

CITY OF GLOBE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Mike Stapleton at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Shelly Salazar called the roll.

- District 1: Councilman Freddy Rios – Excused
- District 2: Councilman Mike Pastor – Present
- District 3: Councilman Jesse Letham – Excused
- District 4: Vice Mayor Mike Stapleton – Present
- District 5: Councilman Mariano Gonzalez – Present
- District 6: Councilman Fernando Shipley – Present
- Mayor Al Gameros: Absent

Quorum present.

INVOCATION

City Clerk Shelly Salazar offered the invocation, asking for blessings over the Council, staff, and the families represented.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Fernando Shipley led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS

A. Council Members

Councilman Mariano Gonzalez

Thanked City staff for their hard work over the past year and welcomed the new year with optimism. He extended prayers for the City of Los Angeles and those impacted by ongoing

wildfires, noting that Tri-City Fire crews were deployed to assist. With his background in emergency management, he expressed empathy for those affected. He also commended the Arizona Cardinals organization and Phoenix community for successfully organizing and hosting a football game on short notice, praising it as an example of teamwork and regional pride.

Councilman Fernando Shipley

Reported visiting former Councilman Lerry Alderman, who is currently in assisted living at the Phoenix VA facility. Mr. Alderman sends blessings and greetings to the Council and community. Councilman Shipley encouraged others to visit him if they are in Phoenix. He also congratulated Arica and David on the grand opening of The Salina's Smokehouse Barbecue, noting the delicious food and the positive impact of new businesses like Gila Hogs and others opening in Globe. He encouraged residents to support local entrepreneurs.

Councilman Michael Pastor

Shared that he would reserve his comments until later in the meeting under Item 3B, where he would provide remarks tied to scheduled presentations. He noted there are many positive developments in the City and looked forward to discussing them in detail.

Vice Mayor Mike Stapleton

Announced with regret the passing of Wes Sukowski, a long-time community member, business owner, and high school coach. He requested and observed a moment of silence in Mr. Sukowski's memory. Vice Mayor Stapleton welcomed everyone back after the holidays, extended thanks to City staff and the community, and wished all a happy new year. He recognized John for his birthday.

He also reminded the Council about Legislative Day on January 30th at the State Capitol, hosted by the League of Arizona Cities and Towns in coordination with Central Arizona Governments (CAG). He stressed the importance of councilmember attendance to ensure legislators hear Globe's voice. Transportation will be coordinated with carpool options available.

C. City Manager – Paul Jepson

City Manager Paul Jepson reported that staff returned from the holiday break re-energized and are now entering a very busy season. The employee satisfaction survey has been released, open for two weeks, and he encouraged all staff to participate so their feedback can help shape the City's future.

He provided a legislative update, noting the Governor delivered the State of the State address earlier in the week, committees are active, and bills are already being introduced. Staff will be closely monitoring proposed legislation, particularly those that may reduce

municipal authority, and will coordinate with the League of Cities to advocate for Globe's interests.

Lastly, he announced that affordable housing units are still available at Hill Street School Apartments, subject to income qualification. He confirmed that 23 units are currently available, all of which are subsidized to meet affordable housing thresholds.

2. COMMUNITY CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Mayor Stapleton opened the Call to the Public, reminding citizens that this portion of the meeting allows comments on non-agenda items, with remarks directed to the Council as a body, not to individual members or staff. He explained that the Council cannot engage in discussion or provide answers during this portion due to Arizona's Open Meeting Law, but staff would be available afterward to follow up directly with residents.

Speaker 1 – Bill Stevens

Mr. Bill Stevens addressed the Council, first thanking the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council for their ongoing efforts and accomplishments that continue to benefit Globe. He expressed his appreciation for living in the community. Mr. Stevens then inquired about the Galvanized Pipe Replacement Project, asking for clarification on whether work had begun and when residents could expect activity to start.

Vice Mayor Stapleton reiterated that the Council could not discuss or answer during Call to the Public but assured Mr. Stevens that staff present at the meeting would follow up to provide the needed information. Mr. Stevens accepted this clarification and concluded his remarks.

Speaker 2 – Paul Dietrich

Mr. Paul Dietrich, a resident at the corner of Bailey and North First Street, asked about the status of the planned sewer line improvements on Bailey Street extending toward Northeast Street. He expressed concern about project timing and updates.

Vice Mayor Stapleton again reminded the public that Council could not respond directly during this portion of the meeting. He invited Mr. Dietrich to meet with staff after adjournment to receive updates. Mr. Dietrich acknowledged this arrangement and thanked the Council.

Speaker 3 – Charles “Chuck” Siegrist

Mr. Chuck Siegrist, a resident of Bailey Street, spoke extensively regarding the Sewer Line Replacement Project. He noted that residents were told the City had received a grant for sewer realignment that was expected to begin in November 2022, but has since been delayed. He described a series of conflicting communications, including surveyors visiting his property, contractors bidding, and later being informed that the project might be delayed or completed by the City itself.

Mr. Chuck expressed frustration over the uncertainty and repeated changes in information, emphasizing his desire for consistent, truthful updates. He clarified that he was not accusing Council of dishonesty but asked that residents be given clear and accurate information without conflicting reports. Vice Mayor Stapleton assured him that Council and staff always share the most current information available and acknowledged that circumstances may change due to funding, supply chain, and contracting issues.

Mr. Chuck concluded by reiterating his respect for Council, acknowledging he had spoken with staff in the past, and emphasizing that his intent was only to seek clarity, not to criticize personally. He thanked the Council for listening.

Vice Mayor Stapleton thanked all three speakers for their comments and reiterated that staff would follow up with them individually after the meeting.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND CEREMONIAL MATTERS

A. Police Department Update – Chief Dale Walters

Chief Dale Walters presented the annual 2024 Police Department update to Council. He explained that a comprehensive Year in Review Report had been provided to the City Manager and was available for individual review with Councilmembers who wished to discuss statistical data and changes in reporting categories in greater depth.

Chief Walters emphasized that 2024 was a challenging but highly productive year for the Globe Police Department. Despite staffing, equipment, and technology challenges common to law enforcement agencies, the department made significant progress in professional development, operational readiness, and accreditation preparation.

Key points included:

- Staffing and Personnel – 28 sworn officer positions authorized, with four vacancies being actively filled. Civilian staffing fully filled. Recognized retirements and welcomed new hires.
- Accreditation Process – Significant progress toward accreditation through the Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police. Development of a Report Writing Manual, new standards, and data consistency.
- Operational Improvements – Updated reporting forms, adoption of 40mm less-lethal launchers, establishment of a Recruitment Team, and improved processes for complaints and evidence collection.
- Training and Wellness – Frontline leadership training, a five-year strategic plan, expanded regional training, and new officer wellness initiatives, including a wellness room and family involvement.
- Community Engagement – Continued partnerships through First Fridays, Light Parade, STEMFest, Shop with a Hero, Bike Rodeo, and school safety training.
- Performance and Statistics – Notable crime reductions since 2018, including fewer assaults, burglaries, and domestic disturbances, and the first year without a traffic fatality in many years.

Councilman Shipley inquired about internal review policies, and Chief Walters explained that the department conducts debriefings, utilizes body-worn camera reviews, and has an early warning system in place to ensure accountability. On the transition of court services, Chief Walters stated it would add some workload, but is already improving communication and service outcomes.

Councilman Gonzalez commended the pursuit of accreditation, drawing parallels to emergency management accreditation, and praised the department's focus on wellness. He stressed the importance of staff buy-in and continuous improvement.

Chief Walters concluded by thanking the Council and City staff for their strong support, which has enabled the department's progress, and reiterated his commitment to accountability, transparency, and professionalism.

B. City Project Updates

Upper Pinal Creek Bridge Project – Update by City Engineer Luis Chavez

City Engineer Luis Chavez provided a detailed update on the Upper Pinal Creek Bridge Project. He reported that Legacy Foundations, the firm contracted to conduct remediation work on the bridge deck, has mobilized equipment and begun work despite delays caused by contract negotiations, scheduling conflicts, and the holiday season.

- Legacy has begun hydra-jetting to remove compromised materials beneath the bridge deck, using a temporary water bridge for a constant water supply.
- Work is expected to take approximately three weeks, running concurrently with railing work performed by Meridian, anticipated to take a similar timeframe.
- Both remediation and railing work should conclude within four weeks, after which the bridge will be prepared for traffic and the old bridge will be demolished.

Luis emphasized that all costs are within the contracted price, with no additional charges to the City, and stated that quality was prioritized over speed to ensure a long-term solution. Traffic continues on the old bridge with minor slowdowns near the project zone.

Councilmembers raised questions regarding the bridge's design for large tractor-trailers. Luis confirmed it was designed for heavy truck traffic but noted that temporary detours are creating some confusion. A redesign of the traffic island is being prepared in case adjustments are needed once the new bridge is in use.

City Manager Jepson reminded Council that the old bridge is more than 100 years old, rated substandard by ADOT, and must be demolished for both safety and flood-flow reasons. Councilmembers emphasized that the public's perception is tied to the outdated design of the old bridge, and this will resolve with the new bridge.

Councilman Shipley asked about salvaging handrails from the old bridge. Luis and Public

Works Director John Angulo explained that safety standards prevent the reuse of these materials in public projects, but staff will explore options for repurposing them.

Library Outdoor Shade Project – Update by Community Development Director Tony Manfredi

Community Development Director Tony Manfredi announced the successful completion of the Library Outdoor Pavilion/Shade Project. The pavilion provides a permanent structure to replace temporary tents, enhancing safety, usability, and aesthetics for library programs.

Councilman Pastor visited the site and praised the improvement, noting its benefit for children and community programming. Tony emphasized the importance of better planning practices, which produced a superior product and avoided costly adjustments. The Friends of the Library contributed approximately \$33,000 toward the project, supplemented by City funds.

Council members praised the collaboration among staff, contractors, and the Friends of the Library. Public Works Director John Angulo added that the structure resolves recurring maintenance issues and announced that new drinking water stations will soon be installed adjacent to the pavilion.

Silver King Building Project – Update by Grants Manager Connie Callaway

Grants Manager Connie Callaway updated the Council on the Silver King Building, which partially collapsed in 2024. The City is pursuing state funding through ADEQ to avoid using contingency funds, potentially securing \$75,000–\$100,000 for demolition and debris removal. The project faced delays due to changes in SHPO rules and coordination with EPA Region 9, but staff, with the assistance of ADEQ's Travis Barham, have navigated the process. A third-party historical assessment confirmed the building lacked historic designation, clearing the way for demolition funding in spring 2025.

Council expressed appreciation for banners placed on-site to inform the public. Connie confirmed the building is safely shored, protecting adjacent structures, and demolition will not destabilize neighboring properties.

Future Fire Station / 703 Medical Building Demolition – Update by Grants Manager Connie Callaway

Connie also provided an update on the future Fire Station project at the former 703 Medical Building site. The City is part of a coalition grant for Environmental Justice funds to cover demolition costs without burdening City contingency dollars. Delays due to SHPO and EPA Region 9 reviews have affected the project timeline, but staff are actively navigating federal and state requirements. Banners now identify the site as the future location of Globe's Fire Department.

Public Works has cleaned and secured the property. Councilmembers expressed appreciation for the improved appearance and communications. Councilmembers requested a banner for the Michaelson Building project; staff explained that banners will be

installed once exterior demolition is complete.

City Manager Jepson confirmed that the Michaelson Building will house a small business incubator, downtown Visitors Center, and shared business support space in partnership with Gila County, the SBDC, and the Southern Gila County EDC. The project will operate on a membership model to ensure sustainability without burdening City or County funds.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Mayor Stapleton explained that matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and enacted by one motion and one vote, unless removed for separate consideration by the public, the Council, or staff.

Consent Agenda Items:

- A. Consideration of waiver of Section 2-4-10(A) (prior discussion rule) to allow action on the balance of the Consent Agenda.
- B. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$727,500.
- C. Consideration to approve IGA-25-0134, a Cooperative Agreement with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Wildland Fire Protection, allowing the as-needed and available deployment of City of Globe Fire Department resources to suppress wildfires.

City staff requested that Item C be pulled for separate discussion.

MOTION: Councilman Michael Pastor moved to approve the Consent Calendar, minus Item C.

SECOND: Councilman Fernando Shipley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Item C – IGA-25-0134: Cooperative Agreement with Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Chief Gary Robinson presented Item C to Council. He explained that the agreement is one of two that govern how the City of Globe Fire Department responds to wildfires and how the City is compensated for equipment and personnel deployed.

- This agreement sets forth the responsibilities of both the City and the State for wildfire suppression.
- It requires Globe Fire Department to respond to wildfires on State lands within City boundaries and provides State support when needed.
- It also enables Globe to deploy equipment and personnel to wildfires in other parts of Arizona and, if requested, out-of-state.

Chief Robinson noted that while Globe has not recently experienced a wildfire within City

limits, the department has coordinated with State aircraft on incidents adjacent to the City, such as the Russell Road and canyon areas.

Council Questions and Discussion:

- Councilman Shipley asked about the frequency of such agreements. Chief Robinson responded that they are infrequent but necessary, and the State has recently updated its agreements due to staffing and administrative changes.
- Council confirmed that the agreement allows Globe to deploy its Type 3 fire engine and crews as needed. Within Arizona, deployments require three personnel; out-of-state deployments require four.
- Councilman Gonzalez asked whether Globe had deployed to California. Chief Robinson stated that Globe has not yet deployed there but anticipates future assignments as demand increases. Tri-City Fire has already deployed a unit, and Globe is next in the rotation.
- Chief Robinson assured Council that backfill costs for personnel covering shifts while crews are deployed are reimbursed through the agreement. Globe Fire is currently at full staffing and has successfully managed recent deployments without staffing shortages.

MOTION: Councilman Fernando Shipley moved to approve IGA-25-0134, including a waiver of the prior discussion rule.

SECOND: Councilman Mariano Gonzalez.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Mayor Stapleton thanked Chief Robinson for the detailed explanation and commended the Fire Department for its readiness and service.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Gila County Economic Development Agreement No. G-25-D562 – Annual Bike Rodeo

Council considered approval of Agreement No. G-25-D562 with Gila County Economic Development, accepting a \$1,000 grant to support the Annual Bike Rodeo, to be received through Account 20-42-8120 and expensed through Account 20-80-8121, with a request to waive Section 2-4-1(A) prior discussion rule.

Chief Walters explained that the Bike Rodeo is a long-standing community event that provides helmets, bicycles, and safety training for children, while allowing officers to engage positively with youth. The program has been hosted at various locations over the years, such as Harbison Field and Walmart. Councilmembers discussed the event's value and noted potential partnerships with Globe's new local bike shop. Event details will be finalized and advertised once funds are secured.

MOTION: Councilman Fernando Shipley moved to approve Agreement No. G-25-D562

and waive Section 2-4-1(A).

SECOND: Councilman Michael Pastor.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

B. Arizona Community Foundation Grant Award No. G-25-65-5061 – Besh Ba Gowah Rehabilitation

Council considered the acceptance of Grant Award No. G-25-65-5061 from the Arizona Community Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 for the Besh Ba Gowah Rehabilitation Project, to be received through Account 20-42-0953 and expensed through Account 20-80-0953, with a request to waive Section 2-4-1(A) prior discussion rule.

Grants Manager Connie Callaway explained that the award resulted from networking at a USDA meeting, where she connected with Arizona Community Foundation leadership. Through these relationships, Globe was invited to apply, and personal connections to Globe strengthened the application. She emphasized the importance of Besh Ba Gowah as a cultural site requiring ongoing investment.

Councilmembers praised staff efforts and noted that networking and attendance at statewide conferences are essential for securing outside funding.

MOTION: Councilman Michael Pastor moved to accept Grant Award No. G-25-65-5061 and waive Section 2-4-1(A).

SECOND: Councilman Fernando Shipley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Freeport-McMoRan Mining Grant Award No. G-24-66-5063 (Tabled)

Council considered Grant Award No. G-24-66-5063 from Freeport-McMoRan Mining in the amount of \$28,000 for Community Center pool outdoor kitchen programming. Staff recommended tabling this item, as the program may be revised into a Library Food Insecurity Initiative.

MOTION: Councilman Mike Pastor moved to table Item 5C.

SECOND: Councilman Fernando Shipley.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Reduction of Contingency Transfer – Besh Ba Gowah Rehabilitation Project

Council considered reducing the October 22, 2024 contingency transfer of \$51,819.93 for the Besh Ba Gowah Rehabilitation Project by approving a return of \$25,000 to the General Fund contingency (Account 10-55-5300), based on the receipt of the \$25,000 Arizona Community Foundation grant.

City Manager Paul Jepson explained that the original contingency transfer was made to cover a project shortfall. With the new grant award, Finance recommended returning \$25,000 to contingency, reducing the net transfer to \$26,819.93. This adjustment increases the General Fund balance to \$2,410,932.

Councilmembers praised staff for their persistence in pursuing outside funding to offset taxpayer costs. Councilman Pastor and Councilman Gonzalez commended staff for setting a positive tone for 2025, noting that four separate grant outcomes had been presented during this meeting.

MOTION: Councilman Fernando Shipley moved to approve Item 6A as presented.

SECOND: Councilman Mike Pastor.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

7. LATE AGENDA ITEMS

City Clerk confirmed there were no late agenda items.

8. REPORTS

Public Safety Work Group

Vice Mayor Stapleton and Councilman Mariano Gonzalez reported on the recent Public Safety Subcommittee meeting. Councilman Gonzalez noted that many of the topics had already been addressed during the Council meeting, including updates on fire and police operations. However, he expressed significant concern about the stalled progress in securing funding for a new fire station and new fire apparatus. He emphasized the urgent need for these facilities, particularly with the risks posed by historic multi-story buildings downtown and new subdivision development. He voiced frustration that federal funding pathways had shifted, leaving the City to seek alternative strategies.

City Manager Paul Jepson reassured Council that staff continues to pursue multiple strategies and funding avenues, and reiterated the City's commitment to securing the necessary infrastructure improvements.

9. SECOND CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Vice Mayor Stapleton opened the floor for a second call to the public.

Speaker: Charles "Chuck," resident of Bailey Street, returned to clarify earlier remarks. He explained his ongoing concern with a community service sewer line that runs between his home and neighboring properties, eventually connecting to East Street. Tree roots repeatedly clog the line, requiring him to pay a plumber for maintenance. Chuck expressed

frustration that, because the line runs across City property, he cannot address the issue himself. He requested clarification on ownership and responsibility for repairs.

Vice Mayor Stapleton confirmed that the line in question is a private common line shared by residents, not a City-owned utility line. He thanked Chuck for raising the concern and assured him that the staff would meet with him after the meeting to discuss possible solutions.

10. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

No changes to scheduled meetings were announced.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No specific items were requested. Council noted several matters are pending and will be addressed at future meetings.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Councilman Fernando Shipley moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Councilman Michael Pastor.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the January 14, 2025 Globe City Council meeting minutes, and the meeting was duly called and a quorum of Council was present.

Shelly Salazar, City Clerk