

MINUTES

The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 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.** 5:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL.**

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
MAYOR, JOSE GRIJALVA	X	
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, DANYA ACOSTA	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MELISSA RODRIGUEZ	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE MONTANO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, RAY SHELTON		X (EXCUSED)
COUNCILMEMBER,	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	

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. **WARD 5 CANDIDATE INTERVIEW.**

Mayor Grijalva announced that Terry Dillman would be interviewed for the Ward 5 council position. He explained the interview would be conducted publicly, similar to the previous appointment process, with professional and respectful questions in a casual setting visible to the public.

Council Member Montaño asked Ms. Dillman to share about herself.

Ms. Dillman explained she was a third-generation Douglas native who grew up in Douglas, pursued her career in Tucson, and returned in 2008. She worked for Douglas Unified School District, first in the business office and currently as the migrant education program liaison and recruiter, also working with the McKinney-Vento program. She expressed her desire to see Douglas grow and be part of its future.

When asked by Mayor Grijalva how she heard about the opening, Ms. Dillman said multiple people contacted her starting at 7:00 a.m. that morning, asking if she had heard, encouraging her to apply, and expressing they would like her to serve. She noted she had been a write-in candidate the previous year and wanted to continue trying to serve.

Council Member Rodriguez asked what unique qualities she could bring to council. Ms. Dillman highlighted her background in the business office at the district, including experience with finance, procurement, and accounting. She emphasized her love for being part of the community through volunteer work and felt serving on council would help her do more and show the public her concern for the community as a whole.

Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta asked about the biggest challenges facing the community and how to address them. Ms. Dillman acknowledged infrastructure needs, particularly streets, which would take time. She expressed willingness to seek guidance when issues are brought to her attention and believed collaboration as a group would help get things done. She mentioned having some personal things she hoped could be changed but recognized everything takes time.

Following up on the collaboration topic, Mayor Pro Tempore Acosta asked about handling disagreements within council. Ms. Dillman said they should talk about issues, agree to disagree sometimes, but ultimately come back together for the good of the community and focus on the end result.

Council Member Richard Acosta complimented that she would be a great addition to the team and asked about her specific goal for Douglas. Ms. Dillman shared that through a U of A Extension leadership academy, her community project focused on veterans. She expressed her desire to beautify the cemetery and show commemoration for veterans' service there. She noted veterans often don't know how to start getting benefits or help, and she hoped to bring more projects to assist them.

Mayor Grijalva acknowledged Ms. Dillman's continued attendance at meetings even after not winning her previous election attempt, contrasting this with others who disengage from government after losing. He asked if she would make time for constituents through town halls and community meetings, noting that while it's not a full-time job, constituents expect council members to treat it like one. Ms. Dillman affirmed she would make time because "that's why we're here, is for our community and our constituents and the people of Douglas, so they need to see us out there."

Council Member Montaña thanked former Council Member Baldenegro and his family for his service, noting he resigned due to medical issues, and said they would keep him in their prayers.

5. DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE DECISION on APPROVALS.
A. COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT for WARD 5.

Motion by Council Member D. Acosta, second by Council Member R. Acosta to appoint Terry Dillman as Ward 5 Council Member.

Ms. Andrade explained the legal context for the appointment, citing Article 2, Section 13B of the city charter, regarding filling council vacancies within 31 days but not less than 15 days from the vacancy. She noted Mr. Baldenegro resigned August 22, 2025, due to medical reasons. The City of Douglas wishes him well and thanks him for his leadership, commitment and devotion to public service. Letters of interest were collected until September 4, resulting in one submission from Ms. Dillman. She further explained that since the vacated seat had more than two years remaining, the appointed member would serve until the next election in 2026, when any candidate could run to serve the remainder of the term.

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

6. POSSIBLE OATH of OFFICE to the NEW COUNCIL MEMBER.

Ms. Andrade administered the oath.

7. POSSIBLE COMMENTS by NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER.

Council Member Dillman thanked everyone for having her and allowing her to take the seat. She expressed excitement for everything that's going to happen to Douglas with the new port of entry and looked forward to helping and assisting in any way possible.

8. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Rodriguez, second by Council Member D. Acosta to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by  Cynthia Acuña Robles, Deputy City Clerk