



## **STAFF REPORT**

**CASE NUMBER TXT26-01**

To: Planning and Zoning Commission

Through: Rodolfo Lopez, Development Services Director

From: Rick Williams, Planning and Zoning Division Manager

Meeting Date: January 26, 2026

## **REQUEST:**

**PUBLIC HEARING: TXT25-01, A request by the City of Maricopa, proposing text revisions to Chapter 18 – Maricopa Zoning Ordinance, of the Maricopa City Code. Discussion and Action**

## **COUNCIL PRIORITIES CONSIDERED:**

- Managing the Future

## **DETAILS OF THE REQUEST:**

This is a request to formally amend the Maricopa City Code by requesting comprehensive revisions to Chapter 18 of the Maricopa City Code. The City initiated text amendments will allow for continued refinement of the City Code to reflect changes in policies and procedures, allow for clerical corrections, and address the overall accuracy and usability of the code. More specifically, the proposed amendments would accomplish the following:

1. Brings the current code in compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS).
2. Updates multiple sections of the city code to be consistent with current development trends and standards.
3. Addresses any Scrivener errors identified in the code.

## **Legislative Updates**

### **Arizona House Bill 2447**

Arizona House Bill 2447 was passed into legislation on March 31, 2025, which amended Arizona Revised Statutes § Section 9-500.49, relating to “Administrative review and approval; self-certification program; expedited approval; and definitions.” More specifically, Section 9-500.49.2 of the revised bill mandates that the legislative body of a city or town shall by ordinance, authorize administrative personnel to review and approve site plans, development plans, land divisions, lot line adjustments, lot ties, preliminary plats, final plats and plat amendments without public hearings. The stated goal of this revision is to allow cities to approve specific functions/applications at the staff level, thereby increasing the speed and efficiency of the development process while respecting local control. It should be noted that there are other requirements stated in House Bill 2447, such as, the requirement to allow at-risk submittals for preliminary grading and drainage work and the ability to submit for expedited permit review. The City of Maricopa currently engages in both of those requirements. For the purposes of this discussion, Staff is proposing the following amendments in order to meet House Bill 2447 requirements:

- **Section 18.135.070 – Zoning Administrator** - Removes the power of the Zoning administrator to require a public hearing review for major and minor development review permits.
- **Section 18.155.040 – Minor Development Review Permit**- Removes the ability of the zoning administrator to the refer minor development review permits to Planning Commission for review.
- **Section 18.155.050 – Major Development Review Permit** - Removes the ability of the zoning administrator to the refer major development review permits to Planning Commission for review.

#### **ADHEARANCE TO THE GENERAL PLAN:**

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The proposed text amendments to the Zoning Code are in conformance with the following goals and objectives outlined in the General Plan (Planning Maricopa).

#### **B. Land Use Element**

- Objective B1.4.5: Update and consistently enforce the community’s development codes, including zoning, subdivision, and related regulations.

#### **F. Economic Development Element**

- Objective F1.2.9: Streamline and simplify governmental permitting processes to assist businesses in locating or expanding within the community.

#### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:**

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As required per the City’s Zoning Code Sec. 18.140.060, notification via a public hearing process is required. The Public Participation Plan included a public comment posting and a Public Hearing Notification posting on the city’s website and the local newspaper. Both advertisements were posted a minimum of 15 days prior to a public hearing. The following is the public notification posting timeline:

- January 5, 2026 – Public Comment Posting.
- January 10, 2026 – News Paper Advertisement.
- As of the writing of this report, no new correspondence has been received by staff.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends Planning and Zoning Commission approve TXT26-01, proposed text amendments to Chapter 18 – Zoning Ordinance of the Maricopa City Code.

Exhibit A – Section 18.135.070 (Redlines)

Exhibit B – Section 18.135.070 (Final Text)

Exhibit C – Section 18.155.040 (Redlines)

Exhibit D – Section 18.155.040 (Final Text)

Exhibit E – Section 18.155.050 (Redlines)

Exhibit F – Section 18.155.050 (Final Text)

-- End of staff report --