

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD ACTION MINUTES

March 18, 2026

The Judicial Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on March 18, 2026, at 7:47 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT

Theo McCalvin, Chairperson
Keith Berkshire
Kent Cattani
Kelli Flinchbaugh
Sonia Martinez
Joshua Rogers

BOARD ABSENT

Kelley Durham, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Anderson
Kristin Hooker
Britanee Hudson

1. Meeting called to order and roll call.

Chairperson McCalvin called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m. and conducted a roll call.

Chairperson McCalvin excused Vice Chairperson Durham from the entire meeting.

2. Approve minutes from the February 11, 2026, Judicial Advisory Board meeting.

It was moved by Boardmember Martinez, seconded by Boardmember Berkshire, that the February 11, 2026, Judicial Advisory Board meeting minutes be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Boardmember Martinez, seconded by Boardmember Rogers, that the Board enter into an executive session at 7:48 a.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee, or employee of the City [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1)]; discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2)]; and discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney(s) for the public body [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3)] for the following:
 - i. The reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby, Magistrate Alicia Lawler, and Magistrate David Allen.
 - ii. The recommendation of candidates for the City Magistrate vacancy.

(At 8:03 a.m., the executive session adjourned, and the Board reconvened the regular meeting.)

4. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby, Magistrate Alicia Lawler, and Magistrate David Allen.

Chairperson McCalvin announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby, Magistrate Alicia Lawler, and Magistrate David Allen.

Lauren Ramirez, Gilbert Municipal Court judge, provided comments in support of Magistrate David Allen's reappointment and also expressed support for Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby and Magistrate Lawler.

5. Conduct an interview of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby.

6. Conduct an interview of Magistrate Alicia Lawler.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate Alicia Lawler.

7. Conduct an interview of Magistrate David Allen.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to Magistrate David Allen.

8. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved Boardmember Berkshire, seconded by Boardmember Cattani, that the Board enter into an executive session at 9:17 a.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee, or employee of the City [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1)]; discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2)]; and discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney(s) for the public body [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3)] for the following:
 - i. Reappointment of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby to a second two-year term.
 - ii. Reappointment of Magistrate Alicia Lawler to a four-year term.
 - iii. Reappointment of Magistrate David Allen to a four-year term.

(At 9:50 a.m., the executive session adjourned, and the Board reconvened the regular meeting.)

9. Discuss and approve recommendations to the City Council related to the reappointments of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby, Magistrate Alicia Lawler, and Magistrate David Allen, and granting Chairperson McCalvin the authority to draft a letter to the City Council regarding the reappointment recommendations.

It was moved by Boardmember Martinez, seconded by Boardmember Cattani, that Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby be reappointed.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motions carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Boardmember Berkshire, seconded by Boardmember Martinez, that Magistrate Alicia Lawler be reappointed.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motions carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Boardmember Berkshire, seconded by Boardmember Rogers, that Magistrate David Allen be reappointed.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motions carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Boardmember Berkshire, seconded by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, that Chairperson McCalvin be granted the authority to draft a letter to the City Council regarding the reappointment recommendations of Presiding Magistrate Stephen Umpleby, Magistrate Alicia Lawler, and Magistrate David Allen.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motions carried unanimously by those present.

10. Conduct a public hearing to receive comments from interested members of the public on the appointment of candidates for the City Magistrate vacancy.

Chairperson McCalvin announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the appointment of candidates for the City Magistrate vacancy.

Kristin Culbertson, Superior Court judge, spoke in support of candidate Kevin Breger for the magistrate vacancy, citing his strong legal acumen, professionalism, and ability to approach cases with fairness and sound judgment.

11. Conduct public interviews with selected candidates for the City Magistrate vacancy.

The members of the Judicial Advisory Board posed selected interview questions to the following candidates: Kevin Breger, Laura Frye, Joan Sinclair, Alexia Sedillo, Jacob Brown, and Dane Paulsen.

12. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, seconded by Boardmember Berkshire, that the Board enter into an executive session at 2:30 p.m.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion or resignation of a public officer, appointee, or employee of the City [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1)]; discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection, including the receipt and discussion of information or testimony that is specifically required to be maintained as confidential by state or federal law [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(2)]; and discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney(s) for the public body [A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3)] for the following:

i. Appointment of City Magistrate.

(At 3:15 p.m., the executive session adjourned, and the Board reconvened the regular meeting.)

13. Discuss and take action on a recommendation to the City Council identifying, in alphabetical order, the three best qualified candidates for the vacant City Magistrate position, and the granting of Chairperson McCalvin the authority to draft a letter to City Council regarding the recommendation of candidates.

It was moved by Boardmember Berkshire, seconded by Boardmember Martinez, that Kevin Breger, Jacob Brown, and Joan Sinclair be recommended to the City Council as candidates for the vacant position of City Magistrate, and that Chairperson McCalvin be granted the authority to draft a letter to the City Council regarding the recommendation of candidates.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – McCalvin–Berkshire–Cattani–Flinchbaugh–Martinez–Rogers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Durham

Chairperson McCalvin declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

14. Discussion and approval of granting Chairperson McCalvin the authority to review and approve the minutes from today’s meeting and forward to the City Council for acknowledgment.

It was moved by Boardmember Berkshire, and seconded by Boardmember Flinchbaugh, to grant Chairperson McCalvin the authority to review and approve the minutes from today’s meeting and forward to the City Council for acknowledgement.

15. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Next meeting:

May 20, 2026, 7:45 a.m.
City Hall - Study Session Room
20 E. Main Street

16. Adjourn.

Without objection, the Judicial Advisory Board adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Judicial Advisory Board meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on 18th day of March 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

THEO MCCALVIN, CHAIRPERSON