



CITY OF SURPRISE
Special City Council Meeting
16000 N. Civic Center Plaza
Surprise, AZ 85374

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 4:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Special City Council Meeting Agenda

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1. Citywide Consideration and action for approval of a Letter seeking Mayor and Council information to the United States Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - PUBLIC HEARING:

- E. Executive Session

For information Purposes; Upon a public majority vote of a quorum of the City Council, the Council may hold an executive session, which will not be open to the public, but for only the following purposes:

- discussion or consideration of personnel matters (A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1));
- discussion or consideration of records exempt by law from public inspection (A.R.S. §38-401.03 (A)(2));
- discussion or consultation for legal advice with the city's attorneys (A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3));
- discussion or consultation with the city's attorneys regarding the city's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation, or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation (A.R.S. §38-431.03 (a)(4));
- discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the city in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations with employee organizations (A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(5)); or
- discussion, consultation or consideration for international and interstate negotiations or for negotiations by a city or town, or its designated representatives, with members of a tribal council, or its designated representatives, of an Indian reservation located within or adjacent to the city or town. A.R.S. §38-401.03 (A)(6)).
- discussing or consulting with designated representatives of the city in order to consider its position and instruct its representatives regarding negotiations for the purchase, sale or lease of real property (A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(7)).

Confidentiality Requirements Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(C)(D): Any person receiving executive session information pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 shall not disclose that information except to the Attorney General or County Attorney by agreement of the City Council, or as otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction.

The council may vote to hold an executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board's attorney on any matter listed on the agenda pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3).

- F. Adjournment

POSTED: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 4:15 pm

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Special City Council Meeting**

Council Meeting Date: February 11, 2026
Submitting Department: Mayor and Council
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: No Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action for approval of a Letter seeking information to the United States Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Motion:

I move to approve sending a letter to the United States Department of Homeland Security seeking information about a proposed DHS facility located at 13290 West Sweetwater Ave., Surprise, AZ.

Background:

Objective Analysis:

Policy Compliant:

Financial Impact:

Budget Impact:

FTE Impact:

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mayor's DHS Information Request Letter
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February 11, 2026

The Honorable Kristi Noem
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20528

Todd Lyons
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Secretary Noem and Acting Director Lyons,

As Mayor of the City of Surprise (“City”), I write to formally request information and clarification regarding the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) acquisition of the property located at 13290 West Sweetwater Road in Surprise, Arizona, (“The Property”) and DHS’s intended use of this site.

At a recent City Council meeting, residents from Surprise and the surrounding area expressed significant concerns regarding that the Property may be utilized as a federal detention facility, particularly in light of the absence of prior notification or coordination with the City. When major federal actions have direct and substantial impacts on local communities, infrastructure, and public services, advance communication and intergovernmental coordination are not merely beneficial—they are essential.

While the City acknowledges the federal government’s authority with respect to immigration enforcement and detention operations, the operational, public safety, and infrastructure impacts of such facilities are borne primarily by local governments. Surprise is one of the fastest-growing cities in Arizona, and the City has a responsibility to protect and preserve the health and safety of its residents by, among other things, ensuring that land uses within its jurisdiction comply with applicable zoning regulations and that municipal services are adequately planned, funded, and staffed to meet current and future demand.

I formally request a written response to the following questions:

- The intended purpose and operational use of the property.
- Any planned alterations, renovations, expansions, or structural modifications of the facility or property.
- Whether the proposed use complies with all applicable city zoning, land-use, and development regulations, and if not, what approvals or exemptions DHS believes apply.
- Anticipated impacts on traffic circulation, surrounding infrastructure, utilities, and municipal services.
- Any National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reports and/or analyses that have been or will be completed prior to alterations and use of the Property.
- Projected timelines for construction, redevelopment, and operational use.
- The expected level of coordination and support required from local law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services.
- DHS’s plan for ongoing, formal communication with the City Manager and Elected Officials on the aforementioned items and future impacts of city operations.

The City is aware we cannot interfere with federal operations, however, the City must be able to plan responsibly, protect public safety, and provide accurate information to residents. Proceeding without meaningful coordination places undue strain on local resources and undermines public trust. Early, direct, and sustained engagement between DHS and the City is therefore necessary and expected.

In addition to the above request for responses, the City formally requests an in-person meeting with you or your designated senior staff to discuss DHS's plans for this facility, zoning compliance, and the operational impacts on our community and surrounding jurisdictions. To that end, members of the Surprise City Council and City staff will be in Washington, D.C. from March 15 through March 19, 2026, and will make ourselves available at a time and place convenient with your schedule to discuss this matter.

We look forward to your prompt response and establishing a clear framework for coordination moving forward. Please direct correspondence to the City Manager's Office to ensure these matters are addressed without further delay.

Respectfully,

Kevin D. Sartor
Mayor
City of Surprise
623.222.1313
kevin.sartor@surpriseaz.gov

cc: Surprise City Council
Senator Mark Kelly
Senator Ruben Gallego
Congressman Paul Gosar
Congressman Abe Hamadeh
Governor Katie Hobbs



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Submitting Department: Agenda Creation
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Contact Person:
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Consent: No Regular: No Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Executive Disclaimer - Part 2

Motion:

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Budget Impact:

FTE Impact:

ATTACHMENTS:



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