

Minutes

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall Council Chamber, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Jose Grijalva called the meeting to order.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** By Council.
3. **INVOCATION BY:** Council Member Ray Shelton
4. **ROLL CALL.**

	PRESENT	ABSENT
MAYOR, JOSE GRIJALVA	X	
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, DANYA ACOSTA		X (Excused)
COUNCILMEMBER, MELISSA RODRIGUEZ	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE MONTANO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MICHAEL BALDENEGRO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RICHARD C. ACOSTA	X	
CITY MANAGER, ANA URQUIJO	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, DENIS FITZGIBBONS	X	
CITY TREASURER, ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ	X	
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

5. **EVENTS UPDATE.**

Ms. Manquero from the Douglas Public Library reported on their summer reading program, which has three weeks remaining with various activities. Mondays feature relaxing activities like arts, crafts, and board games from 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays offer children's activities at 2 p.m. including experiments and robots. Wednesdays feature movies at 2 p.m. with free popcorn and juice. Thursdays include story time at 11 a.m. with singing, dancing, and playtime, followed by afternoon activities at 2 p.m. A special event featuring "Wild Man Phil" and his reptile show will take place on July 11 at 5 p.m. The program will conclude with an ice cream party on July 25, where participants can make sundaes and receive prizes for completing the reading program.

City recreation staff announced upcoming events including summer night swimming at the 8th Street Pool every Friday beginning July 11 from 5:30-8:30 p.m., a dive-in movie night on July 12 at the Aquatic Center (doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie at 7 p.m.), the Mundo basketball tournament on July 26 (registration closes July 18), and a Movie in the Park featuring "Little Rascals" at 8th Street Park on August 1. The Mexican Baseball Fiesta is scheduled for October 1, with tickets and flyers available soon.

6. **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES AND/OR REPORTS.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta thanked those who sent messages and prayers during her recent health challenges. She emphasized the importance of identifying and addressing mental health issues, noting that her first hospital stay was for mental health treatment, and her second was for septic shock while on city business in Phoenix. She expressed gratitude to her support network, especially her daughter who taught her "it's okay to ask for help." She also reported on the Metal Fest event and

mentioned discussions with Jose Mangin, a Douglas native and DJ on Sirius XM's Octane station, about potential future events in Douglas.

Council Member Rodriguez thanked city staff for their work on the Fourth of July celebrations.

On behalf of Council Member Baldenegro, Ms. Andrade read a letter from the Last Supper Museum requesting \$10,000 in funding to support their mission of preserving cultural heritage and providing arts education in Douglas. The museum serves approximately 1,500 guests annually and aims to reach 2,000 visitors and 150 students in 2025.

Mayor Grijalva reported on attending the Arizona-Mexico Commission with Ms. Urquijo, where Douglas received positive feedback on their presentation. He mentioned the Unity in the Community block party success, Valor Global hiring 100 call center jobs in Douglas, and Synergy Home Care expanding operations to the city. The mayor also noted the success of Thunder Mountain Wrestling events, which have drawn over 200 attendees, with approximately 90% coming from out of town and spending money locally. He mentioned a meeting scheduled for the next day with Sonoran mayors, and thanked Supervisor Gomez for initiating a meeting with Freeport McMoran. The mayor will also be working with the Small Business Development Center to visit local businesses and discuss their needs.

7. PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL IN WRITING OR VERBALLY ON ANY ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Ms. Ida Pedrego from 1815 5th Street, encouraged council members to engage more directly with constituents, noting that while the mayor has been visible in the community, other council members should also reach out to residents to better understand their needs. She mentioned that the focus on port of entry projects should not overshadow other community needs, including the revitalization of G Avenue.

Ms. Diana Lamar, a resident from 13th Street and F Avenue, read a statement originally delivered at a Pinal County meeting concerning political division and constitutional governance, expressing concerns about national leadership and encouraging citizens to "join the resistance" in support of democratic principles.

8. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL of CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. **EXPENDITURES** for the month of **JUNE 2025** totaling \$3,141,657.87.
- B. **MEETING MINUTES** for **MAY 28** and **JUNE 11, 2025**.
- C. **LIQUOR LICENSE 006** for **BALAR ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS**.
- D. **COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS:**

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS: Susan Kramer.

MERIT SYSTEM BOARD: Carlos Guido.

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD: Joe Moran, Rebecca Castillo and Ken Nelson.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD: Sheila Ayrom.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: John Vaughn, Mariza Nikitas, Jessica Aguayo, Xenia Gonzalez, and Gary Clark.

E. **AUTHORIZING** the **APPROVAL** of the City of Douglas **SURPLUS VEHICLES, ASPHALT PLANT, EQUIPMENT** and **FURNITURE** list and use of the **PUBLIC SURPLUS ONLINE AUCTION** platform.

F. **AUTHORIZING** the **EXECUTION** of a **LICENSE AGREEMENT** for **DECORATIVE LIGHT FIXTURES** in the **PUBLIC RIGHT- OF-WAY** with **ART CAR WORLD**, an Arizona non-profit corporation for city owned right-of-way adjacent to Licensee owned parcels 409-07-027, 409-07-029 and 409-07-030 for purposes of **BEAUTIFICATION** through **DECORATIVE ARTISTIC LIGHTING**.

G. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1673**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **DESIGNATING** the Finance Director/City Treasurer, Alejandro Martinez as the **CITY'S CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER** for purposes of officially submitting the **FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURE LIMITATION REPORT** to the Arizona Auditor General.

H. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1674**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to execute a renewal to the **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT** between the City of Douglas and Cochise College to provide **RELIABLE PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION** services to college riders; combining resources to continue to promote educational opportunities and foster economic development in the City of Douglas.

I. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1675**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **RATIFYING** the **EXECUTION** of a **SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL** for SFY26 between the City of Douglas and the Southeastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) in the amount of \$35,540, to be used in the **TRANSIT PROGRAM** to maintain services for the **ELDERLY** and **DISABLED** individuals in the City of Douglas and surrounding community.

J. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1676**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **APPROVING** the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FY 2025** for the **CITY OF DOUGLAS**.

K. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1677**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona **AUTHORIZING** the **EXECUTION** of a contract between the City of Douglas and **NEXXUS CONSULTING LLC**, a bi-partisan federal government relations firm providing **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** for the City of Douglas.

L. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1678**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the **CITY OF DOUGLAS** to **ENTER** into an **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT** with the **COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT** in extended partnership with the **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY (SEALETA)**.

M. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1679**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona **APPROVING** and **ADOPTING** an **INFRASTRUCTURE** and **SERVICES PLAN** for the **AREA PROPOSED** for **ANNEXATION**, known as the **SOUTHEASTERN PORTION** of **SUNNYSIDE FIRE DISTRICT AREA (SEP-SSFDA)**, as required by A.R.S. §9-471(P).

N. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1680**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the City of Douglas to **ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING** and enter into an **AGREEMENT** with the **SOUTHEAST ARIZONA MAJOR INVESTIGATIVE TEAM (SAMIT) GRANT** as administered by the **CITY OF TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT** as fiduciary, for a reimbursable grant in the amount of \$31,000 for **OVERTIME, TRAVEL/TRAINING** and

INVESTIGATIVE SUPPLIES under the **HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM.**

O. **RESOLUTION NO. 25- 1681**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDING** from the **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY (WIFA)** for the **CITY of DOUGLAS RESERVOIR** and **GERONIMO TRAIL PIPELINE REHABILITATION** project in the amount of \$813,750 and authorizing the city manager to execute all necessary documents.

Motion by Council Member D. Acosta, second by Council Member Rodriguez to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Melissa Rodriguez, Jose Montañó, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, Michael Baldenegro and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

9. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

A. **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1214**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the **PURCHASE** of **REAL PROPERTY** located at **SOUTHEAST CORNER** of **COCHISE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOUGLAS CAMPUS** property with assessor parcel number 407-61-013; **APPROVING** the **PURCHASE** and **SALE AGREEMENT** with the **COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**; authorizing the mayor and the city manager to execute all necessary documents; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Mr. Pedroza presented the second reading of the Ordinance, authorizing the purchase of approximately 3.4 acres of land at the southeast corner of Cochise College Douglas campus. The property will be used for a new water well system to serve the new commercial port of entry, the college campus, and surrounding development. As part of the agreement, the college would become a city water customer, with the land acquisition serving as consideration for the city providing water and future sewer service within 10 years. The agreement includes provisions for access agreements and easements, as well as the potential use of the college's existing well as a backup.

Mr. Pedroza noted that the survey of the property has been completed and that this purchase is critical for the west expansion utilities project supporting economic development as the commercial port of entry is constructed by 2028.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Montañó to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 25-1214.

Council Member Shelton asked if there were guarantees the well would work, noting the irrigation of alfalfa fields nearby. Mr. Pedroza explained that engineers have done preliminary work showing high-producing wells in the area, and a pilot hole will be drilled to analyze water quality before proceeding with the full well, which may go as deep as 1,000 feet. An impact analysis will also be conducted to assess any effects on surrounding areas.

Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta asked about the project timeline. Mr. Pedroza stated that the overall west expansion utilities project target date is May 2027, with various components including extending utilities, building the well site, constructing a reservoir tank, and installing booster pumps.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Melissa Rodriguez, Jose Montaño, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, Michael Baldenegro and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1215, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **EXTENDING** and **INCREASING** the **CORPORATE LIMITS** of the **CITY of DOUGLAS, COCHISE COUNTY, STATE of ARIZONA**, pursuant to the provisions of **TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 7, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES** and amendments thereto, by **ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY** contiguous to the **EXISTING CITY of DOUGLAS LIMITS** consisting of 89.05 acres, more or less, and located in the known area as the **SOUTHEASTERN PORTION of SUNNYSIDE FIRE DISTRICT AREA ANNEXATION** and **ADOPTING** initial zoning of SFR-32 for said territory; establishing severability of components of Ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Mr. Pedroza presented Ordinance 25-1215, which would extend and increase the corporate limits of the City of Douglas by annexing 89.05 acres known as the Southeastern Portion of Sunnyside Fire District Area (SEPSSDA). The annexation petition was initiated on January 21, 2025, and included signatures from 58% of property owners representing 68.5% of the assessed property value, exceeding the required thresholds. The annexation will increase the city's assessed valuation, population count, and allocation of state shared revenues. The city will provide water, sewer, and sanitation services to the area, with water rates dropping to city rates immediately and sewer installation planned in the fiscal year 2026 budget.

Mr. Pedroza acknowledged the hard work of staff, particularly annexation assistant Yamileth Cuevas, who led the effort in communicating with property owners and navigating the complex annexation process.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member D. Acosta to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 25-1215.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Melissa Rodriguez, Jose Montaño, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, Michael Baldenegro and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

Motion by Council Member D. Acosta, second by Council Member Rodriguez to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-1215.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Melissa Rodriguez, Jose Montaño, Danya Acosta, Ray Shelton, Michael Baldenegro and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

10. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

A. PARKS MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS PRESENTATION.

Ms. Smith provided a comprehensive overview of the Parks Division operations. The department manages 12 parks, 14 athletic fields, and helps maintain grounds for 14 city facilities. They also support more than five special events annually, including Douglas Days, Fourth of July, and the Mexican Baseball Fiesta.

The parks team consists of eight full-time staff year-round (including the supervisor), five trustees (inmates) on average, and two part-time weekend staff. Ms. Smith detailed the daily, weekly, and

seasonal maintenance routines, which include unlocking and cleaning restrooms, trash pickup, facility inspections, field preparation, mowing, trimming, sanitizing playgrounds, and addressing graffiti. Seasonal tasks vary throughout the year, with spring and summer focusing on baseball and softball field preparations, splash pad operation, fertilizing, and special event preparation; fall involving field leveling and setup for soccer; and winter concentrating on major tree pruning, deep cleaning, painting, and equipment maintenance.

Ms. Smith outlined several improvement projects completed or in progress, including restroom renovations, field leveling, airport park lighting, fitness equipment replacements, and shade installations. Upcoming projects include additional restroom improvements, field expansion planning, playground repairs, and basketball court upgrades at Spear Park.

Council Member Rodriguez expressed concerns about field preparation timing, noting that baseball and softball are now year-round activities rather than seasonal, and field preparation should begin earlier than spring. She mentioned safety concerns with the fields, including stickers and dry grass, as well as issues with pitcher's mounds. Ms. Smith acknowledged these concerns and indicated they would work on adjusting maintenance schedules and exploring solutions like rye grass seeding.

Council Member Baldenegro inquired about adding younger children's playground equipment, and Council Member Rodriguez suggested upgrading the splash pad, referencing Benson's new facility as an example.

Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta asked if the parks master plan detailed staffing requirements. Ms. Smith explained that the plan provided a formula based on national parks recommendations that indicated a need for approximately 20 staff members, significantly more than the current eight full-time employees.

Council Member Montaño commended Johnny Chavez and his crew for their hard work maintaining the parks, noting that Border Patrol agents frequently comment positively on the parks' upkeep. He also congratulated the Little League teams performing well in district tournaments.

Mayor Grijalva suggested better publicizing park improvements, such as restroom renovations, to boost community awareness and morale, and show appreciation for the work done by city employees.

11. CITY MANAGER REPORTS.

Ms. Urquijo thanked the mayor and council for their support and confidence, particularly in approving the budget. She provided updates on key policy priorities:

1. The two-port solution is progressing, with crews scheduled to begin work in early September and a groundbreaking ceremony being planned.
2. Downtown streetscape design is advancing, with staff reviewing the 95% design from the engineering consultant. The project is on track to be bid out in the fall, with construction to begin within 30 days of contract award.
3. The city is seeking qualified individuals to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission board, particularly those with experience in architecture, history, urban planning, or related fields.
4. A free seminar on Google Business Profiles will be held on July 15 at 11 a.m. in partnership with the SBDC.

5. The USDA has announced a phased reopening of southern ports for cattle crossings following restrictions due to the new world screwworm fly, with Douglas being the first port to reopen.
6. The new asphalt plant is scheduled for delivery on July 31, with site preparation planned to follow the dismantling and sale of the old equipment.
7. The pilot hole for the new Well 18 at Joe Causey Park has been completed to a depth of 1,030 feet, making it the deepest well in Douglas. Water quality testing is underway, with project completion expected in summer 2026.

Ms. Urquijo reported on the successful Fourth of July celebrations and announced Transit Day on July 22. She mentioned receiving positive feedback from the DHS Class of 1975 reunion participants who toured the city. She also reported making a conditional job offer to a new golf superintendent and receiving a complete funding application from the Douglas Food Bank. The Last Supper Museum will also receive an application for their funding request.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta acknowledged the mayor's advocacy regarding cattle importing operations, which resulted in Douglas being selected as the first port to reopen.

Council Member Rodriguez requested recognition for the Little League teams at the next council meeting, noting that the majors division (10–12-year-olds) will begin state tournament play on Friday, and the seniors division (15–16-year-olds) is currently undefeated in their state tournament in Nogales.

Council Member Shelton announced that Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts meet at First Baptist Church on Mondays (younger children) and Tuesdays (older children) and invited all interested youth to participate regardless of church membership. He also noted positive feedback about the summer swimming program.

Mayor Grijalva suggested adding a future agenda item to present statistics on the swimming program to help build support for it.

13. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member D. Acosta to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by:


Alma Andrade, City Clerk