

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
APPOINTMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
TOWN OF CHINO VALLEY**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

1:00 PM

**COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM | 202 N. STATE ROUTE 89
CHINO VALLEY, ARIZONA 86323**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Mayor Armstrong called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo, Councilmember Robert Switzer

Staff Present: Town Clerk Erin N. Deskins, Town Attorney Andrew McGuire (remotely)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Consideration and possible action to approve the December 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo seconded by Councilmember Switzer to approve the minutes as written.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo, Councilmember Robert Switzer

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration, discussion, and possible action regarding next steps and timeline to fill a vacancy on the Town Council due to the recent resignation of Bob Schacherer.

Erin Deskins, Town Clerk, presented the following:

- Summarized the resignation letter filed from Bob Schacherer which was effective immediately.
- Detailed the process used previously to fill a vacancy on the Town Council.
 - Last vacancy was created by the resignation of former Councilmember Mendoza.
 - Interviews were held that included interviews with Councilmember Switzer and Councilmember McCafferty.
 - The timeline held for that previous vacancy was recruitment of two weeks that included social media posts, town website notification and newspaper publication.

- Allowed Town of Chino Valley citizens to apply.
- After the deadline, the Appointments Subcommittee met to review the applications and selected candidates to interview.
- An executive session was scheduled for interviews of the candidates with the Appointment Subcommittee members.
- The Appointments Subcommittee then met and voted on a recommendation to forward to the Town Council for approval.
- Looking for the Subcommittee to establish a recruitment process to fill the current vacancy.

Andrew McGuire, Town Attorney advised the statute now states “shall” fill the vacancy due to a previous vacancy that another municipality had allowed to remain vacant for eighteen months. Senator Kavanaugh at the time introduced the language out of complaints he received from his residents in Fountain Hills. The statute isn’t as elegant as it should be, for the unexpired term if you cannot get to a regular election that will get you there. It almost reads like you have to put somebody on the ballot because it happened prior to the nomination period right now and that’s not the case. This would be an appointment until December. After canvass of the election, whoever wins will take the seat. It is up to the Subcommittee the process and speed for the recruitment.

Councilmember Switzer questioned if it was required to open the process to all public. Town Attorney McGuire advised no. Councilmember Switzer requested not to proceed with recruitment but rather nominate Clay Turpin to fill the vacancy. Discussion ensued regarding the current filing period for all candidates to file their paperwork. Further discussion ensued regarding appointing Clay Turpin versus other candidates who are also running in the upcoming Primary election.

Andrew McGuire, Town Attorney, advised of the following:

- Regarding appointments like this, he would caution against current candidates.
- Could be viewed as putting your thumb on the scale.
- There could be backlash against someone who gets appointed.
- He has seen other Council’s appoint an individual who wasn’t interested in a full term.
- Charter cities are the only cities he has seen where there were distinctive/required processes.
- This could give a candidate a leg up by appointing them to the vacancy as they could use the word “keep” on campaign signs.
- HB 2080 would not apply in this instance.

Erin Deskins, Town Clerk, expressed concern with not following previous recruitment processes at this time. By following prior recruitment efforts, it would allow for fairness for all interested citizens. The subcommittee agreed to a two-week recruitment process, review of applications, and conduct interviews.

Councilmember Switzer inquired about the timeline of the development agreement in conjunction with appointment possibilities. Town Attorney McGuire advised they were holding off on any development agreement until the filing/results of valid Referendum petitions. Members and staff discussed the timeline and requirements of a possible referendum.

Vice-Mayor Granillo was not in favor of automatically appointing Clay Turpin to the vacancy. He stated the airstrip had a lot of people riled up and hoped that people would start caring about their town and other things that came along with the town and not just what other people stated.

The timeline was described as follows:

- Posting in the Chino Valley Review on March 11th and 18th.

- Deadline to accept applications; March 18th.
- The Subcommittee's next meeting will be March 19th at 10:00 a.m. to review applications and set interviews.

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo seconded by Councilmember Switzer on the 11th and 18th for recruitment in the Chino Valley Review and Appointments Subcommittee next meeting to review applications on the March 19th at 10:00 a.m.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo, Councilmember Robert Switzer

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

- b. Consideration and possible action to approve an amendment to the Appointment Subcommittees Charter.

Erin Deskins, Town Clerk, discussed the following:

- This item is following the Council's request from the meeting on February 10, 2026.
- The Council voted and passed a requirement of the Subcommittee to interview candidates for Planning & Zoning if there were more applicants than seats available.
- This caused an amendment to the charter, and a draft of the charter had been previously provided to the Subcommittee for review and approval at this meeting.
- No other amendments were requested by the members.

MOVED by Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo seconded by Councilmember Switzer to approve the amendment to the Appointments Subcommittee Charter.

AYE: Mayor Tom Armstrong, Vice-Mayor Eric Granillo, Councilmember Robert Switzer

NAY: None

3 - 0 Passed – Unanimously

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Tom Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Submitted: March 9, 2026

By: *Erin Deskins, Town Clerk*

Approved: March 19, 2026