



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 9, 2026

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on February 9, 2026, at 5:00 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

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Mayor Freeman conducted a roll call.

(Mayor Freeman excused Councilmember Heredia from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 5:07 p.m.)

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the February 9, 2026 regular 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: 8-a

Responding to multiple questions from Councilmember Taylor regarding Item 4-a, **(Arizona Farms Road High Pressure Gas Line Replacement Design-Bid-Build Contract. (Pinal County))**, on the Regular Council agenda, Assistant City Manager Marc Heirshberg confirmed Mesa provides gas service to parts of Pinal County due to service territory decisions made in the 1970s, including Mesa's purchase of the Magma service area in 1979. He discussed the new gas line project, which would be funded by Utility System Revenue Obligation bonds and could possibly pay for itself quickly due to anticipated industrial growth and vacant land development. He described previous audits and noted the project is a corrective action to allow proper pressure testing.

City Manager Scott Butler clarified that the Magma service territory boundaries were approved through the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) when Mesa purchased the utility and that Mesa remains fully compliant.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Somers, Mr. Heirshberg replied that the City does not typically post all utility master plans online for security concerns.

Mayor Freeman expressed support to replace the gas line and install a 12-inch diameter high-pressure line to prepare for future development.

Responding to a request from Councilmember Goforth for a continuation regarding Item 6-a, **(ZON25-00256 "Sun Devil Auto - Signal Butte" 5.9± acres located approximately 280 feet east of the northeast corner of East Southern Avenue and South Signal Butte Road. Major Site Plan Modification and amending Conditions of Approval Nos. 1, 6, 7 and 9 of Ordinance No. 3884 for the development of an approximately 7,689± square foot Minor Automobile/Vehicle Service and Repair facility. WS Holdings I, LLC, owner; George Pasquel III, Withey Morris Baugh, PLC, applicant. (District 5))**, on the Regular Council agenda, Mr. Butler recommended that, if Council chooses to delay Item 6-a, the item be continued to a date uncertain to allow flexibility for working with the applicant and conducting further discussions before returning to Council.

Mayor Freeman advised that the consensus of Council is for a continuation of Item 6-a to a date uncertain.

2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss the rollout of an AI Training program which will be made available to all Mesa residents and City staff.

Chief Information Officer Scott Conn introduced Assistant to the City Manager Ian Linssen, Library Director Polly Bonnett, Deputy Chief Information Officer Harry Meier, and displayed a PowerPoint Presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Conn outlined the Citywide Artificial Intelligence (AI) training initiative planned for the coming months and noted that no additional costs will be incurred. He explained the goal of improving productivity at a lower cost and the benefits for residents and City staff. He acknowledged that the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) received a Smart 20 Award for launching the AI Mesan Chatbot on the City's website. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Conn described the program structure and funding, explaining that residents will access AI courses through the Mesa Public Library using a library card, while City staff will use the existing iLearn system. He added that over 1,000 courses will be organized into learning tracks for all skill levels, leveraging the existing LinkedIn Learning platform. (See Pages 4 and 5 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Bonnett reviewed how the AI training will serve residents and the benefits, with a focus on adult learners. She emphasized that the goal is to reduce the digital divide, promote digital literacy, and strengthen workforce competitiveness. She discussed the public launch strategy beginning in May, noting that access is available to Mesa and Maricopa County residents with user validation handled by a third-party vendor. She mentioned that course usage will be tracked anonymously by view counts. (See Pages 6 through 8 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Meier provided an overview of the development of AI Training available for City staff. He noted that emphasis will be placed on preventing AI inaccuracies and ensuring human oversight to maintain data accuracy and security. He stated that staff training will begin next month with introductory courses, and that the City will also coordinate with the State's AI committee to stay informed about potential regulations and will continue piloting and refining additional modules. (See Pages 9 through 11 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Linssen noted that the training content reflects best practices and will be continuously updated as AI technology evolves, ensuring the program remains current. He highlighted the City's internal AI policy and explained that the training reinforces proper use guidelines. He emphasized broader community and workforce benefits, including support for small businesses, job seekers, and positioning Mesa as a forward-thinking leader in the state. He explained that the City will evaluate participation and effectiveness, making adjustments as needed, and although usage is anonymous, feedback and engagement data will help determine the program's impact. (See Pages 12 through 14 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Linssen referenced practical tips for using AI chatbots and noted that Councilmembers will have access to the training materials and are encouraged to explore the program and gather community feedback. (See Page 15 of Attachment 1)

Responding to multiple questions posed by Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Conn explained that the City conducted research on various training opportunities before selecting the existing LinkedIn Learning program. He advised that only staff will receive examples of use cases and prompts as part of their training.

In response to a question from Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Linssen explained that prompt techniques constantly change with new AI updates, so formal monitoring may not be practical, and instead, the City is considering creating a forum where employees can share effective strategies and lessons learned.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Taylor, Mr. Conn answered that the City has implemented a multi-layered protection strategy, beginning with a formal AI policy for employees and extending into strengthened cybersecurity controls that regulate and tighten access to data.

In response to multiple questions posed by Councilmember Duff, Mr. Conn advised that the training tracks were developed based on feedback and insights from 50 employees who participated in the AI sandbox pilot. He noted employee course participation will be tracked through the iLearn system, and staff usage and satisfaction will be monitored, while public participation remains anonymous. He added that the City already possesses the necessary data and, by applying AI analytics tools, can generate internal insights and recommendations with less reliance on external consultants.

Mayor Freeman thanked staff for the presentation.

2-b. Appointments to Council Committees, Regional Boards, and other Committees.

It was moved by Councilmember Adams, seconded by Councilmember Duff, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed. **(See Attachment 2)**

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Carried unanimously.

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

- 3-a. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on September 16, 2025.
- 3-b. Planning and Zoning Board Special meeting held on December 10, 2025
- 3-c. Planning and Zoning Board Study Session meeting held on December 10, 2025.
- 3-d. Planning and Zoning Board Public Hearing meeting held on December 10, 2025.

It was moved by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Goforth, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Carried unanimously.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

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

5. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Adjournment.

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



Mark Freeman

MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Holly Moseley

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 9th day of February 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Holly Moseley

HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

lr
(Attachments – 2)

Empowering and Elevating Mesa with AI Skills

*A Mesa Resident and City Staff Learning Initiative through
the Mesa Public Library and City iLearn System*

February 9, 2026

Purpose of Today's Presentation



Introduce a
citywide AI
Training initiative



Explain how the
program serves
**both residents
and City staff**



Outline
implementation,
considerations,
and governance



Why AI Training Matters for Mesa

AI tools are rapidly becoming part of:

- Workforce productivity
- Small business operations
- Public service delivery

Cities that invest early in AI literacy:

- Improve service efficiency
- Strengthen workforce competitiveness
- Reduce digital inequity

Program Overview & Funding

Cost efficient model

- One curriculum, two audiences
- Over 100 AI courses available via LinkedIn Learning

Adaptable and scalable

- Tailored learning paths by audience

Existing Funding Source

- Already in Library budget
 - LinkedIn Learning
- Already in DOLT budget
 - iLearn System

Audience	Delivery Platform	Purpose
Mesa Residents	Mesa Public Library	Workforce readiness, digital equity and literacy
City Staff	iLearn (City's existing Learning Management System)	Productivity, service improvement and enhancement

Curriculum Structure



Core Learning

AI fundamentals

Tracks

Prompting and effective use

(Shared):

Ethics, bias, and responsible use

Specialized

Residents: workforce, business, personal use

Tracks:

City staff: public-sector use cases, compliance, policy

Format:

Short modules (10–30 minutes)

Certificates of completion

Optional advanced training paths

Resident-Focused AI Training (Mesa Public Library)

Who:

- Adults, job seekers, students, entrepreneurs, seniors

How:

- Online, self-paced courses accessed via library accounts
- Available remotely or at library locations

Sample Topics:

- AI basics & everyday use
- AI tools for resumes, job search, and learning
- Small business & entrepreneurship applications
- Digital safety and AI ethics

Benefits:

- Free access to high-demand skills
- Reduces digital divide
- Positions libraries as modern workforce hubs

Public Announcement & Awareness

- Roll-out possible in 2-3 months
- Launch E-card campaign
- AI 101 and introductory content
- Online and in-person options

The screenshot shows the Mesa Public Library website. At the top right, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FIND, RESEARCH, EVENTS, MY ACCOUNT, ABOUT, and HOW DO I... Below this is the MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY logo and a search bar. The main content area features a header for 'ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) LITERACY' with a 'Read More' button, a 'Print' button, and a 'Share & Bookmark' button. Below the header is a large image of a person's hands holding a smartphone with a futuristic, glowing blue interface overlaid on it. To the right of the image is a list of navigation links: Beginner Lessons, Intermediate Lessons, Advanced Lessons, Library Programs (in person classes), and Book (and other resource) Recommendations. Below the image is the text 'The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy Program' followed by a paragraph describing the program as a collaborative effort for Mesa residents. At the bottom, there is a section for 'LinkedIn Learning' with a paragraph and a link to the library's login page.

CONTACT US | Hours & Locations | Check My Account | Reserve a Room | Pay a Fine | View Calendar | Newsletter | Support Your Library | Site Map | Translate

MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY

HOME FIND RESEARCH EVENTS MY ACCOUNT ABOUT HOW DO I...

RESOURCES

A-Z LIST OF RESOURCES
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

ADULT EDUCATION RESOURCES

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY
COMPUTER CLASSES
ESL AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP
GED

LINKEDIN LEARNING

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN
MESA ROOM

Research - Adult Education Resources

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) LITERACY

Read More Print Share & Bookmark Feedback Print

Font Size: Share & Bookmark Feedback Print

[Beginner Lessons](#) >

[Intermediate Lessons](#) >

[Advanced Lessons](#) >

[Library Programs \(in person classes\)](#) >

[Book \(and other resource\) Recommendations](#) >

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy Program

This is a collaborative program designed for the residents of Mesa, to offer high quality AI Literacy Training, free of charge. All you need is a [library card](#) to access the trainings via LinkedIn Learning.

LinkedIn Learning

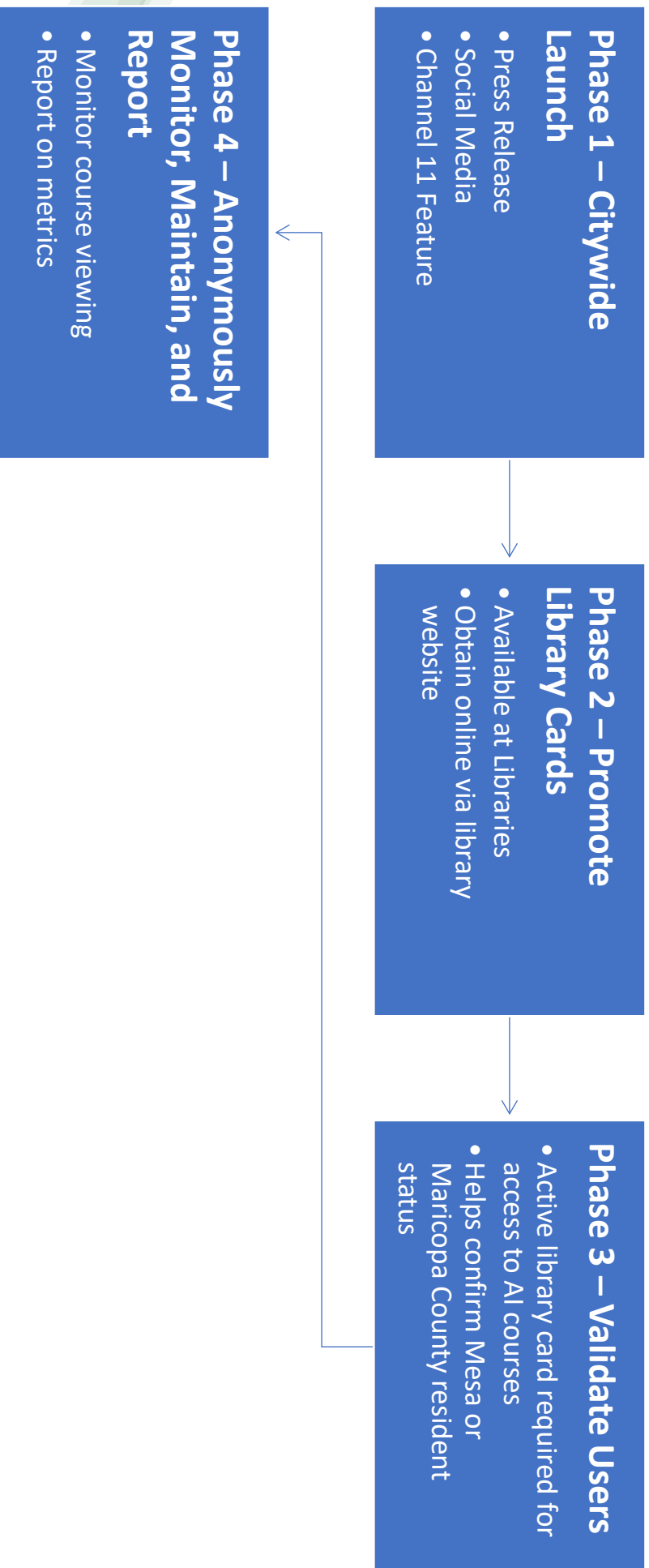
LinkedIn Learning has nearly 1000 courses exploring many topics in AI, and is free with your library card and PIN.

Please note that you cannot go directly to <https://linkedin.com/learning> to access your account. You must use the Library's login page: linkedin.com/learning/login/govmesalibrary.

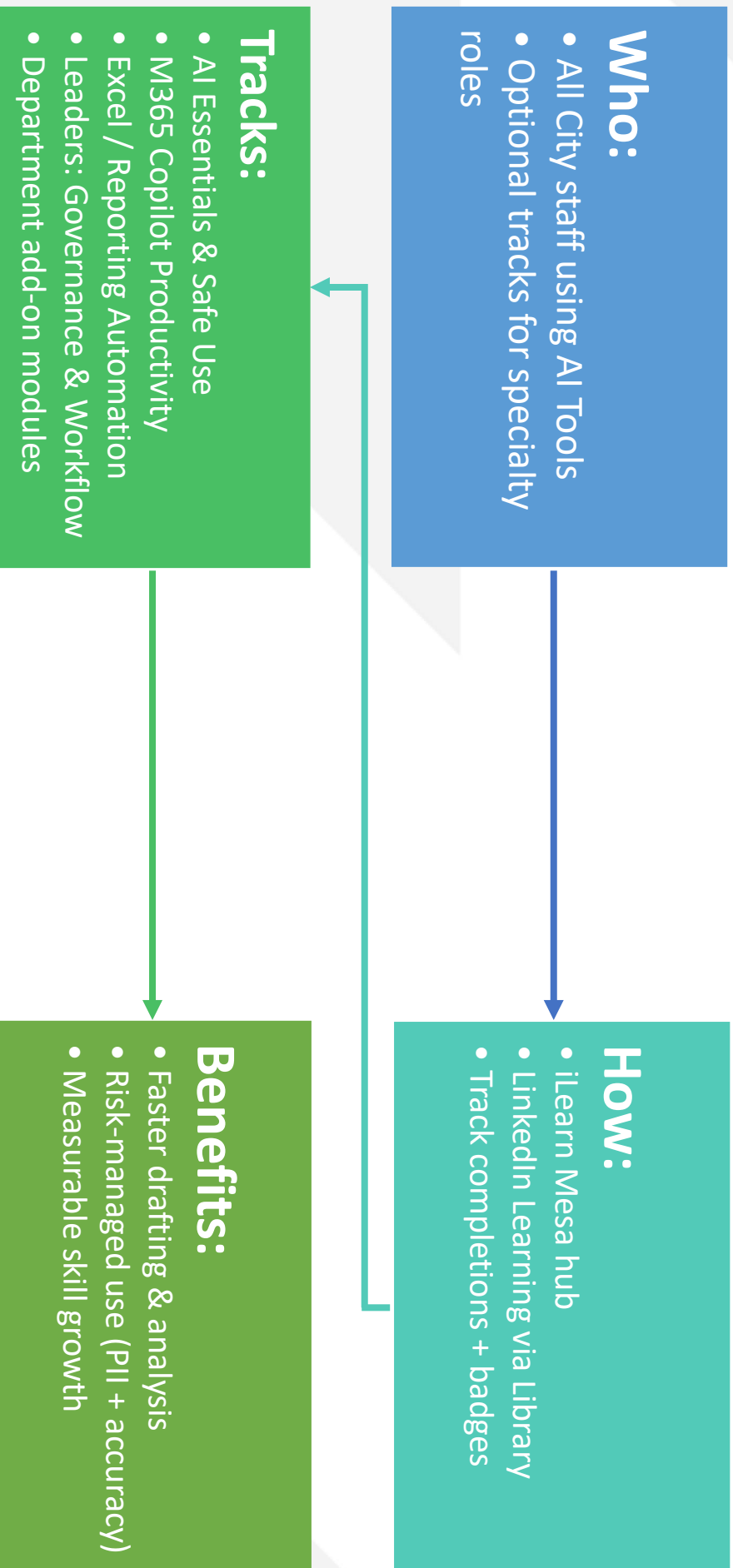
Visit the Library's login page (linkedin.com/learning/login/govmesalibrary) to set up your LinkedIn Learning account.

[LinkedIn Learning AI Showcase](#)

Resident Implementation Plan



City Staff AI Training (iLearnMesa Portal)



City Staff Announcement & Awareness



AI Training Guide for Managers

Enroll Your Team in the Right Learning Path

Building AI-Ready Teams at Mesa

Our AI training program uses free LinkedIn Learning courses available through Mesa Library. As a manager, you play a key role in guiding your staff to the right training tracks based on their job functions.

All staff must complete Track 1 (AI Foundations) before enrolling in role-specific tracks. This ensures everyone understands responsible AI use, data privacy, and the "trust but verify" approach.



Launch an "AI Learning Hub" in iLearn Mesa (Tracks + FAQs)



Kickoff: Staff Announcement + Inside Mesa + Teams site for Collaboration



Quick-start: 30-min AI 101 & Safe Use + Monthly Office Hours



Manager toolkit: Recommended tracks by role + "What's Allowed" One-Page Guide



Align with AZ Public Sector AI Symposium + State AI Steering Committee

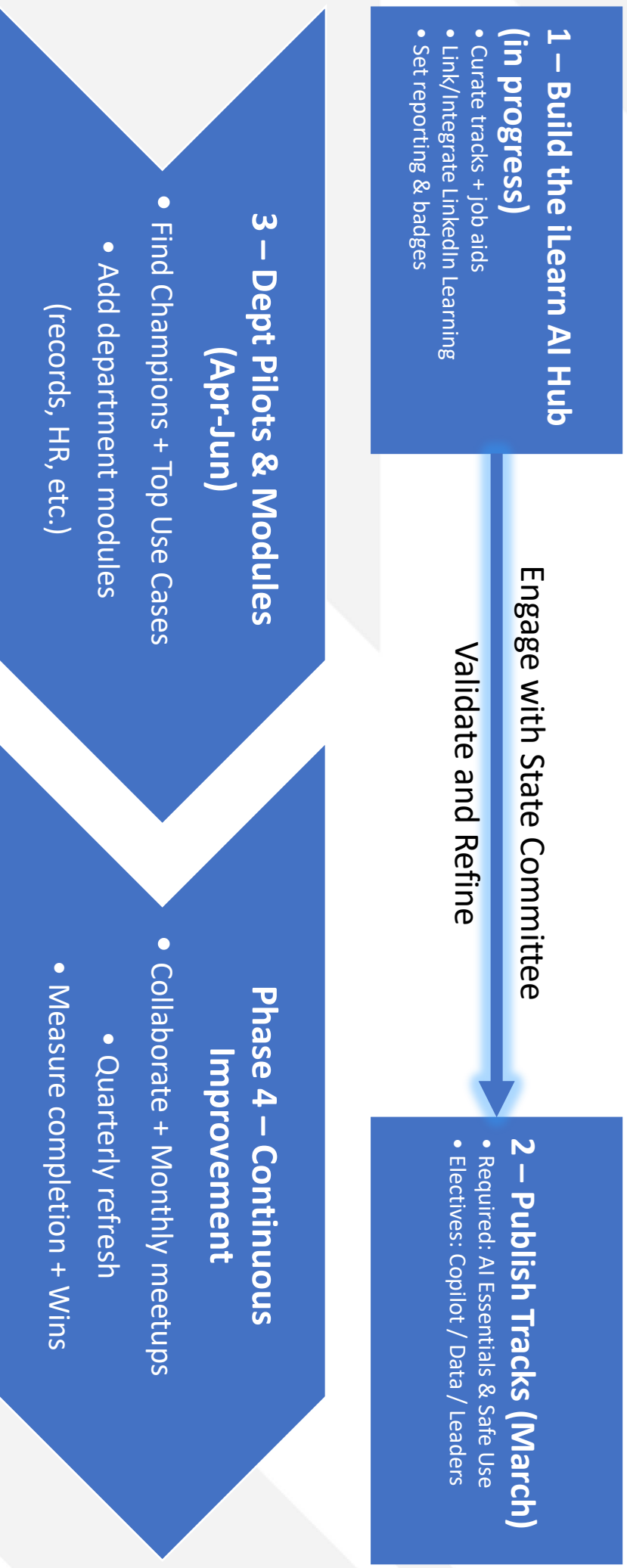
Quick Decision Matrix: Match Staff Roles to Training Tracks		
Administrative & Clerical Track 1 (ECO) + Track 2 (Writing) + Track 3 (Copilot) 4.8 HOURS	Analysts / Finance / IT Track 1 (ECO) + Track 4 (Excel & Data) 2-2.0 HOURS	Leaders / Managers / Directors Track 1 (ECO) + Track 5 (Leaders) 4.4 HOURS
Legal / Court / Records Track 1 (ECO) + Track 6 (Research) + Track 2 5.7 HOURS	Planning / Dev Services Track 1 (ECO) + Track 2 + Track 6 5.2 HOURS	Power Users / Champions Track 1 (ECO) + Role track (TTD) e.g. Automation 15.4 HOURS

Available Training Tracks Overview		
1 AI Foundations (REQUIRED) AI Staff + Prompt Engineering, Ethics, Privacy 30min - 2hrs	2 AI for Productivity Writing, Communication, Email 3 hrs	
3 Microsoft Copilot Word, Excel, Outlook, Teams, PowerPoint 3-4 hrs	4 Excel & Data Analysis Formulas, Power BI, Reporting 6-8 hrs	
5 AI for Leaders Strategy, Governance, Team Adoption 3-4 hrs	6 Research & Knowledge Accurate Research, Document Analysis, Public Records 3 hrs	

City of Mesa • Department of Innovation & Technology • AI Training Program 2025
 Questions? Contact OIT Training Team

ADDITIONAL COST: \$0
 1,148 AI COURSES AVAILABLE
 Q1 LAUNCH 2025

Staff Implementation Plan

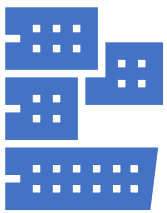


Governance, Safety & Ethics



Content aligned with:

Public-sector AI best practices
Data privacy and security standards

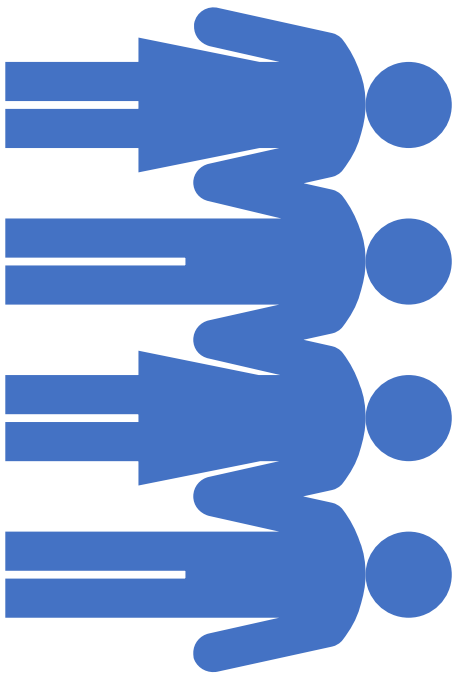


Clear guidelines for:

What City staff may and may not
use AI for
Ethical and transparent use



**Regular content updates to
keep pace with AI changes**



Community & Workforce Impact

- Strengthens Mesa's workforce competitiveness
- Supports small businesses and job seekers
- Improves City service delivery and staff effectiveness
- Positions Mesa as a forward-thinking, innovative city

Measuring Success



Resident
enrollments and
completions



Employee
participation by
department



User satisfaction
surveys

Tips and Tricks

- **Treat the AI like a brilliant but new employee:** It has access to the world's information but needs your specific instructions to know how to use it.
- **Context is King:** Don't just ask a question; explain the background, the audience, and your ultimate goal to get the best result.
- **You are the Expert:** AI is a tool, not a replacement. Use your subject matter expertise to guide the conversation and verify the output.
- **Experimentation over Perfection:** There is no single "correct" way to prompt. If the first answer isn't right/what you want, rephrase and iterate until it is.

Mesa Investing in People, Skills, and the Future





20 E Main St Suite 750
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February 9, 2026

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR MARK FREEMAN

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following are my recommendations for appointments to the City of Mesa Advisory Boards and Committees:

Design Review Board – Seven-member board including new appointments.

Megan Neal, District 3. Ms. Neal is a land entitlement manager with Toll Brothers and former transit project manager with the City of Phoenix. She holds a bachelor's degree in urban planning and a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University. Her partial term will expire June 30, 2028.

Education and Workforce Development Roundtable – Seventeen-member roundtable including new appointments.

Councilmember Jenn Duff, District 4. Councilmember Duff began her second term representing District 4 in January 2023. She is the President and Owner of Jef International, Inc., an import/export trading business specializing in sport fishing tackle. She is a graduate of Mesa High and she earned an Associate of Arts degree in Fashion Merchandising from Mesa Community College. Her partial term will expire June 30, 2027.

Human Relations Advisory Board – Seven-member board including new appointments.

Rose Hanne, District 2. Ms. Hanne is the chief operating officer of Alliance Urgent Care. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Pacific University and a master's degree in business administration from Arizona State University. Her partial term will expire June 30, 2028.