MINUTES OF THE PIMA TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

Call to Order: **Mayor Brian Paull called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.**

Prayer: **Councilmember Cade Bryce gave the prayer.**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Vice Mayor Teresa Bailey led the pledge.**

Roll Call: **Councilmembers Present: Mayor Brian Paull, Vice Mayor Teresa Bailey, Councilmember Georgia Luster, Councilmember Cade Bryce, Councilmember Lucas Hoopes.**

Staff Members Present: Manager Vernon Batty, Public Works Director Evan Stringfellow, Building inspector Joe Carpenter, Town Clerk Cody Marshall, Police Chief Diane Cauthen, Fire Chief Terry Earp.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

1. **Brent Morris stated his opinion regarding taxes.**
2. **Billie Allred/Brandi Weathers stated they were on the agenda for the last P&Z meeting for a rezoning issue pertaining to Billie Allred's property. The meeting was cancelled and so they weren't sure if they could address their situation at the Council meeting.**
3. **Vance Bryce Thanked The Town of Pima for their involvement and support at the Rural Policy Forum held at EAC on August 7-8.**

DECLARATION ON THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING:

CONSENT AGENDA: Action Item

A. Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting July 8, 2025.

Vice Mayor T. Bailey motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 8, 2025 and seconded by Councilmember C. Bryce. Motion carried unanimously.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS:

A. Town Manager-

1. Police Vehicles- **Manager V. Batty stated that the Details about the new Police trucks will be addressed by Chief Cauthen.**
2. School Road- **Manager V. Batty mentioned he had been informed about the SBRC Grant of $1million from the State to go toward the School Road.**
3. School Sewer- **Manager V. Batty stated the plans are done and moving to the procurement office to hire someone to do it.**
4. Memorial- **Manager V. Batty mentioned he had gone to Douglas to look at their Memorial for ideas and that he had talked to Brandt Woods about painting a mural for it. The process of completing our Memorial is still in the works.**

   -Manager V. Batty also extended the invitation to the Council for the New High School Ribbon Cutting that will take place this Friday, August 15th at 9:00am.

   -Manager V. Batty thanked the Police for overseeing the traffic at the New High School.

   -Manager V. Batty updated the Council regarding the Rural Policy Forum, which is a Statewide event that was held at Eastern Arizona College last week. He recognized Vice Mayor T. Bailey for doing a great job and stepping up last minute to speak at the Forum on behalf of The Town of Pima as a Rural Community.

B. Council Members- **Mayor B. Paull stated that the Pima pool looks like a swamp and a very green color. Public Works Director explained that the County Inspector had been by and verified the balances were good and we are working on restoring the color.**

C. Planning & Zoning- **Inspector J. Carpenter explained the new module put in place with our iWorQs program that building applications are all submitted and paid for online now and that business licenses will be handled online also soon.**

D. Public Works- **Director E. Stringfellow explained all the departments are busy trying to stay on top of the demands.**

E. Police- **Chief D. Cauthen informed the Council that the two new Police Trucks had arrived and had the Council go outside to see Officer Lucas' truck and showed them all the details.**

F. Library-

G. Fire Department- **Fire Chief T. Earp mentioned several of the Volunteer Fire Fighters will be attending Fire School Training next month, which is possible through a grant they received that covers the cost of the classes. He also mentioned the department was very appreciative that they had been invited to a First Responder Appreciation Dinner on the Reservation. He also expressed gratitude to United Way for a grant they received in the amount of $4,560 that helped purchase rehab stuff. He also mentioned the department had received an old trailer donated by Corporate Fire that they can use at events to demonstrate how to escape from a fire.**

H. Financial -available in the office

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Public Hearing held July 8, 2025 pertaining to the rezoning parcel #105-12-008B and parcel #105-12-008C from commercial zoning to multi-family, manufactured home zone: (Manager V. Batty)

   Manager V. Batty explained that the Council directed staff to come up with a Special Use Permit from last Council meeting. Inspector J. Carpenter stated he would like specifics, stipulations, or conditions that the Council would like stated on the Special Use Permit. After discussion, the Council agreed they do not want to rezone the property but would like a sample of a Special Use Permit that they could get an idea from for the language to possibly use. J. Carpenter agreed to come up with a sample for them for the next council meeting.

2. Discussion and possible action regarding the mutual aid agreement for the Fire and attached Resolution 2025-14: (Manager V. Batty)
   Fire Chief T. Earp explained the mutual aid agreement with the Mine.

   Councilmember L. Hoopes motioned to approve the mutual aid agreement and attached Resolution 2025-14 and seconded by Councilmember C. Bryce. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and possible action to renew money CD investments: (Manager V. Batty)

   Councilmember C. Bryce motioned to approve manager V. Batty to reinvest the money CD for possibly a longer term and seconded by Councilmember L. Hoopes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion regarding Tax Code: (Manager V. Batty)

   Manager V. Batty mentioned some important facts pertaining to the prospect of raising Pima Sales Tax from 2% to 2.5% that included:

   1. **Thatcher and Safford are both at 2.5%.**
   2. **Residential Rental tax was eliminated by the State effective Jan. 1, 2025. This has and will cause a loss in sales tax revenue.**
   3. **Arizona adopted a "Flat Tax" income tax policy effective Jan. 1, 2024. This has caused a significant loss of Urban Revenue Sharing (approximately $180,000).**
   4. **San Tan has recently incorporated, creating a new municipality of over 100,000 citizens. This will cut into all four of our State Shared Revenues.**
   5. **Pima currently has no Bed Tax. This taxes Air B&Bs and Hotels. We can use this opportunity to create one. The percentage can be independent from Sales Tax.**

6. **Pima currently has no Use tax. This taxes certain online retail orders. We can use this opportunity to create one.**
7. **The State has recently capped the Food Tax at 2% so this will not be affected. This taxes take-home consumables (groceries).**
8. **The potential change must be posted for 60 days before changes can be considered by council. Public Hearings would be held during this period.**
9. **Changes cannot go into effect for 60 days after new rates are adopted.**

After discussion, the Council recommended to have this item on the next council meeting agenda and schedule a work session for this topic.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding attached Resolution 2025-13 to appoint a Chief Financial Officer for FY2026: (Manager V. Batty)

Councilmember C. Bryce motioned to approve Manager Vernon Batty as the Chief Financial Officer for FY2026 and attached Resolution 2025-13 and seconded by Vice Mayor T. Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember L. Hoopes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm and seconded by Councilmember C. Bryce. Motion carried unanimously.