

CITY OF GLOBE

Special Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on October 1, 2025, at 5PM by Mayor Gameros.

Roll Call

Present:

District 1 Councilman Freddy Rios
District 2 Councilman Mike Pastor
District 3 Councilman Jesse Leetham
District 4 Vice Mayor Stapleton
District 5 Mariano Gonzalez
District 6 Councilman Fernando Shipley
Mayor Al Gameros

Absent:

Invocation

Fire Chief was led by Gary Robinson

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Freddy Rios

1. COMMUNITY CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No public comments were made at this time.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Public Safety Update: Emergency Response And Recovery Efforts Following The September 26, 2025 Flooding Event. (Police Chief Dale Walters and Fire Chief Gary Robinson)

Police Chief Dale Walters opened the report by offering condolences to the families of those who lost loved ones in the flooding.

He described the day as tragic, noting that despite the loss of three lives, the outcome could have been far worse given the magnitude of the event. Chief Walters expressed gratitude for the support received from state partners, federal agencies, and local responders, emphasizing that Globe Police Department (PD) personnel, the Fire Department, Public Works Department, and community partners all stepped up.

Chief Walters highlighted the immediate challenges faced in the first hours,

including the urgent need to identify and account for unknown individuals who may have been passing through the community at the time of the flooding. He explained the process of identifying recovered vehicles, contacting owners, and coordinating with search and rescue (SAR) groups. During the first night alone, 66 vehicles were recovered, many of them personal cars swept into waterways.

Specialized resources, including SAR dog teams, chainsaw crews for clearing debris, helicopters with infrared capabilities, and drones, were deployed. The FBI, DPS, and Arizona Rangers also helped. Walters reported that no individuals are currently considered missing within Globe city limits.

Traffic control and public safety were maintained under difficult conditions, particularly along Broad Street. The decision was made to keep the roadway closed until sunset on Sunday to ensure safety. Walters emphasized the overwhelming workload on PD personnel, who continued to respond to regular calls for service while simultaneously managing the flood disaster.

He also addressed concerns raised by residents regarding tools and equipment left out in recovery areas, noting that theft would be investigated based on location reports. In response to questions about propane tanks, Walters clarified that within Globe city limits, tanks are being recovered and secured, though Wheatfields remain a challenge. He also confirmed that two roads leading to the local dump were washed out, and repairs will be addressed by the County. Walters commended Public Works for their exceptional efforts and concluded by affirming that three fatalities had been confirmed, two of which were within Globe city limits.

Fire Chief Gary Robinson followed by acknowledging the extraordinary risks taken by first responders. He emphasized that such events can easily overwhelm local resources, and highlighted the critical role played by the Type 3 Incident Management Team. Their expertise in logistics, planning, finances, and operations provided essential guidance and ensured effective coordination. Robinson explained that the team's support allowed Globe's emergency responders to focus on immediate needs, while the team maintained records, tracked progress, and provided a structured process for recovery. He stressed the importance of transitioning this knowledge to Globe staff for continuity and noted that an emergency manager had been brought in to support ongoing recovery after the Incident Management Team leaves.

Chief Bob Arther provided a detailed timeline of the Incident Management Team's involvement. The team was activated on Saturday morning, September 27, and assumed command later that day. With support from Globe PD, the Sheriff's Office, and private contractors, the team deployed resources including two wildland fire crews, Globe Hotshots, and SAR dog teams. Initial operations began at the headwaters of the canyon and extended into downtown Globe, focusing on locating survivors, recovering victims, and removing propane

tanks and vehicles
from waterways.

On Friday night, Ranger 1 conducted aerial surveillance of waterways extending from Globe to Wheatfields and Miami. Over the first two days, helicopter operations with infrared imaging and drone flights were conducted repeatedly to identify hazards and confirm search areas were clear. On the day of the meeting, crews worked in Pinal Creek north of the sewer plant, removing additional vehicles and propane tanks. Two of the three fire crews will remain to cut and clear trees from wash areas until released by the City. Arther thanked all agencies for their support and commended the smooth transition of command and coordination among partners.

Additional Discussions:

- Propane Storage Concerns: City Manager Paul Jepson relayed a question regarding Matlock Propane's compliance. Fire Chief Robinson clarified that the facility is located in Gila County, outside the City's jurisdiction. Discussions with the Fire Department are ongoing to ensure the staging area is cleared of hazards. Councilmember Mariano Gonzalez noted that annual compliance reports are required and suggested review by state-level emergency response agencies.
- Mental Health for First Responders: In response to a councilmember's question, Chief Walters stated that a stress management group is available internally and will be extended to both Police and Fire personnel. A session will be scheduled the following week to provide support to first responders affected by the traumatic events.

The update concluded with recognition of the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of all emergency personnel and community partners who responded to the September 26, 2025 flooding event.

B. Public Works Department Update: Response, Clean Up, and Infrastructure Recovery Following the September 26, 2025 Flooding Event. (Public Works Director, John Angulo)

Public Works Director John Angulo provided a detailed report regarding the City's ongoing response, cleanup, and infrastructure recovery efforts following the September 26, 2025 flooding event.

Director Angulo began by addressing the condition of the city's infrastructure, reporting that the water system remained unaffected by the flooding. He confirmed there were no disturbances to the water generator, and although some booster pumps sustained minor damage, the overall water quality remained safe. Certain service areas were temporarily shut down for repairs, as numerous water meters were damaged or wiped out. The department is currently catching up on

these service restorations.

The sewer treatment plant did not experience any power disruptions and remains fully operational. However, Director Angulo reported that portions of the sewer system located in creek beds were heavily damaged. Many manholes were destroyed, sewer lines were exposed, and the system became filled with rock and debris. With the assistance of a contractor who provided a new vacuum truck, as well as the use of the city's own equipment, cleanup and repair efforts are well underway.

Angulo also discussed the condition of the city's bridges, noting that the department reached out to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to perform bridge assessments. He reported that Connies Bridge and Cottonwood Bridge have already been replaced, while Haskins Bridge remains blocked off, with the City actively pursuing grants for replacement. ADOT has completed inspections on ten bridges and will continue to assess additional structures. Final reports and recommendations are expected next week.

Cleanup operations continue citywide, with staff focusing on dust control and sweeping in downtown areas and along Jesse Hayes Road. Other neighborhoods will also receive attention as resources become available. Contractors have been brought in to assist City crews, and Angulo expressed deep appreciation for the community's support, stating that the department could not have kept up without the help of residents, vendors, and volunteers. He emphasized that despite their own hardships and losses, many community members stepped up to assist in the response.

City Manager Paul inquired about the timeline for debris removal in the creeks. Director Angulo explained that the Public Works Department conducts creek cleanups twice annually, and while the focus is currently on downtown and critical infrastructure, crews plan to return to additional creeks once Search and Rescue operations are complete and safety permits access. The department will continue to assess manholes and underground systems as part of this process.

Councilmember Shipley asked why the City could not remove sand buildup in the creeks. Director Angulo explained that such work is restricted by federal regulations and must first be analyzed and approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any excavation or dredging would also require significant bank stabilization work before proceeding. The Vice Mayor added that even with more frequent cleanups, the severity of this storm likely would not have been mitigated.

City Manager Paul emphasized the importance of conducting a post-event analysis to evaluate the City's maintenance practices, acknowledging that Globe's infrastructure was not designed for storms of this scale.

Councilmember Mariano Gonzalez shared that in his long Emergency Management career, he has experienced two major flood incidents but had never witnessed anything like the rapid and destructive flooding that occurred on September 26, 2025. He noted that the event revealed the dangers faced by Globe as a non-planned, historic boom town, where 98% of land is privately owned, limiting proactive control. He stressed that the City must take the lead role in developing a long-term, proactive approach to flood mitigation and infrastructure resilience.

Several other members and officials offered reflections. Councilman Freddy Rios shared personal experiences and recounted heroic acts performed by City employees, police, fire, and residents, including rescuing an elderly man clinging to a pole and another stranded on a bicycle. He expressed heartfelt condolences to families, businesses, and homeowners affected by the flood, and gratitude to local, county, state, and federal agencies, as well as thousands of volunteers who came forward to help. He described the community's response as overwhelming and humbling, and he reaffirmed the Council's commitment to supporting recovery efforts and providing accurate updates to prevent misinformation. He urged the City to explore advanced warning systems and improved preparedness measures moving forward.

Councilmember Mike Pastor shared his own experience managing flood recovery in prior roles, stating he had never seen such widespread damage. He pledged that the City would do everything possible to assist residents and remain open to new information and strategies.

Councilmember Jesse Leetham offered condolences and expressed strong support for recovery efforts, affirming that the community stands together and will rebuild stronger.

Vice Mayor Stapleton, a 15-year resident, noted this was the worst disaster he has seen in Globe.

Mayor Gameros concluded by extending condolences to all affected residents and praising the tremendous response from volunteers across Arizona, as well as the support from local mining companies. He announced that the City has

engaged expert consultants and hired an emergency recovery manager to coordinate in-house recovery operations. The Mayor pledged that the City will rebuild and emerge more resilient.

Director Angulo closed by thanking the community for their resilience and cooperation. He reaffirmed the City's commitment to restoring infrastructure, improving safety, and maintaining transparent communication throughout the recovery process.

C. Update On City and Stakeholder Relief Efforts For Commercial And Downtown Business. (City Manager Paul Jepson and Assistant City Manager Linda Oddonetto)

Assistant City Manager Linda Oddonetto began the update by summarizing the City's efforts to assist local businesses impacted by the September 26, 2025 flooding event. She explained that City staff have been actively working to identify and pursue potential relief programs for affected businesses. Over the past week, staff met with 68 business owners across the city. Of these, 45 businesses were directly affected by the flood, while 22 were not impacted. Among the affected businesses, 10 currently have no estimated reopening date, while 35 have indicated plans to reopen as soon as possible.

City Manager Paul Jepson added that the city is still assessing the total extent of damage and does not yet have an exact cost estimate. He assured the Council that the City can draw from contingency funds to provide financial support to the business community and confirmed that the City intends to allocate available resources to help local businesses recover.

Councilmember Jesse Leetham asked who would be responsible for assessing the damages. Jepson explained that the process is highly complex and regulated, requiring extensive documentation and verification of damages before funding can be approved or disbursed.

Councilmember Jesse Leetham further inquired when the matter would be brought before Council for action. Jepson responded that staff intends to present recommendations either at the October 14, 2025 Council meeting or at a special meeting if necessary.

Councilmember Fernando Shipley raised concerns about how to document property damage, noting that private losses appear to be significant and may not be fully captured by current estimates. Jepson agreed that accurate

documentation is critical and noted that the total private loss may exceed initial projections.

Councilmember Mariano Gonzalez recommended that the City consider contracting with a specialized company to manage the documentation and recovery process more effectively. Jepson concurred and stated that the city has already engaged representatives to assist with submission management, salary reimbursements, and grant documentation. He confirmed that the contractor's fees would be covered as part of the recovery funding structure.

Mayor Gameros noted that while FEMA assistance can be helpful, the process is often lengthy and time-consuming. He stated that he has personally walked through affected business areas, observing that many business owners are working tirelessly to reopen as soon as possible.

Jepson added that while large-scale funding will take time, the city can take immediate supportive actions. As an example, he proposed that the city waive water costs for businesses engaged in cleanup operations as a short-term relief measure.

Both the City Manager and Assistant City Manager emphasized that staff will continue to coordinate with business owners, track recovery progress, and prepare funding proposals for Council review. A more detailed financial update and formal relief plan will be presented at the next Council meeting.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and possible action based on Council direction from presentations by the City regarding the September 26, 2025 Flood Event. (Staff)

Following the presentations by staff regarding the September 26, 2025 flooding event, Councilmember Jesse Leetham made a motion to allocate \$200,000 toward a business relief fund and to authorize all necessary transfers from available contingency resources. The motion also included the directive to waive water costs for both businesses and homeowners impacted by the flood as part of immediate recovery assistance.

Motion: by Councilman Jesse Leetham to approve a \$200,000.00 Contingency Transfer to the United Fund to support a Business Emergency Relief Program and waive Section 2-4-10A Prior Discussion Rule.

Seconded: Councilman Freddy Rios

Vote: Motion to approve passed unanimously.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council agreed to schedule a special meeting to further discuss flood recovery actions, funding allocations, and long-term mitigation planning.

5. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Jesse Leetham at 7:22 p.m. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The October 1, 2025 Special Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the October 1, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. The meeting was duly called, and a quorum of the Globe City Council was present.

Shelly Salazar, CMC
City Clerk