

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 1, 2026

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on June 1, 2026, at 5:16 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mark Freeman
Scott Somers
Rich Adams
Jennifer Duff
Francisco Heredia
Alicia Goforth
Dorean Taylor

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Scott Butler
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

Mayor Freeman conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the June 1, 2026 regular Council meeting, and June 1, 2026 Special Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Goforth regarding agenda Item 6-d, **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County for the distribution of grant funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program under which the City will receive \$185,598 for Arizona State University to provide technical and training assistance in criminal analysis within the Police Department Planning and Research Division. (Citywide))**, on the Regular Council meeting agenda, Police Chief Dan Butler described the importance of Mesa's partnership with Arizona State University (ASU) and how the efforts have significantly enhanced the Police Department's (PD) crime analysis and proactive policing capabilities. He stated that the PD partnered with ASU due to its expertise in problem-oriented policing and master's-level crime analysis program. He commented that through the partnership, two graduate-level paid interns work with the PD, and originally public safety sales tax funds were utilized to cover the costs, but since 2024, the program has been supported through grant funding, which provides up to \$185,598 annually with a maximum of \$224,000. He emphasized that the PD has not needed to use General Fund dollars since transitioning to grant funding and that he

estimates \$30,000 will carry over in unused grant funds into next fiscal year to support the continuation of the program.

Responding to a question posed by Councilmember Taylor, Chief Butler explained that the grant allows for approximately \$185,000 toward the program, while the PD is requesting funding of up to \$224,000 to cover program costs, including administrative fees, overhead, and the salaries of two master's-level paid interns from ASU.

Mayor Freeman commented that using grant funds for the two full-time interns saves the City of Mesa (COM) money, adding that the partnership with ASU has contributed to Mesa being ranked the safest city in Arizona and 11th nationally among cities of comparable size and population.

In response to a question from Mayor Freeman, City Manager Scott Butler reported that the City saved more than \$56 million in the General Fund over three years through efficiencies, position reductions, and spending controls. He noted that budget challenges stemmed from declining revenues rather than overspending, and that reserve funds allowed the City to weather the downturn while remaining above reserve targets. He said the proposed budget restores balance nearly two years ahead of schedule and leaves the City in a stronger financial position.

Responding to a question posed by Councilmember Goforth, Office of Management and Budget Director Brian Ritschel explained that the General Governmental Fund forecast for net sources and uses changed from a projected \$16 million deficit in February to a \$36 million deficit in the April 30th proposed budget due to additional expenditures identified during the budget development process. He stated that carryover represents budgeted expenditures that continue into the next fiscal year as a result of work not completed as anticipated. He said carryover reduces expenditures in the current fiscal year and increases them in the next, affecting the net sources and uses forecast. He confirmed that carryover funds are tied to contractually committed expenditures, while reserve funds are set aside for planned and unexpected expenditures, and provided examples.

Mr. Butler clarified that Arizona law requires cities to establish a maximum expenditure authority, requiring the City to budget for carryover, capital projects, and contingencies even if those funds are not ultimately spent. He pointed out that this approach provides flexibility to address Council priorities and unexpected needs without exceeding legal spending limits.

In response to a question from Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Ritschel confirmed that the City budgets conservatively by including funding for potential expenses, such as pension stabilization, even if those funds are not needed. He mentioned that unused budget authority remains available through carryover or the fund balance, while the City maintains reserve levels above its policy minimum by targeting a 15% General Governmental Fund reserve. He shared that the overall City budget includes reserve balances for all funds and departments, including utility funds and the General Governmental Fund, which are combined into the total reserve amount presented for Council approval.

Responding to multiple questions from Councilmember Taylor, Office of Management and Budget Assistant Director Sam Schultz advised that the City uses a conservative funding strategy designed to stabilize Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) payments to become 100% fully funded by June 30, 2042.

Mr. Shultz reported that the City has eliminated negative amortization, improved the pension system's funded status, and reduced its unfunded pension liability by approximately \$60 million over the past year.

Mr. Butler explained that although state law allows a 30-year pension funding schedule, the City chose a more aggressive 25-year plan and contributes additional funds whenever possible to reduce the pension liability more quickly.

In response to a question from Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Schultz confirmed that the City remains on schedule to achieve full pension funding by 2042.

Responding to a question posed by Mayor Freeman, Mr. Schultz explained that the City's financial policy requires contributing at least the actuarially required amount to PSPRS, but the City contributes substantially more. He noted that stronger-than-expected investment returns and slower payroll growth can accelerate the City's path to full funding, with the Police Department already projected to reach full funding one year earlier than previously anticipated.

2. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- 2-a. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes from the meeting held on March 11, 2026.
- 2-b. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held on April 7, 2026.
- 2-c. Planning and Zoning Public Hearing held on April 8, 2026.
- 2-d. Planning and Zoning Study Session held on April 8, 2026.
- 2-e. Planning and Zoning Public Hearing held on April 22, 2026. – WITHDRAWN

City Attorney Jim Smith advised that Item 2-e will be removed from the agenda and acknowledged at a future Study Session to allow more time for Council and the public to review the minutes.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilmember Goforth, that receipt of the above-listed minutes for Items 2-a through 2-d be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Freeman–Somers–Adams–Duff–Goforth–Heredia–Taylor
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Freeman and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings, and conferences recently attended.

4. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Scott Butler stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 8, 2026, 3:00 p.m. – Economic Development Committee

Monday, June 8, 2026, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 8, 2026, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council meeting

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:53 p.m.





for MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 1st day of June 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

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