

Minutes

The Mayor and Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 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.** 6:02 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** By Council
3. **INVOCATION BY:** Pastor David Gonzales, First Baptist Church
4. **ROLL CALL.**

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
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 (excused)
COUNCILMEMBER, RICHARD C. ACOSTA	X	
CITY MANAGER, ANA URQUIJO	X	
CITY ATTORNEY, DENIS FITZGIBBONS	X	
CITY TREASURER, ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ		X (excused)
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

5. EVENTS UPDATE.

The library staff provided an update on events for National Library Week. They mentioned various activities including relaxing activities on Mondays, movies for kids on Tuesdays, activities for kids on Wednesdays including Easter-themed events, story time on Thursdays, chess club on the second and fourth Tuesdays, book club at the end of the month, and a spring painting night for adults on April 25th.

The Recreation Department staff announced upcoming events including the 7th annual Trojan Run on Saturday benefiting the Border Air Museum, a Splash and Dash event on April 12th, a Dia de los Niños celebration on April 26th, and the 10th annual Douglas Days honoring veterans. They also mentioned the new Rec on the Go mobile program running Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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

Council Member Rodriguez commented on attending the fire department's annual recognition ceremony on Saturday, expressing that it was a nice event, and she was happy to support the local fire department.

Mayor Grijalva thanked those who attended the "Meet the Mayor" event last month. He also mentioned attending a foundation event in Paradise Valley with the city manager, which provided good leads for potential donations to Douglas. The mayor announced an upcoming town hall at the high school next week to get input from students on what they would like to see in town.

7. PRESENTATION of AWARDS.

A. **RECOGNITION** to **DR. J.D. ROTTWEILER** for your **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS** and **SUPPORT** to Cochise College, Douglas Campus. Your dedication to education and commitment to fostering opportunities within the community has made a great impact.

Council Member R. Acosta presented an award recognizing Dr. J.D. Rottweiler for over 15 years of service to Cochise College and the City of Douglas. He highlighted Dr. Rottweiler's transformative leadership, including initiatives to expand high-speed internet fiber at the Douglas campus. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, he thanked Dr. Rottweiler and wished him well in his retirement.

Dr. Rottweiler expressed gratitude for the recognition and credited the team at Cochise College for their accomplishments. He emphasized the importance of partnerships, particularly with the City of Douglas, in achieving goals like high-speed internet on campus and facility improvements. Dr. Rottweiler noted the high enrollment rate of Douglas High School students at the college and expressed optimism for the future of both the college and the city.

Mayor Grijalva thanked Dr. Rottweiler and assured him he would always be welcome in Douglas.

8. READING OF PROCLAMATIONS.

A. HONORING the LIFE and LEGACY of CONGRESSMAN RAUL M. GRIJALVA.

Mayor Grijalva read a proclamation honoring the life and legacy of Congressman Raul M. Grijalva. The proclamation highlighted Congressman Grijalva's dedication to public service, his support for various Douglas projects, and his impact on the community. The mayor added personal remarks about Congressman Grijalva's welcoming nature and community-first approach.

Council Member Shelton shared a personal story about a conversation he had with Congressman Grijalva, emphasizing the Congressman's friendliness and love for Douglas.

B. AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH.

Mayor Grijalva read a proclamation declaring April 2025 as Autism Awareness Month. The proclamation highlighted the prevalence of autism, the unique strengths of individuals with autism, and the importance of early diagnosis and support. Mayor Grijalva called for raising awareness, promoting acceptance and inclusion, and supporting individuals with autism and their families.

C. NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION.

Mayor Grijalva read a proclamation declaring April 2025 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation emphasized the seriousness of child abuse, the importance of prevention activities, and the need for community collaboration to protect children and support families.

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

Supervisor Kathleen Gomez addressed the council regarding three items:

1. She provided information about the upcoming special election to replace a recently deceased congressional representative. Gomez distributed flyers with important dates and emphasized the need for high voter turnout in Douglas.
2. She explained a situation regarding voter registration and citizenship verification, clarifying that it was due to a technical glitch at the Department of Motor Vehicles and not related to any discriminatory practices.
3. She thanked the city for supporting the Douglas Rotary Club's upcoming event at the airport, mentioning that 59 participants were registered.

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

- A. **EXPENDITURES** for the **MONTH** of **MARCH 2025** totaling \$3,214,301.61.
- B. **MEETING MINUTES** for **MARCH 5** and **12, 2025**.
- C. **BID AWARD FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR GOLF COURSE BACK 9 IRRIGATION RENOVATION.**
- D. **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT** of **ALAN MANQUERO**.
- E. **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** of **ANGEL LAUVE**.
- F. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1659**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the execution of an **AGREEMENT** to **EXTEND UTILITIES INSIDE** of **CITY LIMITS**

allowing developers and existing property owners to connect to city services with an option for the city to perform the work charging cost reimbursement and development impact fees.

- G. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1660**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the execution of **HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES CONTRACT** to **STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC** for **PROPOSED COCHISE COLLEGE GROUNDWATER DRINKING WATER WELL – DOUGLAS PORT OF ENTRY** and **WEST DOUGLAS SERVICE AREA** for the West Douglas Utility Expansion Project located in Cochise County, Arizona.
- H. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1661**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **RATIFYING** the Execution of a service agreement renewal for SFY25 between the City of Douglas and the **SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION (SEAGO)** in the amount of \$20,000 and a **SUBAWARD AMENDMENT** in the amount of \$10,000, to be used in the **TRANSIT PROGRAM** to maintain services for the **ELDERLY** and **DISABLED INDIVIDUALS** in the City of Douglas and surrounding community.
- I. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1662**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **DECLARING** Assessor's Parcel Number 409-06-018N located on 9th Street West of Pan American Avenue a **PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY** and Granting a Perpetual, Non-Exclusive Utility Easement Therein.
- J. **RESOLUTION NO. 25-1663**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the Acceptance of **GRANT** Funding in the Amount of **\$10,000** from the **SONORAN INSTITUTE** for a Municipal Code Review and Codification of Water Conservation Goals Outlined in the General Plan.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member R. Acosta to approve consent agenda items as presented.

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

11. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

A. CITY FLAG DESIGN FINALIZATION.

Ms. De La Torre presented updated designs for the city flag, explaining that changes were made to address potential copyright issues with previously used symbolism. She highlighted various design options and color schemes, noting that a narrative had been developed to explain the flag's symbolism.

Council members discussed their preferences for the flag design, including the use of corner colors, incorporation of city landmarks, and the possibility of a two-sided flag. After discussion, it was decided that the design team would incorporate the feedback and bring back a revised design at the next meeting.

B. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1207, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AMENDING** the **CITY TAX CODE** to **DECREASE** the **TAX RATE** on Amusements from Three and Eight-Tenths Percent (3.8%) to **ZERO PERCENT (0%)** and including a **THREE-YEAR SUNSET PROVISION**; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Mr. Pedroza provided background information which would amend the city tax code to decrease the tax rate on amusements from 3.8% to 0% with a 3-year sunset provision. He explained the timeline for implementation and the types of activities that would be affected by the tax change.

Motion by Council Member Montañó, second by Council Member Rodriguez to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 25-1207.

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

Motion by Council Member R. Acosta, second by Council Member Montañó to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-1207.

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

C. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1208, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona **REZONING** a **0.17 ACRE PARCEL** of **LAND** by North Cochise Avenue and 8th Street, from **GENERAL COMMERCIAL** to **MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (MFR)**; and **AMENDING** the **OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP**; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Ms. Gomez presented the proposed rezoning of a 0.17-acre parcel of land by North Cochise Avenue and Eighth Street from general commercial to multifamily residential.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 25-1208.

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

Motion by Council Member R. Acosta, second by Council Member Montañño to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-1208.

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

D. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1209, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **REZONING** a **1.25 ACRE PARCEL** of **LAND** North of Highway 80 adjacent to La Perilla Estates from **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL 8000 (SFR8)** to **GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC)**; and **AMENDING** the **OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP**; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Ms. Gomez presented the proposed rezoning of a 1.25-acre parcel of land north of Highway 80 adjacent to La Prairie Estates from single-family residential to general commercial. She explained that the rezoning was to accommodate storage for an RV park and aligned with the city's general plan for economic development.

Council Member Montañño asked about flood zone compliance for any structures built on the property. Ms. Gomez confirmed that about 80% of the parcel is in a flood zone, therefore, development would need to comply with relevant regulations.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member Montañño to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 25-1209.

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

Motion by Council Member Montañño, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-1209.

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

E. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1210, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **REZONING** A **1.44 ACRE PARCEL** of **LAND** within Geronimo Trail Estates by Hohokam Drive from **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL 12000 (SFR12)** to **MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (MFR)**; and **AMENDING** the **OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT MAP**; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Ms. Gomez presented the proposed rezoning of a 1.44-acre parcel of land within Geronimo Trail Estates by Hohokam Drive from single-family residential 12000 to multi-family residential. She explained that the rezoning would allow for more diverse housing types and potentially more affordable options.

Council Member Montano expressed concerns about the potential impact on neighboring property values if the new lots were significantly smaller than existing ones. Ms. Gomez acknowledged the concern and said more details would be provided in the second reading.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Rodriguez to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 25-1210.

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

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Rodriguez to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 25-1210.

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

12. CITY MANAGER REPORTS.

Policy Priority Updates:

1. Commercial Port of Entry – Contractors expect to break ground by August of this year. A webinar was hosted by Hensel Phelps this morning providing information about the project and how aspiring bidders may participate in various scopes of the project. 160 people were in attendance. Attendees were informed on the application of how to become a Trade Partner and how to navigate the bidding process as a subcontractor. Rosemary Middleton is the contact for information on this process. She is available at rmiddleton@henselphelps.com. The contractor has committed 30% of their subcontracting to go to Small Business Enterprises, among other goals for similar categories. The Resource Page for construction job seekers is posted on the City website.
2. Infrastructure for West expansion – Phase I construction (water/sewer along SR-80 to Cochise College) is expected to begin in Fall 2025. Agreements with the College for land to build the well and take over their current well are underway. Right-of-way acquisition proposals are being sought for the Kings Highway and South of Puzzi sewer alignment. The funding gap that still exists for west infrastructure is \$23M, with two pending grants in process to cover this if awarded.
3. Colocation efforts of ADOT and FMCSA – ADOT has \$32M in the proposed 5 Year Plan. Negotiations between GSA and ADOT are ongoing.
4. Downtown Revitalization – 60% Engineering Design was completed. 100% scheduled for July. Environmental Review completion is anticipated by May 9. Construction is tentatively set to begin Fall 25.
5. Golf Course Irrigation Plan Phase 1 – Expected completion for Back 9 by Summer 25. Construction will begin in the next 30 days, after today's bid award.
6. Connector Road – Connector Road on Proposed 5-Year Plan for \$20M plus \$5M for design and \$8.2M from a City grant (\$2M to be used towards ROW acquisition). A new Appropriation of \$20M is currently being submitted by ADOT for consideration and hopeful congressional approval.
7. Call Center Facility Planning – Staff are in the process of engaging the architect to complete renderings for the proposed design of converting the call center to a community center.
8. Annexation efforts to obtain signatures for the Small Scale Sunnyside Annexation of 20th and 23rd Street are underway for 60 parcels. Meetings continue with stakeholders for Westward Reach annexation out toward POE.
9. Streets & Roads – Signed off on Asphalt Plant financing and purchase order and the team is eager to receive the new plant, equipment, get trained, and begin a new street schedule by Fall 25. The new Sign Shop is now ready to go.
10. The RAISE grant for commercial street resurfacing will be managed by ADOT and agreements are underway to initiate transfer and set timelines for the 9 corridors of street improvements over the next 3-

4 years. FHWA headquarters is currently reviewing policies and regulations to ensure it is in accordance with the new administration's priorities

11. The shade structure at Castro Park is installed. City crews are finalizing ADA accessibility for the entrances for the park. This CDBG funded Project should be completed within 1-2 weeks.

12. AQ main pool project - The Aquatics Center Main Pool renovation is now complete, with significant upgrades including a full interior demo, preservation of racing lines and targets, and new plaster and waterline tile. Additional improvements include upgraded LED pool lights, deck chipping and repair, new depth and hazard markers, and a fresh two-tone deck paint. The pool is now fully operational and ready to support our upcoming seasonal programs and community events.

13. A diving board for the 8th Street Pool has been ordered and will be installed for this summer.

Other Announcements:

1. Fire Dept open house Sat April 26th. 10:00 – 2:00pm.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

Council Member Montano expressed appreciation for the updates provided by the City Manager and did not have any additional requests for future agenda items.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member Montañño to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Prepared by:



Alma Andrade, City Clerk