

Council Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2025
Minutes taken by: Marie Ihlefeld
Meeting start time: 7:05 PM
Meeting end time: 8:05 PM

Attendees:

Council - Present	Absent	Pastors/Staff - Present
Adam Clark	Angela Nannega	Pr. Thadd Book
Brent Borchers	Anna Sion	Pr Andrea Cain
Gail Dempsey	Carolyn Perkins	
Mari Johnson	Doug Bjotvedt	
Vicki English		
Marie Ihlefeld		

Devotions: Gail Dempsey

Approval of March Agenda:

- **First:** Mari Johnson
- **Second:** Vicki English
- Unanimously Approved

Approval of February Minutes with changes to reflect Vicki's uncle is Tony (not Frank) in prayer concerns:

- **First:** Brent Borchers
- **Second:** Adam Clark
- Unanimously Approved

Team Updates

1. Operations and Property Report & Financial Committee Report: Brent Borchers

- Finances are doing well – we seem to be caught up now. Income is ahead compared to this time last year. Expenses are 4,000 behind income the last 2 months.

- Landscaping in Tempe is being more scrutinized by the city. May need to replace trees, but new trees will die without repairs to the irrigation system.

Vote to Approve Financial Report:

- **First:** Adam Clark
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved**

2. President's Report Vicki English/Anna Sion

- **Election Meeting:** The elections meeting is proposed for Sunday May 4th at 1pm
- **April Council Meeting Date:** Council meeting moved to April 28th instead of April 21st – works better for everyone when its not on Easter Monday.

3. Pastor Reports:

- **Pr. Thadd:**

- Lent is happening and Holy Week services are being planned. First Communion is coming up & Lincoln Book will be included. There is a first communion class planned & Maundy Thursday is first communion.
- Compiling a list for a New Member Class
- Jenny Cast spoke at all the worship services about the Children's Home Project in Honduras --- There is a fundraiser April 5th & Desert Cross has a table. Could possibly get another table?
- Feed My Starving Children is scheduled for April 26th with 100 slots to fill.
- Mission trips are being organized.
- There will be a Pastor Class in May on Wednesday nights for a discussion of ACTS. This is a sequel to Dinner with Luke class from last Fall. It will be 4 nights in May with dinner at 6 and class at 7.

- **Pr. Andrea:**

- Lent is Lenting – the theme "Everything In Between" is getting good feedback. Joni and Pastor Andrea collaborated to create the Desert Cross Evening Prayer for Wednesday nights. (Holden Evening Prayer is better suited for Advent.) These nights are a great opportunity to sit & relax for 30 minutes with dim lighting and connect with God in the middle of the week.
- Staff reorganization has been going well with Joni, Wendy, & Tessa

- Ted Taylor is getting caught up with Family Promise activities.
- The nominating committee is working hard and getting a lot of interest.
- April 13th on Palm Sunday is the Tempe Cantata. The Hymn Sing will be in Gilbert on Sunday March 30th at 4pm.

4. Endowment: No Update

5. Gilbert Chamber Report: Mari Johnson

- Hymn Sing will be on March 30th at 4pm. There will be a Mini-Cantata as part of the Good Friday Service on April 18th.
- The Lead Action teams are working on new designs for signs. Checking costs with Monument Signs. City of Gilbert may be more lenient on sign rules now.
- Cabinets are installed now - they look great & are very helpful.
- Gary Balliet is starting the Golf Tournament planning early. A mission moment is planned over the summer, with the tournament tentatively planned for September.
- Easter Egg Hunt is being planned. Will go on website/flyer.

6. Stewardship Pr. Thadd Stewardship met last week, Angela Borchers has a lot of ideas. May do some programming before fall. Lots of Theme ideas for Fall. Need a date for Commitment Sunday. Possibly November 15/16 or November 22/23 --- in the past it was in October. Budgeting for next year starts in September.

7. Project Update and Fundraisers Vicki English / Brent Borchers / Pr. Andrea Cain

- **Gilbert Parking Lot:** Do we have enough handicap parking – need to discuss. Handicap signs could be added later, if we determine more handicap parking is needed. Basketball court lines would not be painted. We need a different vendor for this & it can be addressed later. Brent is in final negotiations with the firm & is reviewing their work in a couple places around the city. Need it to be done ASAP, already missed Spring Break. It will take 3 days to complete. They will break into sections doing 1/3 of the parking lot at a time. Brent will send proposal, and we will vote via email. Doug will coordinate with Dogs for Vets and the school, as they will need notice of where to park. Not sure if Doug or Anna would sign the contract? All pledges came in for the parking lot with \$31,000 plus raised. This is more than enough to complete the parking lot work.

- **Tempe Family Promise Partnership:** Ted Taylor is waiting on Certificate of Occupancy for the Glendale Project. Once ready, he would like to invite council members to Glendale to see what the micro villages look like. After this, he would contact civil engineers and start survey & covenants research. Need to get a pre-approval meeting with the city before coming to present to the Congregation.
- **Gilbert Refresh:** When will Refresh bring a presentation to Council? Brian R. is presenting March 30th at the Hymn Fest. Need to get a presentation on the council agenda.
- **Member Directory:** An online member directory is very expensive. Would require updating contact software to work with the internet. Currently a paper directory with no pictures is printed every year. Some folks want a picture directory & others do not. Members can email Wendy to get a printed directory. Once the software is upgraded we can move to an online directory. Tithe.ly has contact management software but would need research costs. Paper directory could be printed anytime.

8. **Program (Staff) Reports/Questions:** No questions

9. **Old Business**

- **Teller Oversight Update:** Teller Oversight Update is complete and can be removed from old business. Gary Balliet has a schedule for tellers helping the ushers in Gilbert. There was some worry we could lose ushers with the new responsibilities, but it seems to be working well.

10. **New Business**

- Planning a get together for after the new council starts.

Prayer Concerns & Praises:

- Prayers for Adam's friends, Cody & Charles's family as they go through the grieving process.
- Severe storms hit the Midwest. Pr. Thadd's brother and sister in law's house was badly damaged by hail in the middle of the night. Insurance assessor is coming Wednesday. Prayers for them, for minimal damage, and for the resources to help everyone affected by these storms.

- Prayers for Haley Johnston's bakery business to take off and support for her personal life.

Closing Prayer: Pr. Andrea

Adjournment:

- **First:** Adam Clark
- **Second:** Mari Johnson
- **Unanimously Approved**