanked the City for its support and expressed hopes for continued partnership to serve even more people. She also highlighted the ongoing efforts at the Central Cristiano Church, which serves hot meals to those in need three times a week. Council members thanked Deborah and the Ministerial Alliance for their hard work and dedication to helping those in need.

B. Unscheduled

There were no unscheduled public appearances.

I. Reports and Announcements

Council Members' Announcements

- Councilmember Galindo reported that the Eloy Lions Club received a grant from the Arizona Community Foundation to provide eyeglasses and eye exams to help over 100 children and adults. Vouchers are available through Lions Club members or school recommendations.
- Councilmember Snyder announced that Council members attended the Pinal Partnership meeting, where water delivery systems were discussed. Councilmember Snyder also reported on Global Water's conservation program and suggested exploring a similar system in Eloy to detect water leaks earlier. City Manager Malewitz responded, explaining that Eloy already has a system in place that detects leaks by tracking average water usage and alerting residents before they receive unexpectedly high bills.
- Council Member Vodrazka shared that he had a busy week, starting with attending Casa Grande's State of the City address on Wednesday, where Mayor Lisa Navarro Fitzgibbons gave an excellent presentation. On Thursday, he joined the Eloy Chamber

of Commerce luncheon, where former Casa Grande Mayor Craig McFarland spoke about Pinal County developments. Finally, on Friday, he attended the Pinal Partnership breakfast in Maricopa, where a panel discussed Arizona's water issues and reassured everyone that solutions are in place to ensure ample water for the future.

Mayor's Announcements

- Mayor Sutton announced the following: On Wednesday, the 26th, he attended the Central Arizona Government meeting in Apache Junction, where he engaged in discussions regarding potential funding for blighted structures in Eloy. On the 5th, he participated in the Casa Grande State of the City event, where Mayor Fitzgibbons delivered an outstanding presentation. On the 7th, he attended the Pinal Partnership Breakfast, highlighting concerns over the varying costs of water across cities and the need for federal regulation on water usage. That afternoon, the first interviews for the new Planning and Zoning Commission were held, with additional interviews scheduled. Lastly, the ribbon-cutting for Cafecito Boutique was postponed due to weather, a rare occurrence in Arizona

City Manager's Announcements

City Manager David Malewitz provided the following updates:

- **Spring Break Camp:** The City is hosting a Spring Break camp at the Troy Thomas Center, running from March 10th to March 20th. The program offers various activities, and the community is encouraged to sign up and participate.
- **Main Street Light Project:** The light installation over the Main Street crosswalk is 99% complete. The final step is awaiting ADOT to make the necessary light adjustments.
- **HAWK Signal Educational Video:** The City is working on an educational video to guide the public on how to use the HAWK signal. The video will be shared on the City's website and social media to help both pedestrians and drivers understand how to properly use the signal.
- **Sunland Gin Project:** Stakeholder meetings for the Sunland Gin Road project are underway. The \$5 million project, funded by Representative Theresa Martinez, aims to alleviate traffic congestion from the interpass to Mountain View Road. A community outreach meeting is scheduled for April 10th from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Senior Center.
- **Special City Council Meeting:** A special City Council meeting will be held on March 31st at 5:30 PM to discuss revenue, capital improvements, and property taxes.
- **General Plan Work Session:** A work session is scheduled for April 14th at 5:00 PM to kick off the General Plan update. This joint meeting with the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission will focus on adopting the public participation plan required by state statute.
- **Renovations at Troy Thomas Center:** City Manager Malewitz confirmed that the Troy Thomas Center renovations have been completed.

In addition, City Manager Malewitz responded to concerns about engaging local businesses for the Sunland Gin project, noting that the consultants directly contacted businesses in the area. There was also a discussion about educating drivers on the proper use of the HAWK signal, and a creative idea was proposed for the educational video. Finally, City Manager Malewitz confirmed that the Troy Thomas Center renovations had been completed satisfactorily.

II. Consent Agenda

Mayor Sutton asked if any Councilmember would like any consent items removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Councilmember Snyder requested that items B, C, and D be removed, citing a lack of sufficient backup information, which was unavailable for review. Councilmember Snyder expressed the need for context and staff recommendations before voting on these items.

City Manager Malewitz apologized for the missing backup materials (coax) for items B, C, and D. He explained that while the materials were included during preparation, they were not attached to the agenda packet. The issue was corrected with an updated packet provided before the meeting, and he assured the Council that steps would be taken to prevent future occurrences.

There were no other requests to remove items from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Sutton then requested a motion to approve items A and E on the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Councilmember Garcia made a motion to approve items A and E on the Consent Agenda, while items B, C, and D were pulled and moved to the Business Agenda. Councilmember Curtis seconded the motion. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**

The motion passed, and items A and E were approved as presented. Items B, C, and D were pulled and will be added to the Agenda III. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following for further discussion.

- A. Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting and Work Session. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**
- B. Consideration of the Ratification of the Emergency Purchase of a Replacement Pump and Equipment in the Amount of \$57,060 for Well #4. **This item was pulled and considered Agenda III. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following: A.**
- C. Mayor and Council to consider reappointing Jerrel Tidwell, Mary Lou Martinez, and Natasha Tidwell to the Eloy Cemetery Committee for three-year terms expiring December 3, 2027. **This item was pulled and considered Agenda III. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following: B.**
- D. Mayor and Council to consider reappointing Rhonda Olson, Jerry Olveda, Tonya Cruz, and Aurelia Saucedo as regular members of the Parks, Recreation, and Library Board. **This item was pulled and considered Agenda III. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following: C.**
- E. Recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control (ADLLC) to issue a Series 15 Special Event liquor license to the Eloy Chamber of Commerce for the 2025 Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum Casino Night. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**

III. Business: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the Following:

- A. **Consideration of the Ratification of the Emergency Purchase of a Replacement Pump and Equipment in the Amount of \$57,060 for Well #4.**

Public Works Director Matt Rencher presented the item for the ratification of the emergency procurement of a replacement pump and associated equipment for Well #4, totaling \$57,060.

Mr. Rencher explained that in January 2025, the City identified a malfunction in Well #4, which is essential for maintaining water quality standards. The Central Arizona Irrigation District (CAID) was contacted to diagnose the issue. They found that the

pump, motor, and several pipes needed replacement. The emergency repair took place from February 4, 2025, to February 13, 2025, and the well is now operational.

Mr. Rencher clarified that the purchase exceeded the \$20,000 threshold, which required Council ratification. He further noted that the pump was available immediately, which prevented any delay in getting the well back online.

Councilmember Snyder questioned why the matter required Council action, given it appeared to be a routine maintenance issue. Mr. Rencher confirmed that because the expenditure exceeded \$20,000, it required ratification, despite being an emergency repair.

Mayor Sutton recommended exploring condition monitoring equipment for future preventative maintenance, which Mr. Rencher acknowledged and indicated that the City would enhance its internal procedures to better monitor equipment.

Motion: Councilmember Snyder moved to approve the Ratification of the Emergency Purchase of a Replacement Pump and Equipment in the Amount of \$57,060 for Well #4. Councilmember Vodrazka seconded the motion. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**

B. Mayor and Council to consider reappointing Jerrel Tidwell, Mary Lou Martinez, and Natasha Tidwell to the Eloy Cemetery Committee for three-year terms expiring December 3, 2027.

Community Services Director Paul Anchondo presented the request for the reappointment of three members to the Eloy Cemetery Committee: Jerrel Tidwell, Mary Lou Martinez, and Natasha Tidwell. The terms for these individuals expired on December 31, 2024, and they have all submitted applications for reappointment. No other applications were submitted for consideration.

Mr. Anchondo explained that the Eloy Cemetery Committee plays a crucial role in advising on policies related to burials, maintenance, and overall cemetery stewardship. The board consists of seven voting members and one non-voting ex-officio member, all appointed for three-year terms. The reappointment of these three individuals would ensure continuity in leadership and allow the committee to continue its ongoing and future initiatives.

Announcements regarding the board vacancies were published in the local newspaper and promoted through the City's social media platforms to encourage community engagement.

Motion: Vice Mayor Tarango made a motion to approve the reappointment of Jerrel Tidwell, Mary Lou Martinez, and Natasha Tidwell to the Cemetery Committee for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2027. which was seconded by Councilmember Galindo. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**

C. Mayor and Council to consider reappointing Rhonda Olson, Jerry Olveda, Tonya Cruz, and Aurelia Saucedo as regular members of the Parks, Recreation, and Library Board.

Community Services Director Paul Anchondo presented the request for the reappointment of four members to the Parks, Recreation, and Library Advisory Board: Rhonda Olson, Jerry Olveda, Tonya Cruz, and Aurelia Saucedo. Their respective terms expired or will expire soon, and they have all submitted applications for reappointment.

The terms for Jerry Olveda, Tonya Cruz, and Aurelia Saucedo expired on August 31, 2024, and Rhonda Olson's term concluded on December 31, 2024. The reappointments, if approved, would extend the terms of Ms. Saucedo, Mr. Olveda, and Ms. Cruz through August 2027 and Ms. Olson's term through December 31, 2027. This will leave two vacant seats on the board.

Mr. Anchondo clarified that the Parks, Recreation, and Library Advisory Board is an eight-member advisory body that provides strategic guidance on issues related to parks, recreation, and library services. The board is currently composed of five members and one non-voting, Council-appointed ex-officio member. Announcements regarding the board vacancies were published in the local newspaper and shared across all City social media platforms to promote community engagement.

The Council discussed the reappointments and asked for clarification on term limits and the board's composition. City Manager Malewitz confirmed that term limits apply to most boards, but the Cemetery Board was an exception.

Staff recommended the reappointment of Rhonda Olson, Jerry Olveda, Tonya Cruz, and Aurelia Saucedo to the Parks, Recreation, and Library Advisory Board for three-year terms.

Motion: Councilmember Garcia made a motion to approve the reappointments, which was seconded by Councilmember Curtis. **The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7-0.**

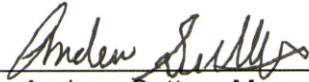
IV. Executive Session

There was no executive session during this meeting.

V. Adjournment

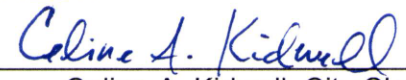
There being no further business, Mayor Sutton adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with a unanimous yeas from the Council.

BY:



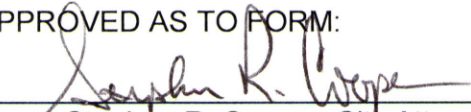
Andrew Sutton, Mayor

ATTEST:



Celine A. Kidwell, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Stephen R. Cooper, City Attorney