

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
SPECIAL MEETING - JANUARY 29, 2025 AT 3:30 PM**



MINUTES

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall Council Chamber, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Jose Grijalva called the meeting to order.

1. **CALL TO ORDER. 3:32 p.m.**
2. **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	
CITY CLERK, ALMA ANDRADE	X	

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

Ms. Andrade stated no public participation forms were submitted.

4. **DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVAL:**
 - A. **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION.**

Mayor Grijalva read the summary and background for the declaration of emergency proclamation. He explained that the purpose was to discuss potential impacts on the community due to recent executive orders issued by President Trump. Mayor Grijalva emphasized that this was a proactive measure to create a preventive position for the City of Douglas.

Mayor Grijalva outlined the rationale for the proclamation, including:

- Uncertainty and preparedness.
- Anticipation of a potential economic downturn.
- Resource allocation concerns.
- Facilitation of enhanced coordination with agencies.
- Economic stability measures.
- Preventive and proactive measures to declare the need for resources if necessary.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member R. Acosta to approve the proclamation and declare an emergency with the amendment to revisit and review the proclamation in six months.

Council Member Montaño expressed concerns about the proclamation, stating that he had spoken with residents who worried about the preemptive nature of the declaration. He mentioned potential negative impacts on investors and the optics of declaring an emergency when there was not one currently.

Council Member Shelton echoed similar concerns, relaying feedback from constituents who felt the declaration might misrepresent the current situation in Douglas.

Mayor Grijalva addressed these concerns, explaining that the city would also be sending a letter to the federal government. He emphasized the importance of protecting the city's interests, considering the economic dependence on Mexico and potential impacts from both sides of the border. Mayor Grijalva also mentioned concerns about possible federalization of local police resources and the need for financial help if such situations arise.

Council Member R. Acosta expressed agreement with being proactive, citing concerns about economic impacts and the effects on students in the community.

Council Member Rodriguez agreed with being proactive but emphasized the need for clear communication with the community to avoid causing alarm.

Council Member Montaño reiterated his concerns about the optics of the declaration and its potential impact on businesses considering coming to Douglas.

Denis Fitzgibbons suggested that the council could include a provision to review the proclamation in 6 months.

Danitza Moreno, 3012 E. Old Palo Verde Dr., Douglas, AZ.

- Expressed confusion upon learning about the proclamation through Facebook, initially believing it had already been voted on. She shared concerns about the divisiveness that can arise from social media and suggested that official matters should be discussed and finalized before being made public to avoid confusion.

Mark Adams, 826 E. 11th Street, Douglas, AZ.

- Expressed concerns about the proclamation's potential to create divisiveness in the community and its impact on cross-border relationships.

Mayor Grijalva acknowledged the concerns and committed to being more transparent, including potentially creating an online video to explain the reasons for the proclamation.

Rob Victor, 2045 15th Street, Douglas, AZ.

- Suggested reaching out to the port of entry and border patrol for more information.

Motion PASSED by a vote of 3-2. Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Melissa Rodriguez and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: Council Members: Jose Montaño and Ray Shelton.

Discussion was held centered on the voting requirements for approving the proclamation. Council Member Montaño questioned whether six out of seven council members needed to vote in favor, as stated in the charter, referencing Section 7. Mr. Fitzgibbons initially believed a simple majority of those voting was sufficient. Mr. Fitzgibbons responded that he had earlier read the charter and it mentioned a majority without specifying the full council. He also clarified that while the proclamation was an emergency proclamation, it did not constitute an official emergency declaration, drawing a comparison to how emergency ordinances are handled. Mayor Grijalva then suggested that any questions about the process should be addressed before the vote rather than afterward.

5. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member R. Acosta to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

Prepared by:  Cynthia Acuña Robles, Deputy City Clerk