



MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

Approved by Mayor and Council
on September 9, 2026.

Date of Meeting: March 3, 2026

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in a study session in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall, 255 West Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona at 10:12 a.m., on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Mayor Regina Romero
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)
Council Member Paul Cunningham (Ward 2)
Council Member Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)
Council Member Selina Barajas (Ward 5)
Council Member Miranda Schubert (Ward 6)

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

ABSENT/EXCUSE: None

STAFF: Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager
Roi Lusk, City Attorney
Marisa Stoller, City Clerk

AGENDA ITEM / MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACTION

**1. Public Power in Tucson: Options and Opportunities (City Wide) Memorandum:
SS/MAR03-26-57**

Introductory remarks were provided by Mayor Romero and Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by Fatima Luna, Chief Resilience Officer, and Michael Catanzaro, Energy Manager.

Discussion ensued, comments and questions were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, and Council Members Schubert, Cunningham, Lee, Barajas and Dahl.

It was moved by Council Member Schubert to direct the City Manager to return within 90 days with a public power update that includes:

1. Resilience Hubs: A plan for a low-risk pilot that could include a combination of forming a small city-run utility that served one or more city-owned properties or new developments. The plan shall include a prioritized list of city-owned properties that could serve as small-scale community resilience hubs, with estimated costs, savings, and community benefits and description of how this could lay groundwork towards a municipal utility.
2. Municipal Utility Options: Additional opportunities to explore municipal utility models for existing city facilities and/or new developments.
3. Municipalization Roadmap: A high-level roadmap for potential full municipalization of TEP's system, including:
 - A. An overview of the valuation process required
 - B. Cost analysis of potential impacts of the purchase price if TEP expands its existing infrastructure to serve data centers
 - C. Legal and financial considerations
 - D. Opportunities for collaboration with regional partners and other municipalities in TEP's service area
 - E. A strategy for building broader stakeholder buy-in
4. Equity & Accessibility Analysis: An assessment of how each explored model (including microgrids or community choice aggregation, if enabled by state law) would impact low-income residents and medically vulnerable households, with recommendations to avoid creating a two-tiered system and our most vulnerable are not left behind. Included in this assessment, to consult with the Commission on Climate, Energy, and Sustainability on how these options fit within meeting climate/energy/sustainability goals
5. Ongoing Reporting: A proposed semi-annual reporting structure to Mayor and Council to provide updates on:
 1. Resident energy costs
 2. Local energy use trends
 3. Relevant State Legislation
 4. Progress on resilience hubs
 5. Any other emerging public power considerations

The motion DIED due to lack of a second.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct staff to bring in the Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability to take lead on a public process that investigates the City's long-term options that align with the Mayor and Council's climate goals, and the exploration of long term opportunities for a public power option.

Furthermore, the City Manager shall provide regular reports to the Mayor and Council for updates on:

- Resilience Hubs
- The nexus of public power with Tucson Resilient Together
- The City's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan
- The Commission on Climate Energy and Sustainability

2. Fiscal Year (FY26) Budget Update and Fiscal Year (FY27) Budget Discussion (City Wide) Memorandum: SS/MAR03-26-58

Introductory remarks were made by Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager.

Information and presentation were provided by Anna Rosenberry, Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer.

(Note: Council Member Lee departed at 11:21 a.m. and returned at 11:24 a.m.)

Discussion ensued, comments and questions were made by Mayor Romero, Vice Mayor Santa Cruz, and Council Members Lee, Dahl and Cunningham.

It was moved by Council Member Dahl, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct the City Manager to proceed with the health benefits recommendation as presented.

RECESS: 12:00 p.m.

RECONVENED: 3:25 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All Present

STAFF: All present

3. Update on and Direction Relating to State and National Legislation, Executive Orders and Administrative and Agency Orders; and Update on Federal, State and Regional Committees (City Wide and Outside City) Memorandum: SS/MAR03-26-50

Introductory remarks were made by Timothy M. Thomure, City Manager.

Information and updates were provided by Laura Dent, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Discussion ensued, comments and questions were made by Mayor Romero and Council Members Dahl, Cunningham and Lee.

**4. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) Memorandum:
SS/MAR03-26-51**

No items were discussed.

**5. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) Memorandum:
SS/MAR03-26-52**

No items were identified for future agendas.

Council Member Cunningham requested an item for Tucson Renewal Energy Enterprise (TREE) for a future meeting and presented a summary of current events.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:33 p.m.

The next Study Session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2026.



MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing minutes of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 3rd day of March 2026, , and do hereby certify that they are a true and accurate record of the proceedings and actions taken at the meeting.



DEPUTY CITY CLERK

MS:JA:sz