

February 17, 2026

Town of Chandler Council Meeting Minutes

The Chandler Town Council meeting was called to order on Feb 17, 2026, at the Chandler Town Hall, 401 E. Lincoln Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent – none

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: Council reviewed the February 2, 2026 executive meeting minutes and the February 2, 2026 council meeting minutes. Council President Tonya Wester noted an amendment was needed to reflect that Ron was present at the meeting. A motion to accept the February 2 executive and council meeting minutes as amended was made by Sarah Eller and seconded by Cheryl Amos. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – yes; Tom Burnett – yes; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – yes. **Motion passed.**

Council reviewed the February 9, 2026 public hearing meeting minutes. A motion to accept the February 9 public hearing meeting minutes as presented was made by Cheryl Amos and seconded by Sarah Eller. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – yes; Tom Burnett – yes; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – abstained. **Motion passed.**

Comments from Citizens: Jesse Richardson addressed the Council regarding a concern about loose dogs on McCool Road near 5500-5555 County Road 100 North. Mr. Richardson stated that approximately 15 community members have reported incidents involving these dogs chasing residents, delivery drivers, and others, and that multiple attempts to reach Animal Control have not resulted in resolution because the dogs are not present when officers respond. Mr. Richardson reported that he wrecked his scooter attempting to avoid the dogs. Police Chief Tevault advised Mr. Richardson to call dispatch and request a police officer rather than contacting Animal Control directly, as the department has additional means of coordinating animal control response. Tonya concurred and noted that the property address provided appears to be in the county's jurisdiction. Tonya thanked Mr. Richardson for attending and expressed relief that he was not seriously injured.

Town Attorney: Joshua Claybourn presented Ordinance 2026-01, a super voluntary annexation ordinance for parcels in the southeast portion of the town limits. Josh noted that 100% of affected property owners have petitioned for annexation, which qualifies as a super voluntary annexation under state law, and that the parcels, if developed, represent a positive addition to the town's tax base. Josh advised that this was the second and final reading. A motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01 on second

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Minutes available at <https://www.townofchandler.org/about/chandler-town-council/town-council-meeting-notes/>

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and final reading was made by Ron Whitledge and seconded by Tom Burnett. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – yes; Tom Burnett – yes; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – yes. **Motion passed.**

Josh also presented a draft of Ordinance 2026-02, which would clarify language in the existing sewer lateral ordinance regarding ownership and maintenance responsibilities. Josh acknowledged that the ordinance had not been distributed in advance of the meeting and offered to table the item. Director of Public Services Tyler Kinder explained that the existing ordinance contains ambiguous language regarding where customer responsibility begins and ends for sewer laterals and right-of-way, and that the proposed ordinance mirrors the language of neighboring municipalities. Council elected to proceed with a first reading. A motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02 on first reading was made by Cheryl Amos and seconded by Ron Whitledge. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – yes; Tom Burnett – yes; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – yes. **Motion passed.**

Council was reminded to review the ordinance and submit any comments or requested changes prior to the second reading.

Fire Department: Nothing to report.

Police Chief: Kirk reported that a new police vehicle has been received and is awaiting upfitting, with an anticipated deployment within approximately one month. Kirk also reported that the department has purchased a drug incinerator (marketed as a “Drug Terminator”), a DEA-approved device that operates at approximately 1,700–1,800 degrees and reduces controlled substances to ash. Kirk noted that the department currently has over 1,000 pounds of prescription pills in the pillbox awaiting disposal and that the county is also exploring similar equipment. The incinerator was acquired locally, avoiding shipping costs.

Director of Public Services: Tyler reported that the Town has completed its interview with S&P Global in connection with the upcoming water bond issuance, which is expected to close in March. Tyler noted significant preparation effort from staff, including Clerk-Treasurer Litton, Utility Administrator Misty Denk, Josh, and Baker Tilly. The bond rating is expected to be issued by Thursday of the current week.

Tyler reported that Mainstream Fiber’s subcontractor, Vancom, has been approved to continue work within the town under the condition that all work is directly overseen by Mainstream Fiber. Council discussed concerns from prior Vancom work, including materials left in roadways, obstructed driveways, and work in ditch lines. Council directed that Vancom must operate under active Mainstream supervision, adhere to right-of-way permit terms, and that the Town will haul off any materials left in streets or pull permits if violations occur. Tyler stated he will communicate the approval and conditions to Mainstream Fiber and will coordinate right-of-way permit pricing with Josh over the coming weeks.

Josh noted that Sarah identified an incomplete sentence under the management responsibilities section of the Baker Tilly engagement letter. Council discussed whether to proceed. A motion to approve the revised Baker Tilly engagement agreement, subject to legal approval by Josh of the corrected version, was made by Sarah Eller and seconded by Cheryl Amos. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – yes; Tom Burnett – yes; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – yes. **Motion passed.**

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Utility Administrator: Misty Denk announced that the Town's Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28 at 10:00 a.m. A flyer was noted to be in preparation and would be posted the following day. The event is hosted by OCRA.

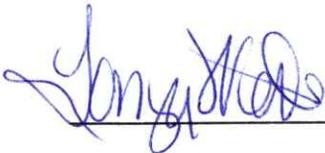
Environmental Director: Michael Bell was not present.

Clerk-Treasurer: Kayla Litton reported that she has registered for ILMCT spring training. Kayla stated that the Annual Financial Report (AFR) is in progress and is proceeding well; this represents her first full AFR cycle with the Town. Kayla also reported that she is working with Brian Hancock at Epic Insurance and with Misty on obtaining liability insurance quotes.

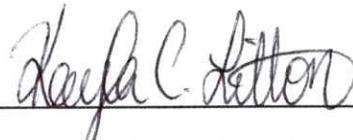
Kayla presented a list of year-end budget transfers made in accordance with Indiana Code. Kayla explained that the transfers involved moving appropriations between major budget categories within funds where actual expenditures varied from the original appropriation, and that no department exceeded its total budget. Tonya noted that the materials were not received until late afternoon and that the submission deadline is noon on Friday prior to the meeting. The item was tabled until the next meeting to allow Council adequate time to review.

Claims: Claims totaling \$596,429.69 were presented for approval. A motion to approve claims as presented was made by Ron Whitledge and seconded by Sarah Eller. Roll call vote: Cheryl Amos – absent; Tom Burnett – absent; Sarah Eller – yes; Tonya Wester – yes; Ron Whitledge – yes. **Motion passed.**

Adjournment: A motion was made by Cheryl Amos and seconded by Ron Whitledge to recess until the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 2nd. All in favor.



Tonya Wester, Council President



Kayla Litton, Clerk-Treasurer