



The City of Douglas Mayor and Council met in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, 425 10th Street. The Honorable Mayor Jose Grijalva called the meeting to order.

Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** 6:00 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** By Council.
3. **INVOCATION.** By Pastor Abel Salcido - Pentecostal Lighthouse of Douglas

After the invocation, Pastor Salcido introduced himself and the congregation, noting that the church had been serving the Douglas community since 1982, and that he and his family had been leading the congregation for nearly ten years. He shared that Sunday services were held from 9:45 a.m. until noon or 1:00 p.m. at 833 East 6th Street and extended an invitation to all community members. He encouraged anyone in need of assistance to contact the church.

4. ROLL CALL.

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
MAYOR, JOSE GRIJALVA	X (virtually)	
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE, RAY SHELTON	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, JOSE MONTANO	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, GUSTAVO DURAZO JR.	X	
COUNCILMEMBER, MARIA DILLMAN	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.

A representative from the Douglas Public Library presented the April programming schedule, which included weekly activities for various age groups such as STEAM club, movie screenings, story time, and a spring paint night for adults. National Library Week was highlighted as taking place April 19–25.

A representative from the Aquatics and Recreation Department announced a series of upcoming community events, including the Eighth Annual D Hill Run and Walk on April 11, spring swimming lessons, a Junior Lifeguard Program for ages 12–16, Art in the Park on April 22, Día de los Niños on April 25, a Thunder Mountain Wrestling event, and water aerobics classes beginning in May. Staff also announced that Douglas is celebrating its 125th anniversary in conjunction with the America 250 celebration, with Douglas Days featuring live music, bed races, a car show, and food and craft vendors. A thank you was extended to Maddux and Sons for sponsoring Douglas Days.

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

Council Member Dillman congratulated Guild Mortgage on their new office space, noting the business after dark event was well attended and the move reflected positive growth. She also recognized the Last Supper Museum on its third anniversary and encouraged community members to visit.

Council Member Dillman advised residents using D Hill to be cautious of wildlife, having personally observed a snake in the area.

Council Member Acosta reported on a community safety meeting he organized on March 31 at the country club in response to concerns from residents of the Perilla community regarding a recurring incident of an unknown individual appearing at residences in the early morning hours. Police Chief Fullen attended and discussed a plan to address the situation.

Council Member Acosta also commended the Public Works Department for constructing a protective cover over the concession stand at the Fifteenth Street Park baseball field to shield spectators from foul balls.

Mayor Grijalva reported on several recent activities, noting that a WBC and USA International Boxing event at the fairgrounds was a strong success with standing-room-only attendance and that future events are anticipated to grow. He indicated he had asked legal staff to bring forward a future agenda item regarding the city's right-of-way policy concerning trees, prompted by a business concern shared publicly. The mayor acknowledged the Bambi Fund's establishment of a nonprofit at a local building and the potential to host a community event and survey there. He noted a visit from the U.S. State Department, describing it as productive and positive for Douglas's profile. The mayor also reported having testified before three state legislative committees and expressed gratitude.

Mayor Grijalva thanked the City of Agua Prieta and OOMAPAS for their water festival invitation, they are very appreciate of the help the city has given them and donations of items the city doesn't have use for.

Mayor Grijalva reported that the Boys and Girls Club ribbon cutting was well attended and that staff are exploring use of a portion of the ACT building to accommodate their summer program. He shared a positive lunch meeting with the Legacy Foundation to discuss potential grant opportunities. He also acknowledged the Synergy Home Care opening and the Guild Mortgage ribbon cutting.

Additionally, Mayor Grijalva commented talking to the Veterans Resource Fair and the tentative date is in July and seeking the city's assistance to coordinate and help them find a location.

Mayor Grijalva added that the reason he is attending the meeting virtually is due to his travel to Washington, D.C., and reported meeting with Ardent, a landowner near the new commercial port of entry, regarding development interest. He met with congressional staff and participated in the BBBX Binational Borders and Bridges Conference hosted by the State Department. He noted that the Mexican Ambassador Moctezuma specifically mentioned Douglas as a key Arizona port of entry during the conference, which drew favorable attention. Mayor Grijalva thanked the U.S. Consul Michelle Ward as she has been a cheerleader for the city and so has Luis Ramirez. They have helped with this meeting and getting noticed. Mayor Grijalva reported that El Paso's Bridges of the Americas closure is expected to significantly increase commercial truck wait times there, presenting a potential opportunity to redirect traffic through Douglas. Mayor Grijalva expressed gratitude to U.S. Consul Michelle Ward, Luis Ramirez, Congressional Staff, Cochise County, State Representatives, the Governor and the Federal Government for their continued advocacy on Douglas's behalf.

7. PRESENTATION of AWARDS.

A. MISS DOUGLAS DAYS RECOGNITION.

Council Member Dillman introduced the newly crowned 2026–2027 Miss Douglas Days Queens:

- Miss Douglas Days Jr Teen: Giuliette Salazar-Padilla
- Miss City Ambassador: Itzel Dominguez
- Miss Douglas Days Teen: Kaylynn Moran
- Miss Douglas Days: Haley Bricell Luna Miss Douglas Days Haley Bricell Luna, age 20 and a PE teacher at Loreto Catholic School.

Mayor Grijalva and Council Member Dillman thanked Ms. Kramer and Caitlyn Kramer for everything they do.

8. COCHISE COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATES.

Supervisor Kathleen Gomez provided a comprehensive update on county and regional initiatives. She offered to display materials related to Douglas's 125th anniversary in the windows of the Cochise County building in Douglas.

Supervisor Gomez reported that letters of support for placing a screwworm sterile distribution center at the Douglas Bisbee International Airport were gathered from a broad coalition of agricultural organizations and government entities and submitted to congressional leaders and USDA Secretary Rollins. She indicated the project was very likely to move forward, noting its importance given that the screwworm pest is approximately 178 miles from the region.

The Supervisor announced that two firms — Nelson Dell Group of California and Morat McCloud of Oregon — had been narrowed down for selection to complete an economic development strategic road map for the Port of Douglas and Cochise County, described as the first such plan in the county's history. The study will include a feasibility analysis for a hospital in Douglas and a broader economic impact assessment. Supervisor Gomez noted that TMC and several other hospital organizations have expressed interest in building a facility in Douglas.

She reported attending the Arizona Commerce Authority summit on opportunity zones, noting that Douglas qualifies as a deeply distressed area, which provides enhanced tax incentives for investors. She indicated a housing summit is being planned for May to discuss potential investments in affordable, low-income, and senior housing, and encouraged Council members to attend an ACA event on April 29 in Benson at Cochise College.

Supervisor Gomez reported on efforts to improve the Cochise County Fair, including discussions with Fort Huachuca to avoid scheduling conflicts with a carnival, and plans to invest in marketing and explore Internet connectivity for the fairgrounds. She encouraged the city to consider contributing to Internet infrastructure there. Additionally, Supervisor Gomez encouraged council to think about a senior citizen center in Douglas due to such an aging community and they have nowhere to go.

Supervisor Gomez raised the issue of a proposed holiday gas tax in the state legislature, explaining that while it was defeated in the House, it could be reintroduced through a budget strike bill. She indicated she had advocated against impacts to rural community highway funds and reported receiving assurances that the city's monthly HURF allocation of approximately \$153,500 would not be affected.

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

Abe Villarreal of 740 E 10th Street, appeared on behalf of Cochise College to invite the community to two nonpartisan charter education sessions in advance of the May 19 special election. Sessions were scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 12:00 PM at the college, and Thursday, April 16 at 5:00 PM at the Douglas Fire Department.

Diana Pacheco of 333 F Avenue, Douglas Market Manager for the Douglas Market, reported the completion of a book drive benefiting the Boys and Girls Club, with 71 books collected. She announced upcoming events including live music and a community party at Raul Castro Park on tenth Street, with participation from local schools, businesses, and organizations.

Harry Hill, a resident of the 2106 block of Eighth Street near Washington Avenue, presented several concerns to the Council. He described a road misalignment issue at Eighth Street and Washington Avenue, where he contended that recent striping placed a travel lane in a trajectory that could endanger his property and pedestrians on the sidewalk. He requested the city consider a four-way stop at the intersection to address speeding. He also raised an issue with duplicate address numbering in the 2100 block, noting that emergency responders were unable to locate his residence during an urgent situation due to the conflict. Finally, he raised concerns about noise from vehicles with loud mufflers modifications and requested enforcement of applicable state decibel limits. The mayor directed staff to follow up with Mr. Hill and scheduled a meeting to address the concerns.

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

- A. **EXPENDITURES** for the month of **MARCH 2026** totaling **\$3,116,812.60**.
- B. **MEETING MINUTES** for **MARCH 11** and **MARCH 30, 2026**.
- C. **RESOLUTION NO. 26-1728**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **RATIFYING** and **GRANTING** a **UTILITY EASEMENT** to **ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE** company for installation and maintenance of electric lines, together with appurtenant facilities and fixtures over part of city owned parcel number 408-31-002A, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.
- D. **RESOLUTION NO. 26-1729**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **RATIFYING** and **GRANTING** a **UTILITY EASEMENT** to **ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE** company for installation and maintenance of electric lines, together with appurtenant facilities and fixtures

over part of city owned parcel number 408-31-002E, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

- E. **RESOLUTION NO. 26-1730**, a Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the execution of a formal **SISTER CITIES AGREEMENT** with the **CITY** of **CANANEA, SONORA, MEXICO**, for **MUTUAL COOPERATION** between both cities; and establishing an effective date.

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

Mayor Grijalva thanked the City of Cananea for wanting to be a sister city similar to the City of Agua Prieta; and very grateful for them to be marketing Douglas to bring their people down to Douglas to shop and eat. They don't need to travel 45 miles if Douglas can grow and give them what they like.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Jose Montañó, Gustavo Durazo, Ray Shelton, Maria Dillman, and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

11. DISCUSSION/DECISION on APPROVALS.

- A. **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-1230**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AUTHORIZING** the **ACCEPTANCE** of **DONATED VACANT UNIMPROVED REAL PROPERTY** from Ray Mehan consisting of a 6.35 acre parcel with assessor's parcel number 410-12-035 in the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

Mr. Pedroza explained that Mr. Ray Mehan approached the city to donate a 6.35-acre parcel adjacent to the city's golf course and State Route 80. The parcel carries outstanding property taxes of approximately \$33,154.27, accruing since 2008. As part of the negotiated terms, the city agreed to absorb those taxes upon acceptance of the donation. The parcel has an assessed valuation of \$36,378, is currently zoned residential, and has utilities nearby. Staff noted the parcel's proximity to State Highway 80 and the golf course presents potential for rezoning and commercial, residential, or golf course-related development, and that acquisition would allow the city to market the property to developers in support of its goals to grow population, tax revenues, and business activity.

Motion by Council Member Montañó, second by Council Member Shelton to approve the placement of Ordinance No. 26-1230.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Jose Montañó, Gustavo Durazo, Ray Shelton, Maria Dillman, and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

Motion by Council Member Acosta, second by Council Member Dillman to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 26-1230.

Roll call: Voted in Favor: Mayor Jose Grijalva, Council Members: Jose Montañó, Gustavo Durazo, Ray Shelton, Maria Dillman, and Richard Acosta. Voted Against: None.

12. CITY MANAGER REPORTS.

Ms. Urquijo delivered a comprehensive infrastructure and project update. She reported that the RAISE grant, valued at approximately \$23.5 million for resurfacing of commercial roads, is progressing through ADOT as a pass-through, with an RFP for design anticipated within a few weeks. The grant covers nine corridors identified in the original application.

The Chino Road realignment project has reached a significant milestone, with the contractor completing a sewer line crossing that will eventually connect to the new commercial land port of entry. The State Route 80 wastewater and sewer extension project to Cochise College and the port is officially underway, with contractor KEG working on Copper Avenue and preparing for ADOT-required traffic control and utility work.

The city's asphalt plant project has completed eight footings, with a crane expected within the following month to lift plant components into place and electrical work nearing completion. Water Well No. 18 at Fifteenth Street Park is ahead of schedule and expected to be operational by late August, and the preconstruction conference for Well No. 20 at the water campus near Cochise College is scheduled for April 15.

Ms. Urquijo acknowledged Mr. Hill's public comment regarding Eighth Street striping and the address numbering issue, confirming that the striping equipment is now operational and that staff will follow up with Mr. Hill to work toward resolution.

She announced that a fueling station was under construction at Sixteenth Street off Highway 80, across from the Veterans Memorial and visitor center. She identified the company as Allsup, a gas station and convenience store brand well known in New Mexico and Texas, noting its reputation for twenty-four-hour service. She stated the project had obtained its grading permit and was working toward final building permits.

A Safe Streets for All complete street study is underway, with a consultant selected, and is expected to align with the RAISE grant project for improved coordination across commercial corridors.

Additionally, Ms. Urquijo reported on ongoing downtown revitalization efforts, including a planned exposition to connect downtown merchants and building owners with resources on historic preservation, CDFI low-interest loan opportunities, and the city's progress toward achieving Certified Local Government status to qualify for historic preservation funding. Staff also noted that the streetscape engineering firm J2 is reviewing questions about the structural stability of historic buildings in relation to sidewalk improvements, with a merchant meeting planned to address those and related ADA and street pitch concerns.

Further, Ms. Urquijo reported on collaboration with the Border Arts Coalition on programming for the Douglas 125th anniversary celebration alongside the America 250 commemoration, including nineteen exhibits ordered from the America 250 mobile museum collection and locally created Douglas 125 historical displays. She noted plans to display these exhibits at multiple community locations, including the Grand Theater and the county government center, the latter following Supervisor Gomez's earlier offer to open that space for such displays.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL.

Mayor Pro Tempore Ray Shelton requested that a progress update on the commercial port of entry be placed on the next regular meeting agenda, including a review of project milestones and anticipated activity for the remainder of the calendar year.

Council Member Acosta added a request that the update include information on the local labor force composition at the port construction site; specifically how many workers are from the Douglas area.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Council Member Shelton, second by Council Member Montaña to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by:



Alma Andrade, City Clerk