

Minutes of the special meeting of the Winslow Arts Council held on January 22, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, 119 E First Street, Winslow, Arizona.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Council Chair Chavez  
Vice Chair L. Sahmie  
Councilmember R. Sahmie

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilmember Dixon  
Councilmember M.Chavez

**STAFF**

David Coolidge, City Manager  
Danielle Therio, City Liaison

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Chavez at 5:17 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Roll was called.

Motion: Moved by Council Chair Chavez seconded by Vice Chair L. Sahmie to excuse Councilmember Dixon and Councilmember M. Chavez. Motion passed unanimously with Council Chair Chavez, Vice Chair L. Sahmie, and Councilmember R. Sahmie voting yes.

**Discussion and/or Action to Approve Minutes – November 20, 2025**

Motion: Moved by Vice Chair L. Sahmie, seconded by Councilmember R. Sahmie, to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously with Council Chair Chavez, Vice Chair L. Sahmie and Councilmember R. Sahmie voting yes.

**Status Report**

**A. Christmas Parade – A Christmas Fiesta**

The Council reported that participation in the Christmas Parade was successful and well-received. This marked the first year the Arts Council distributed candy during the event. Although a large quantity of candy was distributed, supplies were sufficient through most of the parade route. The Council discussed lessons learned regarding quantity planning and noted overall satisfaction with community engagement and visibility.

The Council also acknowledged receipt of a plaque recognizing the Arts Council's participation and award placement.

**B. Display of Stored Artwork**

The Council discussed plans to display previously created Arts Council artwork currently in storage. Councilmember R. Sahmie reported that large canvas pieces are ready to be relocated and displayed. The artwork will be accompanied by brief descriptions and photos documenting the creation process. The Council agreed that artwork may be offered for public purchase through donations benefiting the Arts Council, with pricing to cover material costs.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING PLANNING FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND/OR PROJECTS**

### **A. Christmas Light Contest**

The Council formally confirmed the results of the 2025 Christmas Light Contest for the record. First place was awarded to Kevin Deere with a prize of \$100. Second place was awarded to Felicia Gonzalez with a prize of \$75, and third place was awarded to Reyna Romero Castillo with a prize of \$50. The Arts Council Pick was awarded to Hannah Bush, who received two tickets donated by the Winslow Business Development Authority.

**Motion:** Moved and seconded to ratify the Christmas Light Contest winners and prizes as presented.

**Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

The Council also discussed potential improvements for future Christmas Light Contests, including earlier advertising, broader outreach efforts, and adjustments to judging timelines to better capture peak holiday displays.

### **B. Art Plane Project**

The Council reported that the Art Plane project remains on hold pending receipt of information from a structural engineer. The structural analysis is required before proceeding, per City requirements. The Council agreed to continue listing the item on future agendas to ensure progress remains visible.

### **C. Budget Planning Session**

The City Manager provided an overview of the upcoming budget planning process, noting that formal budget development will begin in March. Councilmembers were asked to prepare a list of anticipated programs, events, and projects for the July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 fiscal year, including estimated costs and potential revenue sources.

The Council discussed recurring events such as the Blues Festival, Arts Festival, Easter activities, Halloween events, the Christmas Parade, and the Christmas Light Contest. Additional ideas for future programming, including summer performances and mural-related activities, were also discussed. No action was taken at this meeting.

## **Future Agenda Items**

The Council requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda: discussion and possible action regarding the Easter Pictures event; planning for the upcoming Arts Festival; a budget work session for the upcoming fiscal year; and an update on the status of the Art Plane project.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Moved by Council Chair Chavez, seconded by Vice Chair L. Sahmie, to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Motion passed unanimously with Council Chair Chavez, Vice Chair L. Sahmie and Councilmember R. Sahmie voting yes.

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Chairperson Chavez

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Villalpando, Recording Secretary