

## COUNCIL MINUTES

June 2, 2025

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on June 2, 2025, at 8:18 p.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Mark Freeman  
Scott Somers  
Rich Adams  
Jennifer Duff  
Alicia Goforth  
Francisco Heredia  
Julie Spilsbury

### COUNCIL ABSENT

None

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Scott Butler  
Holly Moseley  
Jim Smith

Mayor Freeman conducted a roll call.

1. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Secondary Property Tax Levy, and take action on the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget:

- 1-a. A public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Secondary Property Tax Levy.

Mayor Freeman declared that this is the time and place for a public hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Secondary Property Tax Levy.

Carey Davis, a Mesa resident, spoke regarding the projected budget deficit and urged City management to reconsider the proposed budget and work toward a balanced solution.

Office of Management and Budget Director Brian Ritschel explained that the deficit of the net sources and uses is a result of the benchmark salary increase that resulted in an unexpected \$23 million increase for the Public Safety sworn staff. He pointed out the reduction in tax revenues and increased employee benefit expenses.

City Manager Scott Butler expressed his appreciation for the citizen feedback on the budget process and reiterated that the increases are the result of unforeseen expenses. He emphasized that adjustments have been made and will continue to be made to do what is best for the City of Mesa.

Responding to a request from Vice Mayor Somers, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Mike Kennington stated that the budget forecast has been presented with a negative balance for over 10 years due to conservative forecasting and the buffer is to ensure the City will be able to weather an economic storm, policy changes, or an emergency that causes unexpected expenses.

Vice Mayor Somers verified his support for approval of the budget as proposed.

Councilmember Goforth identified the proposed budget as conservative forecasting and expressed her support for approval.

Councilmember Adams shared his concerns about the proposed budget and requested that management conduct further review to identify additional budgetary cuts.

Councilmember Duff pointed out that budget discussions are ongoing and are adjusted as necessary throughout the year. She acknowledged that work remains to be done and affirmed Council's commitment to doing what is best for the City.

Mayor Freeman stressed that although there is still work to be done on the budget, the City is financially sound.

Mayor Freeman declared the public hearing closed.

1-b. A resolution approving the budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026. (5 votes required) – Resolution No. 12378

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Councilmember Duff, that Resolution No. 12378 be adopted.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Mayor Freeman declared the motion carried unanimously and Resolution No. 12378 adopted.

## 2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Session adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

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MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

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