



CITY OF TOLLESON

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**TOLLESON CITY COUNCIL MEETING ACTION MINUTES
TOLLESON CIVIC CENTER
9055 WEST VAN BUREN STREET, TOLLESON, AZ 85353
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 840 6967 9194
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
6:00 PM**

Doors open to Council Chambers at 5:45 PM for public seating. The public may be asked to temporarily relocate if an executive session occurs. The public will be invited back into Council Chambers when the Council returns from executive session.

Members of the public may also participate in the meeting via [Zoom Webinar](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84069679194) (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84069679194>) with a computer or cell phone.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rodriguez called the Tolleson City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was delivered by City Attorney Pierce, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Chavira.

C. ROLL CALL

City Council: Mayor Juan Rodriguez, Vice Mayor Jimmy Davis, Council Member Christine Chavira, Council Member Clorinda Erives, Council Member Adolfo Gámez, and Council Member Cruzita Mendoza.

Not Present: Council Member Linda Laborin.

Department Directors: City Manager Reyes Medrano Jr., Deputy City Manager/Employee Resources Director Wendy Jackson, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Artz, Chief of Social Impact George Good, City Clerk Crystal Zamora, Development Services Director Jason Earp, Field Operations/Parks & Recreation Director Randy Babchuk, Fire Chief Michael Young, Library Director Mandy Carrico, Public Safety Director/Police Chief Rudy Mendoza, and Utilities Director Jamie McCracken.

City Representative: City Attorney Justin Pierce



D. FINAL CALL TO SUBMIT SPEAKER REQUESTS

All citizens and interested parties wishing to speak before the Council regarding non-agenda items or during a public hearing shall fully complete a Speaker Request Form and submit the form(s) to the City Clerk prior to the meeting being convened. Citizens must complete one form for each item they want to address. Speaker Request Forms are located at the entrance of the Council Chambers. For Zoom participants, click the chat button, and enter your name and the item you would like to address. Submissions should be made no later than the Mayor announcing the “Final Call to Submit Speaker Requests”. All speakers will be limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise noted by the Mayor. Speakers are not required to disclose their identities or personal information. You may also submit an online speaker request form at <https://www.tolleson.az.gov/speakerrequest> at least one hour prior to the meeting.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

This is the time for the public to comment on non-agenda items. Members of the Council may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01.H, action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to (1) responding to criticism; (2) directing staff to review the matter; or (3) asking that a matter be put on a future agenda.

F. SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES AND PROCLAMATIONS – FOR DISCUSSION

1. Tolleson Teen Council Update – College Selections
2. Proclamation declaring May 3–9, 2026, as National Small Business Week in the West Valley Region of Greater Phoenix, recognizing the vital contributions of small businesses to economic growth and community vitality, supporting regional efforts to promote and strengthen small businesses, and encouraging residents and businesses to support local entrepreneurs throughout the West Valley. – Jason Earp, Development Services Director

Mayor Rodriguez proclaimed May 3–9, 2026 as National Small Business Week in the City of Tolleson.

3. Proclamation declaring May 4–8, 2026, as Teacher Appreciation Week in the City of Tolleson, recognizing the vital contributions of teachers to education and community development, and encouraging residents to honor and support educators for their dedication to student success. – Mandy Carrico, Library Director

Mayor Rodriguez proclaimed May 4–8, 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Week in the City of Tolleson.

4. Proclamation declaring April 2026 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Tolleson, recognizing the importance of promoting equal housing opportunities and

encouraging all residents to support fair housing practices and eliminate discrimination in housing. – Noel Schaus, Housing Revitalization Manager
Mayor Rodriguez proclaimed April 2026 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Tolleson.

G. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR – PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

H. CONSENT AGENDA – ACTION ITEMS

Items on the Consent Agenda are of a routine nature and are intended to be acted upon in one motion. Council Members may pull items from Consent if they would like them considered separately.

1. Approve Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026. (City Clerk Department)
2. Approve Claims and Bills Report for the period of April 8, 2026 to April 21, 2026. (Finance Department)
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2638 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tolleson, Arizona, approving a Power Distribution Easement to the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District for the transmission and distribution of electricity, communication signals, and data along an easement parcel located near 91st Avenue and Buckeye Road, and authorizing the City Manager to execute and deliver said Easement. (Development Services Department)
4. Approve First Amendment to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the City of Tolleson and Advanced Security Technologies LLC for the purchase of security equipment and related services, and authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver said Agreement. The City desires to amend the existing Agreement to increase the annual aggregate amount from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for additional materials and services. (Emergency Preparedness Department)
5. Approve amendment to the City of Tolleson Employee Handbook by adopting new Policy 603.9.3 – Weighted Average Overtime to ensure compliance with Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requirements and to establish a consistent method for calculating overtime when employees work at multiple rates of pay within the same workweek. (Employee Resources Department)
6. Adopt Resolution No. 2640 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tolleson, Arizona, approving the City of Tolleson Title VI Implementation Plan, effective May 9, 2026 to May 9, 2029, assuring full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. (Human Services Department)

7. Approve the First Amendment to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the City of Tolleson and Western Environmental Equipment Co. for custom and standard flow and level meters and other related services, and authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver said Amendment. The City desires to amend the existing Agreement to increase the annual aggregate amount from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for additional services. (Utilities Department)
8. Approve the First Amendment to the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the City of Tolleson and Arizona Commercial Diving Services, Inc. for underwater repairs, parts, and services, and authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver said Amendment. The City desires to amend the existing Agreement to increase the annual aggregate amount from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for additional services. (Utilities Department)
9. Approve the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the City of Tolleson and Duke’s Root Control, Inc. for sewer system maintenance, inspection and repair services, and authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver said Agreement. The City shall pay the Contractor an annual aggregate amount not to exceed \$250,000 for services. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until December 21, 2028. (Utilities Department)
10. Approve the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement between the City of Tolleson and Pump Pros International Corporation for water pumps purchase, maintenance and repairs, and authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver said Agreement. The City shall pay the Contractor an annual aggregate amount not to exceed \$500,000 for equipment and services. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until December 11, 2027. (Utilities Department)

Council Member Gámez moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1. through 10.; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Davis. The motion carried 6 to 0.

Mayor Rodriguez – Aye

Vice Mayor Davis – Aye

Council Member Chavira – Aye

Council Member Erives – Aye

Council Member Gámez – Aye

Council Member Mendoza – Aye

I. REGULAR AGENDA – ACTION ITEMS

1. Adopt/Deny Resolution No. 2639 of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tolleson, Arizona, authorizing the acquisition of real property and a temporary construction easement from the Tolleson Union High School District No. 214, located near 96th Avenue and Van Buren Street, for public purposes necessary for the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Van Buren Street; authorizing and directing the Mayor, City Manager and City Attorney to acquire title to said parcel of real property and acquire

the temporary construction easement on behalf of the City by donation, eminent domain or purchase for an amount not to exceed fair market value of the property, plus acquisition and closing costs; and to take all acts necessary to acquire the real property and easement; and declaring an emergency. (Development Services Department)

Council Member Gámez moved to adopt Resolution No. 2639; the motion was seconded by Council Member Erives. The motion carried 6 to 0.

Mayor Rodriguez – Aye

Vice Mayor Davis – Aye

Council Member Chavira – Aye

Council Member Erives – Aye

Council Member Gámez – Aye

Council Member Mendoza – Aye

J. WORK STUDY AND PRESENTATIONS – FOR DISCUSSION

1. FY 2027 Third Budget Work Study – Kevin Artz, Chief Financial Officer

K. MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER’S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS – FOR DISCUSSION

L. CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Motion to go into executive session.

Council Member Gámez moved to convene into executive session at 7:22 PM; the motion was seconded by Council Member Mendoza. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Mayor Rodriguez – Aye

Vice Mayor Davis – Aye

Council Member Chavira – Aye

Council Member Erives – Aye

Council Member Gámez – Aye

Council Member Laborin – Aye

Council Member Mendoza – Aye

2. Convene into executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(7) to receive legal advice and to discuss and consult with the City Attorney and designated representatives regarding the acquisition of real estate in the vicinity of the Tolleson Civic Center, including the public body’s position and instructions for negotiations.

M. RECONVENE INTO PUBLIC MEETING

N. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 and A.R.S. § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the Tolleson City Council and to the general public that the Council of the City of Tolleson will hold a meeting open to the public. Council Members of the City of Tolleson will attend by telephone/video conference call.

Note: The City Council of the City of Tolleson, by a duly passed motion, may vote in public session to adjourn to executive session on any agenda item in conformation with A.R.S. § 38.431.03 for legal advice from the City Attorney.

Arizona law prohibits any City resource, including staff time, equipment, and anything of value to influence an election. This prohibition applies to Call to the Public at the Council Meeting. You may discuss a City issue but do not “advocate” for a specific candidate or ballot measure. Additionally, soliciting petition signatures or campaign contributions or distributing campaign materials is prohibited on City property. The City appreciates your efforts to help the City comply with state law and avoid using taxpayer monies to influence an election.

Zoom’s live transcription feature can provide automatic captioning by clicking on the Closed Caption (CC) button during the meeting.

THE CITY OF TOLLESON ENDEAVORS TO MAKE ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS ACCESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. With at least two business days advance notice, accommodations can be provided at this meeting for individuals with vision, hearing and/or speech disabilities, including a transcriber, large print, an interpreter, an assistive listening device, etc. Please call the City Clerk at (623) 936-7111, or TTY users may dial 711 for Arizona Relay Service (AZRS), to request an accommodation to participate in this public meeting. The City will try its best to accommodate any last minute requests.

LA CIUDAD DE TOLLESON SE ESFUERZA PARA HACER TODAS LAS REUNIONES PÚBLICAS ACCESIBLE PARA INDIVIDUOS CON DISCAPACIDADES. Con al menos dos días laborables de previo aviso, se pueden proporcionar adaptaciones en esta reunión para personas con discapacidades visuales, auditivas o del habla, incluido un transcriptor, letra grande, un intérprete, un dispositivo de asistencia auditiva, etc. Llame a la Secretaría Municipal al (623) 936-7111, o los usuarios de TTY pueden marcar 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Arizona (AZRS), para solicitar un alojamiento para participar en esta reunión pública. La Ciudad hará todo lo posible para satisfacer cualquier solicitud de último minuto.

City of Tolleson**Checks Recorded****Check Dates: April 8, 2026 to April 21, 2026****PAYMENTS OVER \$10,000**

VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	CHECK NUMBER	CHECK DATE
FELIX CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	\$159,416.03	187361	4/9/2026
WACO LLC	\$21,180.21	187425	4/16/2026
ADAPTIVE ARCHITECTS INC	\$19,622.00	187402	4/16/2026
120WATER INC	\$17,340.00	187377	4/9/2026
GRISWOLD INDUSTRIES	\$17,001.51	102298	4/10/2026
TRANSACT COMMERCIAL FURNISHINGS INC	\$16,566.63	102347	4/15/2026
WACO LLC	\$13,950.54	187425	4/16/2026
TOLLESON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIST.#17	\$13,250.00	187403	4/16/2026
VAN LOON INDUSTRIES	\$12,384.75	187378	4/9/2026
WEST YOST & ASSOCIATES INC	\$10,690.00	102350	4/15/2026
ARIZONA STATE TREASURERS OFFICE	\$10,618.30	187396	4/13/2026
FLYERS ENERGY LLC	\$10,271.46	102337	4/15/2026
WEST VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL	\$10,000.00	187401	4/13/2026

Post-Production File

**City of Tolleson
Tolleson City Council Meeting
April 28, 2026**

Transcription Provided By:
eScribers, LLC

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Transcription is provided in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.

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MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: All right. I'm Mayor Juan Rodriguez. Today is April 28th, and I would like to call the City Council meeting to order. We're going to start with our invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

So City Attorney, will you please provide the invocation?

And Council Member Chavira, will you please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Please stand.

PIERCE: Happy to do it, Mayor. Thank you. Our beloved Father, who art in heaven, we are very grateful to be able to meet together. We're grateful for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, this great land that we have to live in, and the wonderful City of Tolleson. We're grateful for this Council and for their willingness to serve and provide leadership and direction, and provide for the -- the safety and well-being of -- of those who live in this wonderful city. We're grateful for those that protect us. We're grateful for all of those who put themselves into harm's way to -- to make sure that we are able to return home to our own families and pray that they might also. Please bless this Council with guidance and wisdom to be able to make decisions that would be beneficial to, and in the best interest of -- of the City. We pray for them and for everybody that is here this evening. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAVIRA: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, both.

We're going to move on to Item C, which is roll call.

City Clerk, please let -- please let the record reflect that all Council members are present, with the exception of Councilwoman Linda Laborin. Now is the final call to submit speaker request. The City Clerk -- all speakers will be limited to three minutes for comments -- for -- for comments only. Actions taken as a result of public comments

will be limited to either, one, responding to criticism, two directing staff to review the matter, or three, asking that the matter be put on a future agenda – action item.

City Clerk do we have any speaker request forms at this time?

ZAMORA: We do not, Mayor.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Item E -- it is now the call to the public.

City Clerk, do we have any submissions for call to the public?

ZAMORA: We do not.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: All right. F -- scheduled public appearances or proclamations for discussion. Item number one is Tolleson Teen Council update. College selections. I think we're just going to call Ruben (ph.) up.

How you doing, Ruben?

RUBEN: Good evening, Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council. Thank you for this opportunity to recognize a very special group tonight. These graduating seniors represent the heart of Tolleson Teen Council, and what it means to lead through advocacy, leadership and service. Over the past several years, they've shown up consistently, not just to participate, but to lead. They've contributed thousands of hours of community service, representing the City of Tolleson at regional and national conferences, and most importantly, use their voices to advocate for their peers in their community. I've had the privilege of watching them grow -- watching them grow from shy, quiet participants, into confident young leaders who understand their role in something bigger than themselves. They've sat in this very room, have engaged with you directly at conferences and events.

All right. Stop. Have asked meaningful questions and have taken the time to understand how local government works. That level of civic engagement, at their age, is something we should all be proud of.

But before we hear from our each of our seniors, I'd like to invite Hazel Gallardo, former Teen Council vice mayor, to share a few words on behalf of the group. After that, we'll

invite each of our graduating seniors forward, to share their plans after high school. I'll be presenting them with a gift and an honor cord for their service to the City of Tolleson and our community. Each of them represents the future and the now of Tolleson, and I'm confident they will continue to lead wherever they go.

Hazel?

GALLARDO: Thank you, Ruben. Good evening. Mayor, City Council, families, and my fellow teens. It's hard to stand here tonight and put this into words, because how do you say goodbye to something that became part of who you are? Tolleson has never just been a place to me. It's been a feeling, A home that I didn't just live in, but one that lived in me. I was six years old when I first walked into the Boys and Girls Club. I didn't know what I was walking into. I was just a kid, quiet, unsure, trying to find where I fit. But looking back now, that was the beginning of everything. That was the beginning of people who would see me, believe in me, and help shape the person I'm standing here as today. Thank you.

And even though I may not fall within Tolleson boundaries, or be considered a Tolleson resident on paper, this is still my home because home isn't defined by an address. It's defined by the people who choose you, who raise you, who pour into you until you become something you never thought you could be. When I was 13 years old, someone changed my life without even realizing it.

Abigail Avila, thank you. You didn't just invite me to Teen Council. You opened a door I didn't even know existed. And because of that one moment, that one invitation, everything changed for me. I found my voice. I found my purpose. And I found people who would become family to me. I would not be standing here today if it wasn't for you taking a chance on me, so thank you for seeing something in me before I ever saw it in myself.

City Council, thank you for believing in young people like us. You didn't have to create a space for teenagers to lead, to speak, to grow, but you did. And because of that, you

didn't just build programs. You built futures. You taught us that our voices matter, that leadership is service, and that even the smallest actions can leave a lasting impact.

Randy, you were steady. You were someone who we could count on no matter what. Not for big speeches or big moments, but for consistency. For showing up. For reminding us in the simplest ways that what we are doing mattered. You were the calm in moments of doubt. The person who made things feel were possible, even when we felt overwhelmed. And sometimes that quiet kind of support is what changes people the most, thank you for always being there.

And Ruben, also known as our Tio, there are some people who come into your life and change it completely, and you are that person for me. I met you when I was 13 years old. I didn't have confidence. I didn't think my voice mattered. I didn't think I could lead, but somehow, you saw something in me that I couldn't see myself. And you didn't just say it. You proved it. Every conversation, every moment you checked in, every time you pushed me to do more, be more, believe more. You never let me stay small. You showed me patience when I was still figuring things out. You gave me guidance without ever making me feel less. You supported me in a way that felt like family. You didn't have to take me under your wing, but you did. You didn't have to care the way you did for us, but you chose to. And that choice changed my life. Because of you, I learned what it means to lead with heart. Because of you, I learned that strength doesn't come from being perfect. It comes from showing up, even when you're unsure. Because of you, I became someone I'm proud of. Tolleson gave me so many things -- opportunities, memories, friendships. But you, Theo, are the reason I found myself within all of it. To my peers -- look at us. All the moments we thought we weren't ready. All the times we doubted ourselves. All the times we felt like maybe we didn't belong. And yet, we're still here. We grew here. We found our voices here. We became who we are here, and wherever life takes us next, we're not leaving this behind because Tolleson isn't just a place we come from. It's a part of us. It's in the way we lead. It's in the way

we care. It's in the way we show up for others. It's who we are. And no matter where we go, near or far, that will never leave us. Thank you.

SALAZAR: Good evening, Council. I'm Alejandro Salazar, also known as your Teen Council mayor. I have been in Teen Council for three years. The December of my sophomore year, I was introduced by Ruben, and I'm truly grateful. And with my new journey out of high school and away from Teen Council, I will still continue to give my commitment to service for the City of Tolleson. I will be going to ASU -- Arizona State University. I will be -- I will be studying public service and public policy with an emphasis in health policy. And I will also be joining the cadet program with the Towson Fire Station, so.

GEARAN: Good evening, Council. My name is Anne Gearan. I've been a part of Teen Council for three years, just like Alejandro Salazar did, since my -- since the December of my sophomore year. I am also continuing my service in, I guess, the social parameter. I'm going to study social work at. NEU, starting this year.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: NEU.

[Laughter]

LAUBRIT: Council, my name is Cielo Laubrit. I am a senior at University High School. And I was introduced to Teen Council in my second semester of sophomore year, by Hazel, actually, a very dear friend of mine. So I love her so much for introducing me because I would have not known what a welcoming community would have been until I came to Tolleson. And I am going to -- be going to EMCC for about a year, and then transferring to a four -year university to study political science. Sorry.

DALY: Good evening, Council. My name is Chris Daly. I've been in the Teen Council since September of my sophomore year of high school, and I originally started out as just something, because I was bored. I came and I needed something to do, but it's ended up being -- it ended up meaning a lot more to that. I'm going to ASU, and I'm going to study history.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm a senior at UH. And when I first went into Teen Council, it was in my junior year, thanks to Hazel as well. She introduced me and a couple of my friends, and it showed me what a welcoming community it really is. And I'm going to go to Williams College to do biomedical research.

GALLARDO: Hello, Council. My name is Hazel Gallardo. Well, I started -- I was introduced to Teen Council, May of my eighth grade year. So getting ready for promotion by one of our very own. She works for the City of Tolleson. Abby, Yeah, so I've been in Teen Council for five years now. And I will be continuing my studies outside of high school. I will be attending Glendale Community College, and I'll be studying in public relations.

RODRIGUEZ: Good evening, Council. My name is Jacqueline Martinez Rodriguez. I'm going to ECMC, and I've been in Teen Council for two years. I was introduced by one of my friends, Frida. And I love her very much. And I'm going to be majoring in nursing.

MALTA: Council, I'm sorry. My name is Jaylene Malta. I was first introduced to Teen Council by our amazing, Hazel. My first event was the Trunk or Treat. And after that, I knew that I wanted to make an impact on this community. And I'm really glad that I continued going to meetings and continued to go to events, because I don't know who I will be -- who -- who I would have been without that. I want to study clinical psychology at NEU.

ARREOLA: Council, my name is Natalia Arreola. I've been with Teen Council for four years. I started my freshman year -- September of my freshman year. I will be attending EMCC. I'm going to be studying public relations.

VAZQUEZ: Good evening, Council. My name is Santiago Lopez Vazquez and I've been in the Teen Council for three years. I started August of my sophomore year, and after high school, I'll be joining the United States Marine Corps, becoming a special operative.

RUBEN: Teen Council Seniors, thank you for sharing your journeys with us tonight. It's been an honor. It's an honor to watch each of you grow, not just as students, but as

leaders, advocates, and young adults finding your voice. You've made a real impact on this community, and that's something that will last far beyond tonight. Wherever life takes you next, know that Towson is proud of you, and you'll always have a place here. Mayor, Vice Mayor, and members of Council, thank you again for an opportunity to recognize such a special group.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Well, I guess I'll get us started. First of all, congratulations to everybody. Did you say Michigan?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, but I wanted to -- but I think (Indiscernible).

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay.

CHAVIRA: Yes, you can do that.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. That's all I had. That's -- that's a Wolverine brother -- sister over there.

Now, first of all, congratulations to all of you. This is a great path. Every one of you guys are -- are amazing leaders in your own right, and you're just getting out of high school. I'm very excited about what the -- the world has in store for all of you guys, but I think I'm more excited about what you're going to contribute to the world. Because, you know, Tolleson puts out a good product. We put out, you know, quality people. And I think every one of you is a perfect example of what Tolleson is all about.

And, you know, I've had an opportunity to travel the world, and not the world, but let's say the United States, right? And everybody always says, oh, that place is really nice.

That place is really ugly, but you always have to have a point of comparison.

And to me, that point of comparison has always been Tolleson. And as beautiful as other places are, in my mind and my heart, they don't compare to Tolleson because Towson has will always be home for me. And I will say that the same will probably be true for you in 20, 30 years, when you have your family and you're going off and you're being successful. You could always come back home to Tolleson. And trust me, we'll be here. We will be here. And it'll always, always be home. So I'm glad to hear that. I

would encourage you to find a way, a special way. And I tell this to all the kids. We're only so big, right?

So I understand why a lot of folks have to move away from Tolleson, because our housing stock is pretty small, and a lot of us are waiting for you know, uncle, to move out to someone's house. Or you know, maybe I can get nana -- nana and dada's house or whatever, you know, because our housing stock is pretty small. But find a reason to come back, and in your own special way, find a reason to contribute back.

You know obviously, Ruben and Randy and a lot of our staff have invested a lot of time and effort with you folks, and you guys have invested a lot of time and effort for our community and special events. We've seen you guys out there, and especially at the conferences. And so that's part of -- that's part of being a community, you know, giving back to each other and helping each other become better, you know? And I will say, hands down, I've said it before and I stick to this -- I'm not worried about our future. Not one bit. Everybody says, well, you know development is very important. I agree with them. Development, here, on Council.

I can tell you that one of my college advisors was Adolfo. Adolfo used to work at Estrella Mountain Community College for many moons. He was a college advisor that I talked to when I was a freshman going into college. And you know, here we are, still working together, still serving together.

And so it's very important that you continue to develop your skill sets and become the best possible contributor to whatever it is that you want to contribute to, whether it's nursing or whether it's public relations or whether it's the military service. Whatever you do, do it at the highest level possible, you know, because development is always going to be critical. But I know our future is bright. I mean, when I see you guys come up here and talk about what you've accomplished thus far, imagine when you're a council -- imagine when you're our management team. Imagine when you're one of our directors. Our future in Tolleson is extremely bright. Not because our economics is

good, or because our business, you know acumen is great. It is, but it's because of the stock that we have, the -- the plans that we have rooted for our future.

All of you guys, I am 100 percent convinced that we're going to have bountiful baskets for decades to come, from all the great crops that we've raised. And again, contribute. Come on back to the community, contribute. And let's make Tolleson the best that we can, and in the process, make you guys the best that you guys can. Congratulations. I'm going to turn it over, because I don't want to say too much, because then, I speak for all day.

So any comments or questions?

Let's start with the Vice Mayor, Jimmy Davis, and then -- go ahead.

DAVIS: Congratulations to all of you. I'm so proud of you. It's -- it's been amazing seeing you guys, you know, out in the community, all of the work that you do, hearing your guys' report this this last year, and all the service hours that you put in. It's amazing. I know that you guys are going to continue to do amazing things. And you know, like the mayor said, this is always home. So we're always here. We're always going to support you. We're always going to love you. So that's the message that I will send to you. Go out into the world and share love. Share that Tolleson love because that's what this world needs right now.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, Vice Mayor.

Christine?

CHAVIRA: I'm very honored to have met all of you. You give me a lot of hope for the future. Congratulations to you all. I know you will all do great things. And you know, just saying again what everyone is saying and feeling, because it's what we believe is true. That you will do great things. But when you need an ear, you need a voice, that we will always be here for you, and this will always be your home. And I hope that our paths cross one day again. I enjoyed meeting and interacting with all of you. So good luck.

And moms and dads out there -- good job.

GAMEZ: Yes, before I proceed, in terms of acknowledging the students, I think we should give Ruben a big round of applause for the work he's done. It's -- it's people like Ruben that opens doors. That door opens, you choose to go through it. And so those that don't regret it later. Obviously, you went through it. And this is the first step of many. As Councilwoman Chavira said, we're here to help you. I can speak for myself. Anytime you have a question -- education, financial aid, you can come talk to me. My door is open. Just like the mayor said he was there, I helped him. I helped many students, but that's what we're all about giving back. I learned that from my mentor. Always give back to the community that helped you. And this community helped me to continue helping, and I'm sincere about that. And you do that to somebody else, it's like a ripple effect. It'll spread, starts getting bigger and bigger, and if you believe in it, the people will believe that you're helping them with your heart.

City of Tolleson has a big, big heart. The culture is about respect, about helping people be successful in education and business. Whatever it is, we're there as a support system. And I'm not -- I'm not just blowing smoke. I'm telling you the truth. We're here to help. And that's all there is to it. And anybody that knows me, will tell you that I back it up, no matter how hard it is. Sometimes, I get questions and requests.

Sometimes, like, how the hell am I going to do this one? But you -- you don't give up. You continue, okay? Again, education is the key to success, unless you win the lottery, and you still have to learn how to manage it. So you need to be focused on your future. Lean on each other for support and help again. We're here for the same reason. You see those individuals sitting over there? Don't let the mustache, the hair -- facial hair scare you. They're here to help you, too. They're professionals in their own right. Yeah, police officer, a fire chief, a guy that knows everything about wastewater, and more. And then the assistant, what used to be a chief of police -- the chief of fire -- now he's the director of everything.

[Laughter]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

GAMEZ: Exactly. So he's a good guy. They're all good guys, okay? So use the resources. Don't be afraid to, okay? That's all I got to say, and it's the truth. Gracias.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Anybody else?

ERIVES: My turn?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, go ahead.

ERIVES: I wanted to say, congratulations. Oh, my gosh, you're graduating, what -- in a couple of weeks? A couple of weeks, right? Then, you're like, okay, the where do I go? I'm not ready. I'm not ready to leave. I remember that with graduation, but why do I have to leave? I think my words of advice would be when you're leaving, right? You're about to embark onto this next chapter in your life, and it can be a little scary. And you're like, oh, I'm not sure. Especially if you're moving away, right? Because maybe, maybe this is the first time leaving home, right? And so now it's it's a little different, right?

You know, my friends have been around me, but now -- they're still there, they're just now father. Take advantage of all the opportunities that are happening in that new place that you find yourself.

So my ladies that are going to NAU, right? NAU is going to be completely different. The trees are different. The smell is different. There is a bird that -- he, like, huge, and he has a big beak. And it would wake me up in the morning. I'm used to roosters in my neighborhood, right? So what is that? Everything's going to be different, and you might get a little homesick, right? But don't -- don't -- don't -- just get busy doing other things right. Getting involved, meeting other people, telling them about Tolleson. It's a great story. Tell them about us. Tell them we have a fire department, a police, and our town has a library and our town has this. And you can talk about all the things, and then learn about that new person's place as well, right? So it's not that you're going to be sad and

lonely and I'm -- no get involved. Get, you know, and you have a wonderful story to tell about all your years at Teen Council, and see if they had one in their community. Sometimes, they didn't, right? So just take advantage. We will be here. Absolutely, like they said, you need us, we're here. You need us. There's a phone call. Start with Ruben and then say, hey, she needs a bike to get around campus. Let the Women's Club know, like, things like that, right? We want to be there for you all. Whatever you need, we're there. But when you're in that new place, right? Don't get homesick. That, sometimes, can be very, very difficult because you do get homesick, and I understand that. But get involved. Get busy. You already know how to do that. You already know how to do that. Congratulations for all of you, where you're going. We can't wait for you to send us postcards and send them back, or, you know, on Instagram. You could do that too. Yeah. But yes, congratulations. So excited for you. We're wishing you well. Wishing you well. Thank you.

MENDOZA: Congratulations to all. When I attended my first conference, I was able to interact with you guys. It was just amazing. I was so impressed. So congratulations and best wishes on the future.

And thank you, Ruben.

CHAVIRA: Thank you. You are impacting young kids.

CHAVIRA: Yes.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: You said no pictures? Come on up, folks. Let's take a picture.

I'm just messing with you, Crystal.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Put your hats on. Put your hats on. ASU in the front. ASU in the front.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hey, are you up here?

CHAVIRA: Oh, nice. Yes, right here next to me. Come to me. Come to me. But we had Gauchos. No, there's only two. I counted. No, there's two. There was a couple Gauchos, though, and then, a couple Estrella Mountains.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ruben, get in the picture.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Come on, Randy, get up here, man. Come on, man. .

You guys want a family picture? Stay here. He's got it. Everybody good? Awesome.

Congratulations, folks. Great job, guys. Great job.

All right. Folks. How to get back down to business after that? Yeah, that was great business.

So we're going to move on to item number 2, which is proclamation declaring May 3rd through the 9th, 2026 as National Small Business Week in the West Valley region of Greater Phoenix recognizing the vital contributions of small businesses to economic growth and community vitality, supporting regional efforts to promote and strengthen small businesses, and encouraging residents and businesses to support local entrepreneurs throughout the entire West Valley.

Development Services Director Jason Earp, you have the floor.

EARP: Thank you, Mayor and members of the council. Small businesses are really the heart of any community. They're the places where people gather, where relationships are built, and where the character of a city truly comes to life. When you walk into a locally-owned restaurant, shop, or service business, you're not just making a purchase. You're supporting a family, an entrepreneur, or someone who has taken a risk to invest in our community. They create jobs, keep dollars circulating locally, and bring the kind of uniqueness you simply can't replicate with larger national chains.

More importantly, they help define who we are as a city. That's why it's so important that we take time to recognize and support our small businesses, not just during small business week, but year round. Whether it's choosing to shop local, spreading the word about a great business, or simply saying thank you, those actions make a real difference. As a city, we're committed to doing our part by making it easier to start and grow a business here and by continuing to create an environment where a small business can succeed, because when all our small businesses succeed, our entire community

succeeds.

I just want to, kind of, give you a quick background. The West Valley cities got together, kind of, last minute. We're going to do a better job next year. And to recognize small businesses, because all cities realize the importance of small businesses. So we're actually joining forces with City of El Mirage and City of Avondale on May 4th. It's Access to Capital Summit. So it's informative, impactful Access to Capital event designed to connect business owners, entrepreneurs, and startups with resources they need to grow and succeed. And every other West Valley city is also going to be doing certain things. And we collaborated with all the cities in the West Valley and Dysart High School film, and we have a little video.

[VIDEO]

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Different categories, but definitely can get you that information.

[No audio due to technical difficulties]

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: All right. We're going to move on to a proclamation. Today we have a proclamation recognizing the importance of promoting equal housing opportunities and encouraging all residents to support fair housing practices and eliminate discrimination in housing. On all those housing manager [Audio interference]

SCHAUS: The Fair Housing Act, enacted in April 1968 and amended in [audio interference], ensures us all the right to housing free from [audio interference]. Despite this landmark law, housing discrimination [audio interference] proportionately affect protected classes, including people of color, women, persons with disabilities, families with children, and LGBTQ plus individuals. Tolleson can only be a truly inclusive city if our most marginalized residents have access to stable, equitable housing. As federal protections are owed this month and every year in April, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring equal access to housing opportunities for all.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Awesome. Okay. So therefore, I, Mayor Juan F. Rodriguez, do hereby proclaim April 2026 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Tolleson. Be it

proclaimed.

All right, moving on to G, business from the floor. We have none to hear tonight. So we're going to go on to H. That's our consent agenda action items. At last count, I had ten action items. If council has had an opportunity to review those and would like to make a motion, I'd be more than happy to hear it.

We have a motion by Council Member Gamez. We have a second by Vice Mayor Jimmy Davis. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

ALL: Aye.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed? Not hearing any. City clerk, motion passes unanimously.

We're going to move on to regular agenda action items, which we only have one. It's to adopt or deny resolution number 2639 of the mayor and council, City of Tolleson, Arizona, authorizing the acquisition of real property and a temporary construction easement from the Tolleson High School District number 214, located near 96th Avenue and Van Buren Street, for public purpose necessary for the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Van Buren Street, authorizing and directing the mayor and city manager and city attorney to acquire title to said parcel of real property and acquire the temporary construction easement on behalf of the City of Tolleson by donation, eminent domain, or purchase for an amount not to exceed fair market value of the property plus acquisition and closing costs, and to take all actions necessary to acquire the real property and easement and declaring an emergency. I'm going to kick it over to development services director for discussion.

EARP: Thank you, Mayor, Vice Mayor, members of the council. There's not much more to say. It's the pedestrian bridge that we have been planning for a while that ADOT is in charge of that project. It's right in front of the high school in Sonic that include elevators, but we do need some property from the school district for the safe landing of it, and so we're here to ask for approval of this.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I will -- I just want to add a couple of comments. Number one is this is one of those projects that just makes sense for everybody. If you've ever dropped a kid in front of Sonics in the morning, it's a madhouse. See, I'm already looking at your guys' faces. I have personally witnessed near hits. And we're talking about kids and vehicles. Not a good combination. So this pedestrian bridge makes beyond common sense. It makes total sense. And we, as a city, have gone out of our way to acquire \$3.5 million. Higher or yes? Yes? Yes. And so we're bringing to the table \$3.5 million for this project that is badly needed. And it's strictly for the safety of our kids. And that's a win for the high school. That's a win for us. And so I'm looking forward to this very, very much, because it makes sense, and I can't think of a higher priority than the safety of our children. And so with that, is there anybody else that would like to add anything before we move on?

GAMEZ: It's a win for the kids, too.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Council Member?

CHAVIRA: Mayor?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes?

GAMEZ: Move for approval.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Council Member Chavira, you have the floor.

CHAVIRA: I have a statement that I'd like to read before my vote. The City of Tolleson has secured the financing needed, \$2.5 million in federal funding and over \$2 million in general funds to fund the pedestrian bridge at 96th Avenue in its entirety, without any financial commitment by the Tolleson Union High School District. The bridge will serve high school students and the community at large by providing the means to cross Van Buren Street safely, while meeting all standards set by ADOT. The Tolleson Union High School District, in past presentations to the city council, provided renderings of the pedestrian bridge demonstrating the district's knowledge of plans for the bridge to address student safety and acknowledging that they were aware of the bridge and its

placement.

The Tolleson Union High School District has declined our full price offer of the property, which amounts in size to several parking spots. As a result, the process of acquiring the property will needlessly prolong construction of the bridge. We appreciate our partners at Sonic for accepting our offer in a joint effort to provide a safe and secure way to cross the street. Therefore, my vote will reflect the action needed to secure the property and complete the pedestrian bridge to provide a safe crossing by students and the community on Van Buren Street. Thank you.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you, council member. Any other comments or questions for staff? Go ahead, Vice Mayor.

DAVIS: Actually, I think it's absolutely ridiculous that we have to go this route, but here we are. You know, this is like you said, Mayor, this is a project that makes sense for our entire community. It is going to keep not only the probably a couple of thousand kids that cross that street every day safe, but other pedestrians. It's going to help the traffic flow. It just completely makes sense for our community. So it is ridiculous that we're going to have to go this route, use attorney hours, and do this whole song and dance, when this could have been resolved with a simple market value sale of this property. So I just encourage the Tolleson High School District governing board to get their act together. That's all. And I will be voting in support of this.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: And I will say that there's still time. I mean, the motion itself includes by donation and other opportunities. So I think there's still opportunities for us to see the greater good for this project. Having said that, we got to do what we got to do to make sure that our kids are safe. So we're giving all options over to our city manager and our city attorney, so it can be executed as necessary. Any other comments or questions? Council woman.

ERIVES: My comments just says is right here in front of us are the reasons why our votes for this bridge is necessary. Right there. Thank you.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, and it's a very beautiful project, actually. And it includes an elevator for people that are in wheelchairs. And it's going to be a beautiful thing. Yeah, yeah. For safety reasons, for aesthetics and everything. So it's going to be a great project. So with that I will entertain a motion to approve. We have a motion by Council Member Gamez. Have a second from Council Member Clorinda Erives. Okay. All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

ALL: Aye.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: All those opposed? Not hearing any, this motion passes unanimously. Thank you very much, everybody.

We're going to move on to -- we're going to move on to item J, work study and presentation for discussion. This is the fun part of tonight. Oh yeah. The budget. So fiscal year 2027 third budget work study. Let's call up our man of the hour, Chief Financial Officer Artz. You have the floor, sir.

ARTZ: We are here tonight for our third budget work session. The first session we had, we went over the revenues, and then the last meeting on April 15th, we looked at the general funds and all the departments and the general funds. Tonight we're going to focus on the special revenue funds, the debt service funds, and the enterprise funds. I did want to follow up on the questions that came up at the last meeting. So there were several questions and requests. And so I just want to start there. The first one being currently we have \$30,000 in that budget, and we had proposed to add another \$10,000. So we had \$40,000 in total in the TIA budget. And there was a request to add an additional \$50,000 for a total of \$90,000. So that's what will come before you at the tentative budget in May. We'll have that increase in there.

Then there was also a request for a VIVA budget, and that's adding \$30,000 to that .

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Clorinda, did you want to give a kind of an overview of what VIVA really is all about?

ERIVES: I'm sorry. I don't have my notes. Sorry.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay. It's a program that really focuses on?

ERIVES: On literacy.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: On literacy.

ERIVES: On literacy.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: And so it's an initiative that Councilwoman Erives wants to quarterback. I think it's a great idea. Anything we can do to help our community become more literate, I think, is a good thing. So let's, this is a starting budget. See how it evolves over the years. But yes, go ahead.

SINAWI: As for council's information, VIVA is an acronym that stands for Vision, Inspiration, Voices and Amplification.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

ARTZ: And there was also some discussion about Veterans Park and improvements there. Just at the last meeting was going through the general plan process and coming up with a redesign for Veterans Park.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: I think part of it is knowing that we still have the aquatic facility that we have to finish. So right now may not be the best time for us to start construction on the project, but it's a great time for us to do exploratory conversations about what this project should include. And that's the engagement with the community to do a redesign.

MEDRANO: Thank you, Mayor, members of council. You're precisely correct, sir. The timing couldn't be better. Even to get to construction, it would take about nine months to a year to go through the planning process. So with the general plan upon us, it makes perfect sense to use that mechanism to solicit public input. But we've changed it from a completion of Veterans Park to a redesign, because we don't know what's going to come from the public. They may want us to move the baseball field or the performing arts stage or the park. We don't know. So we're calling it a redesign to allow for the full reimagination of the park by the public.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

ARTZ: The next item was the city promotion budget. I had mentioned last time that we had not included any inflationary increases even though the Department had requested that. So we've gone back and added \$35,000 to our special events budget just to cover the inflationary increases and the fact that the special events are so popular, and attendance has been increasing. So we thought it was important to get that inflationary increase in there.

And then the final item was the covered parking at the Civic Center. So there was some discussion about the covered parking and solar potentially. And so with that, the Development Services Department will come back to council and discuss options for that covered parking before we move forward with that project.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: I think one of the options that needs to be included is does it make sense from a financial long-term standpoint, from a sustainable point, but also the infrastructure and the costs upfront, and what's the return on investment and that kind of stuff? That's the part that I'm really interested in, because the solar panel, if it doesn't make sense on ROIs, then we should know that upfront, and maybe that's not the best direction. I don't know, but I think it needs to be explored.

Yes, sir.

MEDRANO: Options we're exploring, because we certainly want to add more foliage trees specifically, just for the -- to reduce the heat island effect, certainly, but solar doesn't necessarily have to be panels on the covered structures. It could be mounted on a tree. They could be mounted on a pole and attract photovoltaic energy to support lighting the covered parking structure. So those are options we're looking at, that Mr. Earp and his team are looking at, and they'll bring back a report to council.

ARTZ: That will get into the numbers of the budget for this year. We are currently at a little over 244 million for our budget for fiscal year '27. There will be some changes to that. We're still working on carryovers in the enterprise funds, so there will be some

increases to our budget just to cover some of those carryover costs. But we'll explain all of those at the tentative budget approval.

And with that, we'll get into the Department's HURF, which is our Highway User Revenue Fund, also known as the Streets Fund. That's where we, we pay for our street projects and street maintenance. The budget there is \$1.345 million, and there's no change from the prior year.

AAA is a --

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Question.

ARTZ: Yes?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Is the fund -- go back one. Okay. The \$1.3 million, is that what's been budgeted to us through HURF, or is that what the Department is asking for?

ARTZ: Mayor, that is what the Department is asking for. So we receive about \$900,000 in HURF funds on an annual basis. So what we're using is some of the fund balance in the fund. So at some point in the future, we're going to either have to have the general fund subsidize the Streets Fund, or potentially cut back on some of the projects in the Street Fund.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: I like our program that we adopted where we're doing streets on an ongoing basis, so there's no part of Tolleson that's ever left out. So I would be for adding more money to get to whatever the budget needs to be. But that's why I asked the question.

ARTZ: Appreciate it. The AAA funds are grant funds that we receive for the senior center. It includes congregate meals, a lot of the senior meal programs. So it's funding that we get through the county. There is an increase of about \$120,000, and most of that is wages and salary increases and we'll request that as additional budget or grant funding. We also have two departments and a public safety fund, which is funded by a dedicated sales tax, the half percent sales tax. And so we have police and fire in that public safety tax fund. In the fire department, the budget is increasing by about

\$537,000. We are transferring positions from the general fund into the public safety fund, so the public safety fund is taking on more of the cost of police and fire. So more positions are being transferred in there so that the half cent sales tax is paying for that. We also have the wage and benefit increase in there and then some capital items.

MEDRANO: I have a question, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Go ahead.

MEDRANO: I should have asked Mr. Artz this in my office, but how close are we to retiring the debt, satisfying the debt service for both the buildings? Or have we done that yet? I don't think we've done it yet. It hasn't been 20 years.

ARTZ: I think it was 2034.

MEDRANO: Got a ways to go? Yeah. Faster than I thought, though.

ARTZ: Yeah.

MEDRANO: Okay. Thank you.

ARTZ: In the fire department there are some capital requests. They're requesting \$100,000 to replace some of the turnouts, some lifting airbags at \$50,000, CPR devices for \$40,000, and thermal imaging cameras at 25,000. And if you have any specific questions on any of those capital items, the fire chief is here.

GAMEZ: What do you do with the turnout that you no longer use? What do you do with turnout?

[Inaudible]

YOUNG: For what we refer to as grinder gear. That is for nonlive fire activities. When we send members to the training academy, they get beat up pretty easily, so we don't give them brand new turnouts to beat up for everyday drills and learning the functions of the job.

And then the second thing that we do is we also donate them to our sister city.

Yes, sir?

ARTZ: Side of the public safety fund budgets increasing by \$957,000. Again, we're

transferring in some additional positions from the general fund. And then we also have several capital items in this fund. So vehicles for 220,000, the dispatch phone upgrade of 81,000, a first responder drone for 65,000, another drone for 40,000, and then the dispatch consoles for 675,000. And some of our partners will actually be reimbursing us for that, so they will be paying a portion of that. But we have to budget for the full amount.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Go ahead.

MEDRANO: I'll wait for Councilman Gamez.

ARTZ: We currently have two partners in dispatch, the City of El Mirage and the Tohono O'odham Nation for the casinos. And then we are also working with a potential additional partner that may come on in July.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Let me ask a question about the vehicles. Are we still looking for electric vehicles, or are we switching back, or what are we doing with that?

MEDRANO: It would probably be a -- I'm sorry, mayor and council. It would probably be a mix. Just depends on what we can get our hands on. But we're trying to go electric first.

ARTZ: Debt service funds. These are the funds that that we use to pay any of our bonds or any of our debt service. So the budget actually decreased by about \$140,000. That's because we had made an estimate in the prior year for what our debt service was going to be for the aquatic center. Now that we've issued those bonds, we know exactly what our payment is going to be. So the total debt service payments are going down by about \$143,000 across all of our debt service funds.

The aquatic center capital fund, so we had budgeted \$32 million in the current year. We still have about 7 million dollars of those funds that we haven't spent this year. So that means we've spent about 15 million so far year to date. So we'll carry over all of those funds to next year's budget. And then, we're asking for an additional increase of \$8 million of new funds being transferred from the general fund. So that's going to make

the total budget for next year \$25.3 million plus the 15 that we've spent. So that's going to put the budget around \$40 million for the aquatic center.

No sir, it does not.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Raise (indiscernible) question to the voters was for 22 million, Jason.

ARTZ: 22 million. So the remainder of the 40 is coming out of the general fund, which is nourished by all the retail revenue that we attract throughout the City. That's a priority that Council's made to our younger population, certainly, and throughout the City as a whole. Promote water safety. Promote a future Olympic swim gold medalist. I know it sounds funny, but we're going to have one. I don't know who. But I look forward to it. Hope I'm alive. So yes, I wanted to point out the City's investing its cash as well.

Vice Mayor, there is a separate project with a \$3 million budget for the retail building at the aquatic center. So that's an additional 3 million. This is just the aquatic center capital. And any furnishings and all the -- what it takes to open it.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Just (indiscernible).

ARTZ: It's more than just the aquatic center, it's already doing what we hoped it would do and starting to attract other retail development in the proximity. We have at least one hotel that's interested in going in just because of the aquatic center. And it's going to create like a diagonal alignment that we'll talk about in the e-session.

Next, we'll move on to our enterprise funds. Our enterprise funds are the funds that are designed to basically recover their cost. So that's the water, wastewater, sewer, and sanitation funds. So in water, the budget is increasing by about \$785,000. The increases there are an increase in wage and benefits for the entire department of \$130,000. We're also adding a full-time position in the Department for an environmental inspector at \$125,000. An increase in water treatment costs of \$100,000. An increase in water delivery costs. So that's the cost of the water that we get delivered from the City of Phoenix. So there's really two components there

expecting a rate increase from them, but also potentially having more water delivered for some additional businesses coming in that we don't currently have.

Mayor, Council Member Gamez, I don't know the increase. I can get back to you with that.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: We're talking about water increases the rates as a whole or --

ARTZ: Increase of the --

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: -- in Phoenix?

ARTZ: -- treated water that we get from the City of Phoenix.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Sorry.

ARTZ: And then, increase in insurance premiums of \$27,000. So the total increase of about 8 percent or \$785,000 for water. On the capital side, budgets increasing by about \$875,000. We've got \$11.7 million of total capital projects, you know. So the Well 9 outfitting, that's a \$6 million project. The storage tank, \$3.5 million. Surface treatment plant study of \$1 million. And as I mentioned earlier, there are some carryovers. So they're -- we're still working on identifying all the carryovers. But there'll be some additional carryovers. And this budget will go up a little bit more. But if any of council has any questions on any of the capital items --

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Any of these going to be shared with other users?

MEDRANO: Otter side, I don't believe so.

ARTZ: Thank you. Mayor, Vice mayor, and members of council. Part of the (indiscernible) project will be carried over to the wastewater side. But the water side is the 150,000 that we see here.

MEDRANO: Thank you.

ARTZ: Sanitation fund is increasing by \$217,000. Part of that is a one-time purchase of a rear-load refuse vehicle for \$180,000. So that is a replacement of an existing vehicle that has aged out, and we need to replace. And then there's also increased costs for garbage service. That's just a contractual increase in the garbage cost. So increase of

\$217,000 total for sanitation budget. Wastewater treatment plant, budget actually decreased by \$160,000. The combination of two items: an increase in wages and benefits of 150, but then a decrease for professional services of \$310,000.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Congratulations.

MEDRANO: (Indiscernible).

ARTZ: On the capital side, seeing an increase of over \$2 million for capital in the wastewater treatment plant. So here we've got several multi-million dollar projects. The headworks screen replacement at 5.5 million. Digester for 7.5 million. The disinfection system at 5.5 million. Clarifier 2 rehab, \$2 million. And then electrical and structural upgrades of \$4 million in total. Now, in this fund, we do have partners that will contribute to a portion of these costs -- a significant portion of these costs.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Council, just to our graduates, look how expensive water -- wastewater is. It's an incredible profession. You can talk to that guy, Jamie McCracken, over there about it. If you're going into public relations, government relations, engineering, whatever it is -- my granddaughter is -- learn as much as you can about water. You don't have to be an expert, but just learn the jargon, because we didn't -- certainly -- like this council is the most educated council on water --wastewater issues. Our whole staff is. I think every department has a clue about it because that's all we talk about. But water in Arizona is critical. And there's a lot of great opportunities in it for your career. That was it, sir. Thank you. It's going to become more critical as we move forward. The extent of what I know about water is ask Jamie. Yeah.

Go ahead. Sorry to interrupt.

ARTZ: Okay. Then, in our sewer fund budget increasing by \$164,000. That's a combination of the increases in wages and benefits. Increase in supplies of \$38,000. And then insurance premiums of \$6,000. On the capital side, no change in the budget; \$575,000 in capital on sewer. I do know that there is a carryover that will increase this one when we bring this back for the tentative budget adoption.

And with that, May 12th is when we'll come back and ask council to consider the tentative budget. June 9th we'll ask council to consider the final budget and hold the property tax hearing. And then June 23rd, city council would adopt the property tax levy. So with that, staff's available, if you have any questions on what was presented tonight or anything that we discussed at the previous meeting that we want follow up on, and --

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Any questions for council? The only question I have, and it's more of a request, I'd like to know how many new staff -- new FTEs were adopted into the organization compared to the current year. I mean, you don't have to answer that right now. You can get that to me later. Yeah.

ARTZ: How many were adding in this year?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yes. And that --

DAVIS: It was in the last presentation.

ZAMORA: The first presentation.

DAVIS: Oh. That was -- no, I think -- oh, yeah.

ZAMORA: Yeah.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: You might be right.

ARTZ: So Mayor, this budget year, we are increasing or requesting to increase our FTEs by 31.5. I believe 23 of those positions are in the Aquatic Center --

ARTZ: --for lifeguards and lifeguard 2 coordinator positions there. And then, we also had some positions being added for the extended hours in the library, the senior center, and finance. And then, we're also adding five positions in dispatch for potentially taking on that new partner. And then, the one position in utilities for the environmental inspector.

MEDRANO: Just for note -- to note Mayor, members of council, that the majority, if not all of our new positions are for growth issues. We're increasing service as a result, especially obviously in aquatics. We've been talking about understanding the full cost to

operate the aquatics, because it's one thing to build it right, and it costs 40 million. Well, then we have to operate it every year. We estimated to be around 2 million, but we still don't know. We won't know until we have one full year under our belts. Then, we'll be able to see what else we can do after that.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: But that's just a general question.

Any other questions from council? Yes. Vice mayor?

DAVID: I just want to say that is a huge price tag for the aquatic center. But being there on the site for the beam signing ceremony, it's going to be an amazing facility. And I think, you know, it's what our community deserves, honestly.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. We're giving Tolleson the absolute best when it comes to an aquatic facility and very proud of that. I think we all should be very proud of that.

City manager?

MEDRANO: It is a big price tag. And we are proud to offer that to the community. That's our primary goal, is to give the community what it deserves. However, over time, we're going to make that -- that facility is an aquatic center. It's also an enormous economic engine. And it's already proving to be contributing to our -- to our ability to generate new revenue sources -- diversify our revenue sources. And when you talk about some of the things we talked about offline for our vision for that corridor, the aquatic center is going to play a pivotal role. In the beginning, we thought, hey, the aquatic center is going to help us attract regional swim meets at the collegiate level, Olympic trials qualifiers between us, Avondale and Goodyear all in a row, right? It looks like it's going to be so much more than that. And it's premature to try to estimate. But the potential is very strong.

Councilmember?

GAMEZ: I'd like to add that I spoke with the architect of the aquatic Center. And he stated to me that this facility, Bohannon (ph.), is the state of the art facility right now in the State of Arizona. Nobody can compare to it. So that's something should be proud

of. For a small community like ours to have that. Oh, yeah. Anyway, the architect said that.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. The only other thing I want to add is it's going to be just as embracing and welcoming for competitive swimmers as it -- it's going to be for our young kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, grandparents. So it'll have a recreation side where the community can actually come out and enjoy the pool. And it's going to have a competitive side, too. So I think we've done a good job of addressing all the needs of our community, competitive and noncompetitive, for more recreation. So I think it's a good thing. And it's a building that hopefully will stand for many, many decades after it's built. So it's a beautiful thing.

Other questions or comments for Mr. Artz?

GAMEZ: Great job.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Great job.

So we're going to talk timeline already or -- okay. Well that was super-fast. Very efficient sir. But great job. I mean this is probably the most important thing that we do as a council is adopt the annual budget. But the way you break it down is it's very -- it's easy to follow and it's easy to see what we -- you know, this is one thing that I think everybody -- all of you guys need to understand this. People will say -- it's a question. People will say, well, you know, I really like this. Okay. And then you -- then you say, well, where do you spend your money? And you say you spend your money, 90 percent of it on something completely different. Follow the money. People will tell you this. See how they spend their money. Same thing with an organization. Any public organization. We want this. Look at the budget and they'll tell you what that organization really, really promotes.

We promote resources, and opportunities, and programs that benefit our residents. And it's evident by the presentation. So it's -- it tells our story. So don't ask people what they prioritize, see how they spend their money, and then you'll see what they

really prioritize. So was there another comment or question? No?

Yes, sir. We're having those conversations as we move forward. There's ongoing conversations with the number of users, whether they're private school, whether it's the high school or whether it's private clubs or -- there's a huge pocket of people out there that see a swimming pool and they see opportunities. Club teams, for example. And so we're going to try our best to build the best partnerships as close as we can here with the high school and with our neighboring partners. But at the end of the day, we're going to follow whatever opportunity falls on our lap.

Yes, sir.

GAMEZ: Want to make it clear, members the council, the City of Tolleson welcomes the Tolleson Wolverines to swim in that pool.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. Absolutely. It would be an honor to compete in that pool. Any other questions? And I know, City Clerk, I'm not supposed to take questions from the audience. There's time for that. But I'm making an exception (indiscernible) right. I'm making an exception.

GOOD: Fire cadet --

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: (Indiscernible) have any questions? All right.

With that, Mr. Artz, thank you very much.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: We're going to move on to item K, which is mayor and City manager's report of current events. I guess, do you have any -- no? Okay. I do want to -- I just -- I do want to say that the beam signing ceremony was pretty freaking awesome, you know. And this time, they actually raised the beam while we were there. The barbecue was amazing. The architecture of the building, the color design. I think it's all coming together really, really good. And mister -- I forget his last name -- the elder or whatever it is. This is doing an amazing job on behalf of the contractor.

Yes, City manager.

GAMEZ: City manager should have checked with the directors. Is there anything we're

missing that we wanted to announce the council. Are we good?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: When are we doing the exhibit for the art exhibit thing?

GAMEZ: Mandy?

CARRICO: Mayor, Vice mayors, members of council, on May 12th before the May 12th council meeting. We will be having all of the artists that are currently exhibiting in our art exhibit, which features Latin artists. One will be Emily Castillo, who will be doing a live demo of sculptures that she makes in the lobby. And the rest of the artists will be on hand for meet and greet to talk about their art. So we encourage anyone in the community who'd like to come out to come out before, a little early, before the council meeting to meet the artists ask some questions, see a live demo. There'll be appetizers, snacks.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: You had me at, snacks.

CARRICO: I should have led with that. There will be snacks, appetizers.

GAMEZ: Thank you. Okay.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Council Member?

GAMEZ: Yes. Real quickly, going back to the beam signing ceremony. And I was going to -- I'm, you know -- I was going to give Randy a big thank you, but you jumped before I do. That's good. You're the mayor. You can do that.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: You can add to it.

GAMEZ: You can do it anyway. But I'm saying thank you for what you did. It was a hell of an event. You and your staff did a great job. Should be very proud of what you did. And the tour, everything was great. It was fantastic. So thank you, Randy, for what you did. Appreciate it.

ARTZ: Mr. Mayor?

MEDRANO: Yes, yes. I did forget something because I'm still depressed about the Phoenix Suns departure from the playoffs. It'll take me all year to get over. But on May 4th, was it, we are doing the unveiling of our newest art piece along Van Buren

(indiscernible) .

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: May 4th? Okay. (Indiscernible)

MEDRANO: That was on purpose. And it'll be the first art piece of phase two of Paseo de Luces. So we're very excited about it. You can see it now. But we're going to do a formal unveiling on May 4th. We're very excited about it. It is stunning. It is stunning. And the students that developed it are just incredibly gifted. They'll be here to give (indiscernible).

ARTZ: Was it -- was the West Valley Fine Arts council, Gallery 37, correct.? And Gallery 37 designed all of the art pieces.

GOOD: 5:30 to 7 on May 4th.

GOOD: Yeah, we're really excited. I work for West Valley Arts council, full disclosure. And we're really excited with the work that the students did. So this is the first of three projects that we approved last year as a council. So in the next two fiscal years, we'll see the other two rolled out as well. But this one is incredible. It came out really, really nice. It matches the other ones really well. And so it's going to be a great event. We do have one of the students that was on that particular team that designed that project, will be speaking as well as we have a slate of speakers talking about Gallery 37, and the art projects, and (indiscernible), and just a whole bunch of stuff. We also have the original master artist from the old sculptures coming to speak a little bit about that project. So it's going to be a fun event. But what I -- that's not even what I was going to say. I'm glad you brought that up, because I totally forgot.

GAMEZ: No. Randy reminded me, too.

GOOD: I'm like, what's tomorrow?

GAMEZ: We have a lot going on. We have a lot going on, sir.

GOOD: But I was going to say for the beam signing ceremony, it -- when we do the ribbon cutting, Randy, if we can remember to invite the -- that committee that kind of went to the different pools and kind of scoped things out just to make sure that they're

a part of that. That'd be great.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: The design committee.

GOOD: Yeah. Thank you.

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: I like the fact that those kind of events, in a sense, they're internal because a lot of city staff are there. But when you work for a city, you know, it's kind of like you're in a small island, but you're not. Like, if you work for police, you know, you work at the police department and you do police stuff. If you work for wastewater, you work at the wastewater treatment plant and you do wastewater stuff. These kind of events though, allow everybody to come out and see what's going on in the greater breadth of the organization. And this facility is amazing. So to have staff from every department there kind of getting a tour and understanding what's going on, it's a -- it's a good team building activity in general. Especially when you can break bread with your fellow Tolleson staff members. So good job all around.

Any other comments? Any other announcements?

ARTZ: I'm good. You good?

MAYOR RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Well with that I'm going to move on to item L, which is -- now is the time for council to convene into executive session. We're asking members of the public and those that are not involved in this executive session to please exit the meeting at this time. The only action item after the executive session will be to adjourn the public meeting. So do we have a motion to go -- well, wait a minute. Before I take a motion, I'm going to -- I'm going to call for a five-minute recess. So if you all want to get going, where I'm going to go to the restroom. And by the time I come back, we'll go ahead and gavel into executive session.

CITY OF TOLLESON
APRIL 28, 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED:

Juan F. Rodriguez
Juan F. Rodriguez (May 18, 2026 09:29:01 PDT)

JUAN F. RODRIGUEZ, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Crystal Zamora
Crystal Zamora (May 18, 2026 09:33:17 PDT)

CRYSTAL ZAMORA, CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOLLESON, ARIZONA, HELD ON APRIL 28, 2026. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE MEETING WAS DULY CALLED AND HELD, AND THAT A QUORUM WAS PRESENT.

Crystal Zamora
Crystal Zamora (May 18, 2026 09:33:17 PDT)

CRYSTAL ZAMORA, CITY CLERK









04 28 26 City Council Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-05-18

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