

APPROVED MINUTES 07282026

**MINUTES
SUN CITY FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
9:30 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Board member David VanderNaalt

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Phil LaBarbera (via Teams), David VanderNaalt, Charles Vickers, Phil Griswold (Via Teams).

Members Absent: Board Chairperson Tim Wilmes was absent with notice.

Staff: Fire Chief Rob Schmitz, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Casey, Division Chiefs Kyle Henson and Tony Van Roekel, Battalion Chief Adam Holliday, Finance Director Gabe Buldra, USCFFA Chapter Vice President Chris Marin, Office Manager Lisa Neubert

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Board member David VanderNaalt

INVOCATION: Board member David VanderNaalt

I. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

- A.** Board member Charles Vickers made a motion to approve the consent agenda item which was the Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2026. Board member David VanderNaalt seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the consent agenda item. (M: Charles Vickers/S: David VanderNaalt; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers, David VanderNaalt. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

II. CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- A.** Special recognition was given to Youngtown Mayor LeVault, Rick Gray, Preston Kise and John Bressert from Recreation Centers of Sun City (RCSC), Rusty Bradshaw from Sun City CAN, and Zev Black from the Sun Cities Independent newspaper.

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- B. Chief Schmitz gave special recognition to Firefighters Nguyen and Willerford who responded to a residence for a fall injury. When they arrived, they noticed that overgrown bushes were obstructing the walkway, making it difficult for the patient to safely enter and exit the home, and limiting gurney access for EMS. After the call, they took it upon themselves to gather equipment and return to the residence to help clear the overgrown area. The residents have ongoing health concerns, which have made it difficult for them to keep up with the yardwork. Because of Nguyen and Willerford's efforts, the couple now has safer access in and out of their home, and EMS will have better access if they are needed again in the future.**
- C. There were no community appreciation letters for the month.**
- D. There were no promotions or new hires for the month of May.**
- E. Fire Chief Schmitz recognized the following service anniversaries: Firefighter Jackson Peters for four years of service; Paramedic Mirin Thoma and EMT Aaron West for one year of service.**
- F. There were no retirements for the month of May.**

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget and Finance

- 1. Finance Director Gabe Buldra presented the financial and bank reconciliation report for the month of May 2026. Board clerk Phil LaBarbera made a motion to accept the May 2026 financial report. Board member Phil Griswold seconded the motion. The board voted to accept the finance report for the month of May 2026. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Phil Griswold; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers, David VanderNaalt. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)**
- 2. The FY 26/27 budget was presented for adoption by Finance Director Gabe Buldra. Board member David VanderNaalt opened a public hearing to the public for comments on the proposed budget. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was closed. Board member Phil Griswold made a motion to adopt the FY 26/27 budget. Board member Phil LaBarbera seconded the motion. The board voted to adopt the FY 26/27 budget. (M: Phil Griswold/S: Phil LaBarbera; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers, David VanderNaalt. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)**
- 3. Finance Director Gabe Buldra presented the pension funding policy. Mr. Buldra reported that the policy had been updated to reflect the most**

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recent actuarial figures. Board member Charles Vickers made a motion to adopt the revised pension funding policy. Board member David VanderNaalt seconded the motion. The board voted to adopt the revised pension funding policy. (M: Charles Vickers/ S: David VanderNaalt; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers, David VanderNaalt. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

B. Legal and Insurance

1. Chief Schmitz presented the United Sun Cities Fire Fighter Association (USCFFA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The previous MOU has expired, and the one presented today updates the previous MOU to current wages, benefits, and policies. The previous MOU was for a two-year period, but the MOU presented for approval was for a one-year period, July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Chief Schmitz had the length reduced for fiscal prudence so that the district will not be encumbered should future budgets not be able to sustain what is outlined in the document. Board clerk Phil LaBarbera made a motion to approve the United Sun Cities Fire Fighter Association (USCFFA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Board member Phil Griswold seconded the motion. The board voted to approve the United Sun Cities Fire Fighter Association (USCFFA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Phil Griswold; Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers, David VanderNaalt. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)
2. There was no PSPRS update.
3. There was no Prop 207 update.

C. Fire Department Operations

1. The report for fire department operations was given for May 2026, which included an overview of the incident counts, types, and response times.

D. Emergency Medical Services / Ambulance Operations

1. The ambulance operations report was presented for the month of May 2026. The report included the incident counts, types, and transport.
2. Division Chief Henson reported the following for the EMS Division:
 - a. CQI – Twenty-eight cases reviewed.
 - b. Gastric decompression training for all shifts.

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- c. New Image Trend features demonstration.
- d. CPR renewals.
- e. MR/LA unit grant Tohono O'odham.
- f. Vent Training make-ups.

E. Resource Management

1. Division Chief Tony Van Roekel reported the following for fleet/apparatus and equipment:
 - a. New Vehicle Projects.
 - b. Status.
 - c. BC131.
 - d. LT131.
 - e. E133.
 - f. Flags.
 - g. Placards.
 - h. New Turnouts.
 - i. Extrication Tools.
 - j. Fans.
 - k. Nozzles.
 - l. Hose.
 - m. Halligan Tools.
2. Division Chief Tony Van Roekel reported the following for buildings/facilities and teams/members:
 - a. Station Supplies - Wist.
 - b. Bay Doors.
 - c. 133 Reels.

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- d. Doors.
- e. Uniform Committee.
- f. PPE Committee.

F. Training/Professional Development

1. Battalion Chief Holliday gave the following report for the training division:
 - a. The firefighter recruitment process has just ended. We held a hiring Combine on Sunday the 14th and had twenty candidates participate. From there, we established a hiring list, and they will start with us on August 31st.
 - b. The Training Committee is working on multiple projects: Minute man hose load deployment – starting phase 3; Tactical hose line management – in phase 2; Vehicle extrication - 1 shift complete.
 - c. Swift Water training is underway at Hurricane Harbor. Crews are going early in morning before it opens. Joining AFMA and El Mirage for the training.
 - d. Arizona State Fire School has opened for registration. We have ten members attending various classes. AZFS runs from Sept 9-13.
 - e. Honor Guard team is getting set up. Six members will attend training in Prescott Valley from June 27-30. Soon you will see a live example of this training.

G. Administrative/Special Projects

1. No report.

H. Public Education/Community Outreach

1. Prevention volunteer hours summary.
 - a. The summary of prevention hours for volunteers was presented for May 2026. The total number of volunteer hours was 28 hours.
2. Community relations program report.
 - a. The report for the Community Outreach program was given for May 2026. There was a total of 102 citizens who were served for May 2026. Installation of lock boxes is scheduled through the month of

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September 2026. There are no installations during the months of July and August.

3. There was no community event for the month of May 2026.
4. The volunteer inspection summary report was given for the month of May 2026. There was a total of 123 inspections completed.

I. Fire Prevention

1. The construction inspection summary report was given for the month of May 2026. There was a total of twenty-eight inspections completed.
2. Fire investigation reports.
 - a. The fire investigation report was given for May 2026. There was one formal fire investigation for the month.
3. Large community projects.
 - a. An update was given on the large community projects within the Sun City District. There are currently seven large community projects in Sun City.
 - b. There was an update on the ongoing projects in Youngtown. There are currently two large community projects in Youngtown.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. There was no executive session.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. No report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. No report.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Preston Kise, Recreation Centers of Sun City, asked for the budget numbers to be reviewed so he can report on it at the next RCSC meeting. Finance Director Gabe Buldra stated that the property tax rate stayed at 3.75%. The total budget

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increased 2.7% (\$583,000) over last year's budget and the property tax collected increased 4.5% from last fiscal year.

- B. USCFFA Chapter Vice President Chris Marin thanked the board for supporting the MOU process. Hereported that USCFFA members had a signature walk and collected over three hundred signatures for Board of Director candidates Rick Gray and Phil Griswold for the November 3, 2026 election. The USCFFA hosted a meet and greet with candidates of the firefighter recruitment process.

VIII. NEXT GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

- A. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on July 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sun City Fire Department Community Room located at 18602 N. 99th Avenue Sun City, AZ.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Board member Phil LaBarbera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. Board member Charles Vickers seconded the motion. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. (M: Phil LaBarbera/S: Charles Vickers; Vote – Ayes: Phil LaBarbera, David VanderNaalt, Phil Griswold, Charles Vickers. Nays: None.)

FOR THE BOARD

Phil LaBarbera
Board Clerk
PL/lbn