

# Council Committee Meeting Minutes



## Sustainability and Economic Vitality (SEV)

Council Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual and In-Person Meeting in City Council Chambers  
31 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
April 19, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

*Meeting called to order by Vice Mayor Adams at 1:02 p.m. with Councilmember Chin and Vice Mayor Adams both attending in person in the Council Chambers.*

### 2. REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

#### A. March 8, 2024 SEV Meeting Minutes

*Approval of the March 8, 2024 SEV Meeting Minutes was moved by Councilmember Chin, seconded by Vice Mayor Adams, and approved unanimously.*

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - The committee welcomes public comment. According to the Arizona Open Meeting Law, the Committee may only discuss matters listed on the agenda. Matters brought up by the public under public appearances that are not listed on the agenda cannot be discussed by the Committee. A 3-minute limit per person will be in effect.

#### A. Comment Cards Submitted

No comment cards were submitted.

### 4. COMMITTEE SESSION ITEMS

#### A. Current Items and Updates

##### 1. **Fiber Connectivity in Tempe**

*Tempe's IT Director Jared Morris provided the Committee with an update on Tempe's plans to bring fiber internet connectivity to Tempe. He stated that the goal of this endeavor is to provide an affordable option for internet to those that do not have an option.*

*Installing high quality fiber connectivity in Tempe aligns with several of our Performance Measures, including 3.36 Quality of City Services, 4.10 the Urban Core Vision, 1.27 City Infrastructure and Assets, and 5.03 Capital Investment Created. However, Jared pointed out that this Fiber plan will also align with performance measure 1.22 Pavement Quality Index, as the plans to install fiber will align with the City's pavement improvement plans in order to maximize efficiency and minimize costs and disruptions. In the*

*initial plans, first presented on May 11, 2023, the License RFP was to be developed in Spring of 2024, with selection complete in the Fall of 2024 and construction to begin in Spring 2025.*

*As the plan was developed, it was decided in March of 2024 to drop the RFP and go with a private option, and so the License is being developed in the Spring of 2024 and there is no need for an extensive selection process. This change allows for construction to begin as soon as the License is approved.*

*The license that we are developing might be new to Tempe, but it is based on what has been prototyped by other East Valley cities who are moving forward with fiber installation. What Tempe will be doing a little different is to pair the fiber installation with pavement quality improvements. Since the neediest areas are slated to be paved first, this aligns nicely with also providing the fiber connectivity first to the areas that need it the most. We want to make sure that everyone in Tempe is guaranteed access to high-speed internet as part of this initiative.*

*Councilmember Chin asked if we were going to be using the “shallow trenching method” and Jared confirmed that we will be micro-trenching the installation, as has been piloted in other Valley cities. Councilmember Chin then asked “how soon?” Jared responded that Google is ready to jump on installation as soon as possible. Tempe will likely start construction in 2025 to align with pavement quality improvement plans. Councilmember Chin requested updates be brought forth as they are available.*

*Vice Mayor Adams asked Jared to describe the trenching process. Traditional methods include open trenching or tunneling and boring. Jared described that the micro-trench is essentially a saw cut into the pavement, the cables being laid, and then covered back up. It’s a quick and good method, but it is critical to follow-up with strong re-paving, which is why they want to align the installation with the repaving projects. Vice Mayor Adams then asked if it would be city-wide or just sections of the City. Jared confirmed that it will eventually be city-wide, although the installation process will take four years as it aligns with our pavement quality improvement plan.*

**B. New Items for Consideration**

- 1. Councilmember Chin requested that we invite the group from ASU who is doing the study on bicycling in Tempe to come and present their findings to the Committee.*

**C. Announcements**

- 1. Vice Mayor Adams announced that it is Arbor Day on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and that Tempe will be celebrating by planting new trees in Rotary Park.*
- 2. Councilmember Chin announced that it is Deputy City Manager Keith Burke’s birthday. She also announced a multi-media interactive experience called “Bicycling in Tempe” being presented at ASU’s Walton Center for Planetary Health on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at either 3pm or 5pm.*

**5. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 17, 2024**

**6. ADJOURN**

*Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m. by Vice Mayor Adams.*