

April 21, 2025

Town of Chandler Council Meeting Minutes

The Chandler Town Council meeting was called to order April 21, at the Chandler Town Hall, 401 E. Lincoln Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

Roll call: Present – Cheryl Amos, Tom Burnett, Sarah Eller, Tonya Wester, Ron Whitledge

Absent – none

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Motion was made by Ron Whitledge to approve the minutes, seconded by Sarah Eller. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes, Tom Burnett yes, Sarah Eller yes, Tonya Wester yes, Ron Whitledge yes. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments: **Sarah Curl** addressed the council regarding an ongoing natural gas outage affecting multiple households near Monroe, First, and Second Streets. She reported that some families have spent over \$1,500 converting their water heaters to electric due to the disruption and appealed to the council to consider a \$60,000 investment to support propane conversions. Curl also updated the council on her outreach to state officials about potential relief through the State Disaster Relief Fund, noting that Homeland Security had not yet made a determination.

Council discussion followed. Council President Tonya Wester emphasized the importance of proactive communication when citizen comments are expected and noted that Chandler had previously discussed the situation with Boonville Natural Gas (BNG). Tonya suggested revisiting conversations with BNG and Homeland Security.

Cheryl Amos asked whether BNG had offered any assistance; Sarah confirmed that BNG referred her back to the Town Council. Cheryl and Environmental Manager Michael Bell expressed concern over a lack of substantial updates from BNG.

Gary Seiler recommended contacting **Paul Lewellyn** at BNG for more definitive timelines and next steps. Council agreed to pursue a follow-up meeting with BNG and to renew their efforts to seek emergency relief funding. DNR measurements showed ground movement had stabilized.

Several council members and citizens expressed frustration at the prolonged delay and uncertainty. They discussed the need for a meeting with BNG leadership and for clarification from Homeland Security and the Governor's Office regarding fund release authority.

Michael acknowledged DNR's efforts and commended their cooperation and transparency. Exploratory drilling had revealed no signs of mine subsidence on Adams Street. Nine holes are being drilled to prepare a grout-filling project for mid-to-late summer.

Council agreed to:

- Coordinate a meeting with Paul Lewellyn from BNG.
- Re-engage with Homeland Security for disaster relief fund updates.
- Consider providing residents with contact information for relevant agencies to advocate directly.

Town attorney: Joshua Claybourn presented two matters:

Second and Final Reading: Ordinance 2025-03: An ordinance establishing a reimbursement policy for police officer training expenses. Officers who leave the department within 36 months of training may be required to repay expenses on a sliding scale. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve Ordinance 2025-03, seconded by Ron Whitledge. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. Motion carried.

First Reading: Ordinance 2025-04 – Voluntary Annexation of Speedway Area

Joshua introduced the ordinance and summarized the voluntary annexation process. A second and final reading and public hearing will take place at the next regular meeting.

Zane Hammond, Aaron Schlag, and Jim Morley Jr. presented development plans for the Speedway annexation area. Key details:

- Multi-use development including apartments, single-family homes, townhomes, and commercial space.
- Retention basins designed to detain more water than required, using soil from borrow pits.
- No construction within floodways; elevation and detention systems to meet DNR and state code.
- Developers plan to own and maintain townhomes and apartment complexes.
- Estimated home prices: ~\$270,000+, with some cul-de-sac lots commanding higher prices.

Questions were raised regarding flood mitigation around the Speedway property. Jim clarified that detention systems will not increase flood risk and reviewed hydrological and engineering principles. Zane projected site work beginning in mid-to-late summer with homes ready by spring.

Motion was made by Sarah Eller to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2025-04, seconded by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried.**

Police Chief: Chief Kirk Tevault had nothing to report.

Fire Chief: Fire Chief Spencer Wester had nothing to report.

Director of Public Services: Tyler Kinder presented Change Order Application #4 for Telephone Road in the amount of \$310,484.70, with retainage of \$34,498.30. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve

the pay application, seconded by Tom Burnett. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried**

Tyler requested approval to temporarily use SDC funds to purchase land behind the water plant (to be reimbursed through bond funds).

Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve use of SDC funds, seconded by Sarah Eller. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried.**

Environmental Manager: Michael Bell reported on Area Planning Commission approval of Heim Ridge Phase III (24 homes). He also announced that Area Planning Commission approval of Pine Ridge Phase III (24 homes). He also announced that Chandler received the 2024 Conservation Partnership of the Year Award and will receive a second award from IDEM next month.

Clerk-Treasurer: Kayla Litton had nothing to report.

Parks: Tonya reported that Little Tykes Co-Ed T-Ball expressed interest in leasing the small field near the comedians for summer use. The group will maintain the field and has approximately 120 children (ages 2–4) interested in participating. Council consented to proceed with lease preparations.

Insurance Renewal: Council discussed difficulties securing renewals and rising insurance costs. Despite frustration with timing, they acknowledged agent Rita’s responsiveness and the complexity of obtaining quotes due to prior claims and natural disaster risks. Motion was made by Cheryl Amos to approve the current insurance package through the presented providers, seconded by Sarah Eller. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried.**

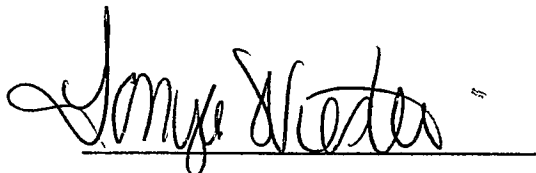
Code Enforcement Issues: Cheryl reported complaints about a vacant mobile home at Gardner Road and Sunny Acres Lane, and an ongoing issue with a property on State Road 62. The Town will follow up to ensure safety and code compliance.

Claims: Total Claims Presented: \$473,033.00

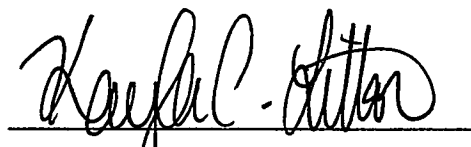
Motion was made by Tom Burnett to approve claims, seconded by Cheryl Amos. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried.**

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Ron Whitledge and seconded by Cheryl Amos to adjourn the meeting and reconvene at the next regular council meeting scheduled for May 5, 2025. **Roll call:** Cheryl Amos, yes; Tom Burnett, yes; Sarah Eller, yes; Tonya Wester, yes; Ron Whitledge, yes. **Motion carried.**

Meeting Adjourned.



Tonya Wester, Council President



Kayla Litton, Clerk Treasurer