



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Special Meeting

Mayor Nancy Smith
Vice-Mayor Vincent Manfredi
Councilmember Eric Goettl
Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr
Councilmember Amber Liermann
Councilmember Bob Marsh
Councilmember Henry Wade

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 a.m. An invocation was given by Pastor Roger Thompson from Calvary Church, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Knorr.

2. Roll Call

Present, 7 - Mayor Smith, Councilmember Goettl, Councilmember Knorr, Councilmember Liermann, Councilmember Marsh, Vice Mayor Manfredi, and Councilmember Wade

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

No proclamations, acknowledgements, or presentations were given.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported attending an Arizona Department of Transportation open house held in the Maricopa City Hall Council Chambers on June 17th. Next, he reported participating in a June 18th lunch and learn on emergency management. Councilmember Marsh reported participating in a chamber candidate crawl at Central Arizona College on June 24th. Additionally, he reported attending a meeting at the Pinal County Board of Adjustments and Appeals on June 25th. Next, he reported having a meeting with the City Manager on June 29th. Councilmember Marsh reported participating in an Arizona Department of Water Resources meeting on June 30th. He added that the CAP canal may go dry within the next couple of years. Next, he reported attending the Arizona Water Banking Authority board meeting on July 7th. He reported that the authority was awaiting federal direction and funding from the Department of Interior. Additionally, Councilmember Marsh praised the Great American 4th of July celebration at Copper Sky, calling the drone show and fireworks the best. Lastly, he shared upcoming events including a lunch and learn on roads and highways on July 16th, and a senior info expo at the library on September 26th focused on fall prevention.

Councilmember Wade reported attending the retirement ceremony for Pastor Arnold Jackson of Mount Moriah AME Community Church. He added that Pastor Jackson served the Maricopa community for 14 years and was in ministry for nearly 30. He shared that Pastor Jackson would leave an indelible mark on the community.

Councilmember Knorr shared her praise for the Great American 4th event. Next, she reported attending the flag raising ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on the morning of July 4th and encouraged residents to attend future holiday flag raisings. Councilmember Knorr reported attending an Arizona State University Congressional Dialogue with Congresswoman Yassamin Ansari on health care affordability and access. Afterward, she personally invited health care leaders in attendance to consider bringing services to Maricopa. Councilmember Knorr also acknowledged two recently signed bills that strengthen protections for firefighters by reducing their exposure to dangerous chemicals. She announced two upcoming community events: the Maricopa Fire Foundation car wash on July 18th at Ace Hardware from 9:00 AM to noon, and the 2nd Annual Water Safety Day at Copper Sky on July 25th, which would include a sensory-sensitive time at 10:00 AM, free open swim from 11:00 AM to noon, a drowning prevention demonstration, and raffles for safety equipment donated by Arizona Game and Fish and the Drowning Prevention Coalition. She concluded by expressing anticipation for the upcoming economic development strategic plan presentation, expected on a future agenda.

Councilmember Liermann thanked the city's traffic safety strike force for lowering the speed limit on Porter Road to 35 miles per hour for its full length. She also praised staff for implementing the Maricopa Express Transit App. Councilmember Liermann added that the app enables residents to use a mobile application instead of calling to request routes and door-to-door service. Next, she announced upcoming community events: the July 16th lunch and learn on regional transportation, a Hawaiian petroglyph presentation at the library on July 23rd, and Broadway Maricopa's production of The Wizard of Oz running from July 31st through August 8th. Councilmember Liermann recognized the success of the Open Arms Vocational Living Center's fundraiser, which sold out and raised \$18,900.01. She shared about the new leadership history photographs recently installed in the lobby of City Hall. Councilmember Liermann highlighted new Purple Heart City signage, with a formal proclamation to follow at next month's meeting. Lastly, she praised the 4th of July celebration and noted the military flyover as a personal highlight.

Mayor Smith shared her appreciation for the Veterans Memorial flag raising, the Great American 4th celebration, which she estimated to have an attendance between 10,000 and 15,000 based on information from the Police Chief. Next, she shared her appreciation for the Open Arms fundraiser. Mayor Smith provided an update on ongoing conversations regarding animal control, noting that meetings with Pinal County Supervisor Vitiello, relevant county staff, and Chief Goodman were underway. Lastly, she also recognized the work of the Ambassadors of Maricopa Program, whose members were visible at the 4th of July event.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Ben Bitter presented a recent commercial vehicle enforcement operation conducted in partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Safety. He shared that 98 trucks were weighed, 67 were screened, 19 were found to exceed their permissible weight, and 3 were found to exceed their declared registered weight. City Manager Bitter added that officers issued 15 civil citations and 2 criminal citations. Lastly, City Manager Bitter added this enforcement improves road safety and extends the lifespan of city roads.

Next, City Manager Bitter highlighted several visible signs of growth across the city, including the upcoming ribbon cutting for Alma Farrell Innovation Academy, the progression of the Field House, and new restaurants such as Starbucks and Buffalo Wild Wings under construction. He noted that State Route 347 improvements were progressing, with a smoother road surface already extending north of Riggs Road,

with the third lane widening to follow. Next, City Manager Bitter shared about the newly activated LED underpass lighting, which displayed red, white, and blue colors for the 4th of July. He described the project as contributing to a growing sense of place and community pride, particularly in combination with the public art installation in front of City Hall.

6. Call to the Public

Resident Ron Angerame addressed the Council regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Casablanca Road and State Route 347. He presented statistical analysis indicating that over the past 27 months there have been 44 accidents at that location, averaging approximately 1.63 accidents per month. He added that 25 percent of those crashes resulted in injuries requiring emergency response, and offered a probability analysis suggesting a 90 percent likelihood of a crash involving a child within 9 months at the current rate. He urged the Council to begin planning and budgeting now for a grade-separated intersection at Casablanca, stating that delays would increase both human and financial costs.

Tena Dugan of the Glennwilde subdivision addressed the Council with questions regarding the financial structure of the Wild West Music Fest. She expressed concern that the \$265,000 annual city investment in the three-day festival, which was comprising a \$240,000 promoter payment and an additional \$25,000 in public safety, marketing, and related costs and was not fully understood by residents. Ms. Dugan added that without the city's contribution, the event generated approximately \$180,000 in revenue against more than \$411,000 in expenses. She also questioned the methodology behind the reported \$2.84 million economic impact figure, noting that the full study, overnight visitor data, and resulting tax revenue were not included in financial reporting she received. She asked the Council to establish clearer metrics, goals, and comparative analysis before renewing the investment.

Teniecka Drake addressed the Council to update the community on the Ignite Wellness Spark Your Shine event. She announced that the event had been relocated and rescheduled from October 24th at the library to October 3rd at Central Arizona College, with the same hours of 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. She added that the event's focus on domestic violence awareness and its four mobile units remained unchanged.

Tera Nelson, representing Heritage Academy Maricopa K-5, introduced herself and announced that the school would open on July 21st after five years of planning. She described the school's classical education focus and noted it would be Heritage Academy's ninth campus. She invited Council members to a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 30th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and expressed gratitude for the recent speed limit reduction on Porter Road.

Peg Chapados announced an upcoming mini book sale on July 25th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the library. Additionally, Ms. Chapados acknowledged the recent passing of two longtime supporters, including Oliver Anderson, who with his wife Hermina founded the Friends of the Library in 1984. The speaker also noted that library director Craig Ford would be departing to lead a library at Heritage Sequoia.

Dana Williams addressed the Council regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Honeycutt Road and State Route 347, describing a pattern of vehicles failing to yield when entering the highway. She requested that signage or other traffic control measures be considered at that location. City Manager Bitter acknowledged the concern and noted it for follow-up.

7. Consent Agenda**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Councilmember Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Marsh to Approve the Consent Agenda.

- 7.5 [MIN 26-40](#) Approval of Minutes from the June 10, 2026 City Council Special meeting, June 16, 2026 City Council Special and Regular meetings. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

- 7.6 [MIN 26-42](#) Acceptance of Minutes from the March 16, 2026 and May 18, 2026 Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee meetings, April 20, 2026 Senior Advisory Committee meeting and April 27, 2026 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearing

- 7.1 [IGA 26-07](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Chandler for the purpose of enabling the Maricopa Fire/Medical Department to participate in Fire Service trainings hosted by the Chandler Fire and Rescue Department. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Liermann asked for clarification on the types of training included in the IGA. Michael Grant, Assistant Fire Chief, explained that the agreement was specifically intended to allow the seven newly hired firefighters to attend Chandler Fire and Rescue's recruit fire academy, and was distinct from the regular continuing education partnership with Chandler Fire that already existed on a quarterly basis.

A motion was made by Councilmember Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Wade, that this Intergovernmental Agreement be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- 7.2 [MOU 26-03](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding to establish a formal partnership between the Maricopa Police Department (MPD) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to support the use of eTrace, ATF's secure, web based system for firearm trace submissions and analysis at no financial impact to the city. Discussion and Action.

Vice Mayor Manfredi shared that he had received public inquiries suggesting the agreement was related to a gun registry or tracking of privately owned firearms. He asked clarification from a department representative. Police Commander Kathleen Elliot confirmed that the eTrace system would be used exclusively for tracing firearms recovered in connection with crimes, which aids in identifying the manufacturer and first purchaser of a crime gun and would have no bearing on legally owned firearms held by residents. Vice Mayor Manfredi confirmed that the agreement would not require residents to report their firearms or subject their legal weapons to any form of review.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Liermann, that this Memorandum of Understanding be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7.3 **ORD 26-12**

An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting the document filed with the City Clerk and entitled "2026 Amendments to Title 10: Vehicle and Traffic" by reference to add Section 10.20.100 regarding Obedience to Markings; double parking prohibited and vehicle type restrictions to the Maricopa City Code and providing for severability and the effective date thereof. Discussion and Action.

Mayor Smith asked for clarification after feedback received from a resident. Rick Williams, Planning and Zoning Manager and Wesley Moss, Code Compliance Supervisor, presented a memo clarifying language in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Williams shared that staff felt they had found the ordinance to contain some ambiguity, which led staff to make last minute corrections. Mr. Williams indicated the amended version would be posted to Legistar and the city website.

Councilmember Knorr asked about the purpose of this ordinance. Mr. Moss shared that the ordinance's purpose was described as addressing the long-term storage or overnight parking of oversized commercial vehicles, such as tractor-trailers in commercial parking lots, which had generated complaints over many years and created blight conditions. Mr. Moss confirmed that the ordinance applied specifically to legal parking spaces in commercial districts and did not affect residential driveways or rural areas.

Councilmember Knorr asked if this came as a result of residents submitting complaints. Mr. Moss responded that over the years, complaints had continuously been submitted to his office. Councilmember Wade raised the broader issue of commercial vehicles parked in front of residential homes, and Mr. Moss shared that existing provisions in Chapter 10 already address that situation. Vice Mayor Manfredi asked whether food trucks at grocery stores would be affected. Mr. Williams clarified they would not, as mobile food vendors are governed under a separate regulatory framework in Section 18.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goettl, seconded by Councilmember Liermann, that this Ordinance be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7.4 **ORD 26-13**

An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting the document filed with the City Clerk and entitled "2026 Amendments to Title 18: Zoning" by reference to add Section 18.76.125 regarding food truck courts in the Maricopa Station Overlay and to amend Sections 18.76.060, and 18.115.040 of the Maricopa City Code and providing for severability and the effective date thereof. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Liermann asked about the food truck courts in the Maricopa Station Overlay district, which is the heritage district area near Mike Ingram Heritage Park. Rick Williams explained that the ordinance had originally been enacted in January of the current year to regulate food truck courts in the mixed-use heritage district, but that the Maricopa Station Overlay, which is a triangular portion of that district had been inadvertently omitted. He added that the current amendment was intended to correct that oversight and ensure consistent application of food truck court standards throughout the entire mixed-use heritage area.

Resident Tena Dugan stepped forward to speak on the item. She raised several concerns about ambiguities in the ordinance, including the lack of a clear definition of what constitutes a food truck court, uncertainty about who fulfills the on-site management requirement, whether existing paved parking spaces qualify as developed stalls, and a perceived contradiction between the temporary use permit process and requirements for permanent electrical pedestals and shade structures.

She requested that the ordinance more clearly distinguish between individual mobile vendors, occasional gatherings, rotating small groups, and permanent food truck courts, and that it allow reasonable alternatives for power supply.

Mr. Williams responded that the ordinance was intentionally drafted with flexibility to accommodate a variety of site conditions, given that no two sites are identical. He added that permanent electrical pedestals would only be required where site-specific conditions made them appropriate, and that generators using Whisper technology could be permitted in other circumstances. Mr. Williams confirmed that existing paved surfaces would not require trenching for electrical installation. He also shared that the property owner signing the authorization agreement bears ultimate responsibility for the site, and that each application would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis through the pre-application and permitting process.

Councilmember Knorr asked whether the existing food truck operation at Central Arizona College would be affected. Mr. Williams confirmed it would not, as Central Arizona College is a public educational facility exempt from municipal zoning by state law and falls outside the Maricopa Station Overlay zone. City Manager Bitter also noted that the overlay zone pertains specifically to the historic downtown and redevelopment area.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Marsh, that this Ordinance be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.1 **PRES 26-10**

The Mayor and City Council shall hear the 2025 Maricopa Municipal Court Report Presentation from Hon. Stephen McCarville, Presiding Judge.

Presiding Judge Stephen McCarville presented the annual Municipal Court report for the 2025 fiscal year. He described the court's jurisdiction over misdemeanors, civil traffic citations, protective orders, DUI cases, and city ordinance violations.

Judge McCarville reported that overall case filings declined from 8,645 in fiscal year 2024 to 6,632 in fiscal year 2025, which is an average of 552 filings per month and he attributed the decrease to a combination of factors including driver behavior responses to enforcement, prosecutorial decisions, internal court processes, and a reduction in officer activity due to two officers being out of service for extended periods. He added that despite the overall decline, protective order filings, which is including both injunctions against harassment and orders of protection have increased over the same period and appeared to be plateauing after three consecutive years of growth. Judge McCarville cautioned that the 2025 decline in filings appeared to be an anomaly. He shared that in the first six months of calendar year 2026, the court had already recorded 4,782 filings, averaging 797 per month. Judge McCarville added that if the trend continued through year-end, total filings would reach approximately 9,564, which would be the highest volume since the court began operations in 2023.

Next, he reported on the volume of court visitors, noting approximately 12,000 individuals coming through the front door annually, which is a figure exceeding total case filings due to victims, family members, and individuals addressing payment plans or compliance hearings associated with previously closed cases.

Among the court's achievements, Judge McCarville shared the streamlined case management, continued efforts to meet Arizona Supreme Court time standards for case resolution, collection of nearly \$59,483 for the Court Enhancement Fund, and strong stakeholder relationships with the prosecutor's office, public defender, and police department. He added that all court staff averaged 41.5 hours of training annually, well exceeding the 16-hour Supreme Court mandate.

Next, Judge McCarville shared that the court also participated in mock trials, career day events, and statewide judicial leadership conferences, and Judge McCarville was appointed by the Presiding Judge of Pinal County to assist the City of San Tan in establishing a new municipal court.

Resident Peg Chapados stepped forward and asked whether the increase in protective orders reflected anything out of the ordinary or was simply a function of population growth. Judge McCarville acknowledged the complexity of the issue, referencing a Supreme Court committee on domestic violence in the courts and noting that contributing factors include financial stress, mental health, substance abuse, and cultural norms. He stated that no single factor could be identified as the driver of the increase.

Councilmember Liermann noted that the civil traffic category represented the largest share of filings and observed that the data demonstrated the city was actively addressing unsafe driving, even when enforcement may not feel visible to residents. Judge McCarville confirmed that all cases in the court's jurisdiction originate from within the city's limits.

Vice Mayor Manfredi asked whether the 2026 filing increase correlated with the addition of new police officers. Judge McCarville confirmed that the addition of line officers typically results in more citations filed in municipal court, noting a lag of approximately one year between hiring and visible impact on case volumes. City Manager Bitter corroborated this, explaining that new officers go through academy and field training before actively writing citations.

Councilmember Wade inquired about the student mock trial program, and Judge McCarville confirmed that the court would accommodate any school requesting such a program and provided information on the high school mock trial competition held annually at the Pinal County Superior Court.

Mayor Smith thanked Judge McCarville for his transparent reporting and noted that the absence of public complaints about the court since his appointment was itself a meaningful measure of performance. She also inquired about whether the anticipated staffing increase for the court's higher workload had been accounted for in the approved budget; City Manager Bitter confirmed that staffing would be analyzed as part of the annual budget process, accounting for the lag between officer hiring and caseload impact.

The Presentation was heard.

8.2 [PRES 26-13](#)

The Mayor and City Council will receive a presentation on the City's event strategy and an update on Community Events, Signature Events, and Event Tourism initiatives. Presentation and Discussion only.

Quinn Konold, Director of Community Enrichment, presented an update on the city's events strategy, organizing the discussion around the department's three budget categories: signature events, community events, and event tourism.

Mr. Konold noted that the current signature events lineup includes the Great American 4th, Stagecoach Days, and Maricopa. He announced that a Salsa Festival component would be incorporated into Stagecoach Days on or around October 24th, including competitions, prizes, and vendors. He credited sustained community feedback and Vice Mayor Manfredi's repeated advocacy as the impetus for bringing back the beloved event.

Next, Mr. Konold explained that Copa Cultural would not be held as a standalone signature event this year. He shared that the budget for Copa Cultural would be redistributed to support cultural and arts programming throughout the year in connection with the community-led First Fridays initiative at Mike Ingram Heritage Park. He added that the city intended to align its existing concerts in the park and movies in the park programming with First Fridays, spreading cultural celebration more broadly across the calendar. He acknowledged that this was a pilot approach and that feedback would be solicited. Lastly, Mr. Konold shared that other community events on the calendar included the Pecan and Pumpkin Walk, the State of the City address, groundbreakings, ribbon cuttings, the Senior Info Expo, and potentially a celebration tied to the commencement of the State Route 347 widening and the opening of the Field House.

Next, Mr. Konold reviewed the three-year history of the Wild West Music Fest, the city's sole event tourism offering. He cited the strategic objective guiding this category, which was to attract visitors from across the region and nation using bed tax funds, minimize impact on local taxpayers, boost local businesses, and enhance Maricopa's regional profile.

He shared that estimated attendance figures over three years showed approximately 15,000 in year one, 9,500 in year two, and 10,000 in year three. Mr. Konold noted that the reduction in investment between years one and two was intentional and anticipated a proportional attendance drop; the fact that attendance did not fall by the same percentage as expenses was viewed as a positive outcome. Lastly, he reported that the event producer turned a modest profit in year two and approximately \$8,900 in year three.

Mr. Konold introduced Steve Levine of Steve Levine Entertainment and Public Relations, the event producer. Mr. Levine described his personal investment of approximately \$250,000 of his own funds in year one, and characterized the event's financial trajectory as a significant turnaround. He shared that his goal was not primarily profit but to build a lasting, community-rooted legacy event with accessible ticket prices. He noted that free parking was maintained at an estimated cost of \$28,000–\$30,000 in foregone revenue, and that complimentary tickets were distributed primarily to residents and through VetTix, a veterans' benefit organization. He described the vendor ecosystem, noting discounts for Maricopa-based businesses and 13 local and regional sponsors. He also noted an approximate \$10,000 annual donation to the Maricopa Community Foundation from a portion of bar proceeds. Lastly, Mr. Levine acknowledged that adverse weather, which included a cold, rainy day in year two and 107-degree heat in year three significantly impacted attendance and vendor revenue, and expressed confidence that attendance could reach 25,000 in two to three years as the event continued to grow organically.

Councilmember Knorr asked for more detailed financial reporting in the future, noting that the Excel spreadsheet format provided to Council did not give sufficient visibility into expense and revenue line items. Mr. Levine explained that some cost figures, which are particularly artist fees are contractually protected from public disclosure to preserve negotiating leverage, but stated that city staff had been given full access to receipts and documentation in his office.

Councilmember Knorr also flagged that a scheduling conflict between Wild West Music Fest and the Boys and Girls Club's annual fundraiser on Saturday of the festival weekend likely contributed to lower Saturday attendance, and requested that future planning avoid such conflicts. Mr. Konold acknowledged the point, confirmed that communication with the Boys and Girls Club had already begun for the following year, and noted that the window of available dates, which are constrained by school

calendars, Easter weekend, and ride operator availability was narrow but that every effort would be made to avoid the conflict.

Councilmember Wade asked why Copa Cultural, which he described as having been successful from its inception, was the event chosen for discontinuation rather than another. Mr. Konold explained that Copa Cultural's intent, which is celebrating culture and arts without being tied to a specific holiday aligned closely with what First Fridays would accomplish across multiple evenings throughout the year, and that the Copa Cultural budget was approximately equivalent to the investment needed for the First Fridays programming partnership, eliminating the need for any new budget request.

Mayor Smith highlighted for the public record that the \$240,000 payment to the event producer was drawn primarily from bed tax revenues, which is collected from hotel guests rather than local residents and with only a modest difference coming from the general fund. She also asked Mr. Levine to elaborate on improvements to the local vendor experience over the three-year period. Mr. Levine noted that the mandatory point-of-sale system required in year one had been replaced with a more flexible approach in years two and three, allowing vendors to accept cash and their own payment methods, which was better received by Maricopa-area businesses. He acknowledged that the vendor experience could continue to improve and cited post-event interest from vendors wanting to participate in future years as a positive indicator.

The Presentation was heard.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of Maricopa, Arizona, held on the 14th day of July, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 4th day of August 2026.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk