

**SUBMITTED BY:** Luis Pedroza, Deputy City Manager

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** Ana Urquijo, City Manager

**FOCUS AREA:** Other / NA

**ORGANIZATIONAL  
IMPROVEMENTS:**

**SUBJECT:** **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-1229**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **ADOPTING** the Document Filed with the City Clerk and Entitled "2026 Amendments to Title 2" by Reference to **AMEND** the **DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 2** relating to the **DOUGLAS AIRPORT AUTHORITY**, establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Under the Douglas Municipal Code (DMC), the Douglas Airport Authority (DAA) is given certain powers over Douglas Airports. For many years, the DAA has operated on an advisory role to council regarding matters at the Airport causing some misalignment with the way the DMC is written.

**BACKGROUND:**

The DAA was established in 1980 via ordinance by the Mayor and Council. Per the ordinance, the DAA has the power to acquire land and to sell, lease, or dispose of any land or equipment with city concurrence. Its powers include the operation of the Douglas Airports, managing revenue and expenses under City Treasurer oversight, setting rules and regulations at the airports, and entering into contracts subject to City Council approval. The code, listed under Section 2.44, prescribes additional provisions relating to appointments, terms of office, vacancies, removals, organization (including adopting bylaws), and reporting.

The DAA has not operated in a managerial capacity nor established an organizational structure that would allow it to operate in the manner prescribed by the DMC. Instead, the DAA has functioned in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Council, hearing items regarding Airport operations and reviewing quarterly financial reports. Additionally, there are no records indicating that the DAA incorporated or became a separate legal entity that would allow it to own property or enter into contracts.

At the DAA meeting on January 26, 2026, and on May 4, 2026, staff informed the DAA of this misalignment between the DMC and the DAA's actual operations. The DAA made a recommendation to Mayor and Council on the 5/4/26 meeting accepting the changes as proposed and adding the following sentence to section 2.44.080 "Recommendations made by the Airport Advisory Committee shall be delivered to the Mayor and Council within three days of a meeting".

The proposed changes before you entail revisions to the structure of the DAA to reflect its establishment as an advisory committee, thereby removing powers related to owning or disposing of property and the management of funds and Airport operations. The membership structure of the DAA would remain the same, with language updated to reflect the DAA's advisory role to the Council. As you know, the Airport requires a general fund subsidy for its operations and relies on grants to fund capital improvements. The city is currently in the process of selling some of the land surrounding the Airport for new development, and various improvements are underway that will bring increased use and revenue to the Airport. The DAA would play a role in advising the Council on Airport operational matters to support more informed decision-making.

**DISCUSSION:**

Staff is recommending changes to DMC to reflect the advisory role that the DAA has undertaken.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**Fiscal Year:** 2025/2026

**Amount Requested:**

**Budgeted:** Y / N

**Account (s):**

**“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-1229 ON ITS FIRST READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”**

**“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 26-1229 AND PLACE IT ON ITS SECOND READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”**