



City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Special Meeting

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Mayor Nancy Smith

Vice-Mayor Vincent Manfredi

Councilmember Amber Liermann

Councilmember Bob Marsh

Councilmember Rich Vitiello

Councilmember Henry M. Wade Jr.

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm. Councilmember Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Marsh was present telephonically.

Present, 6 - Mayor Smith, Vice Mayor Liermann, Councilmember Marsh, Councilmember Vitiello, Councilmember Wade, and Vice Mayor Manfredi

3. Agenda Items

3.1 APP 22-05

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on selecting one citizen to fill the vacancy on the City Council. Discussion and Action.

Mayor Smith gave details on the vacant City Council seat and thanked everyone present. City Clerk Vanessa Bueras introduced the applicants: Chrystal Allen-O'Jon, James Singleton, Patrick Melvin, Joy Ann Holsinger, Bill Robertson, Sharon Walker (not present), James Hughes, James Pfeifle, Ray Nieves, Dan Frank, Torri Anderson, Eric Goettl, Leon Potter, Michelle Buchanan, Kevin Taylor and Robert Burns.

Mayor Smith explained each member of the Council would choose their top 3 candidates and the City Clerk would keep a tally, and the top 3 would go on to the first round of the interview process. She stated each candidate would get two minutes to introduce themselves. She stated after introductions candidates would be separated in a meeting room, and each candidate would be interviewed individually. She asked candidates not to use electronic devices while waiting for their turn. She stated each member of the Council would ask one question during the first round of interview questions, and each candidate would get three minutes to answer each question. She stated each member of the Council would then choose their top 2 candidates and move on to round two of questions. She stated she could go into executive session at any time. The first top three candidates were nominated as follows:

Councilmember Liermann: Eric Goettl, Ray Nieves and James Singleton.

Councilmember Marsh: Bill Robertson, Dan Frank, and Eric Goettl.

Councilmember Vitiello: Torri Anderson, Dan Frank, and Ray Nieves.

Councilmember Wade: Patrick Melvin, Torri Anderson, James Hughes.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: Ray Nieves, Bill Robertson and James Singleton.

Mayor Smith Bill Robertson, Eric Goettl and James Singleton.

City Clerk Vanessa Bueras announced four candidates were tied with three votes: James Singleton, Bill Robertson, Ray Nieves and Eric Goettl. Vice-Mayor Manfredi motioned to move to executive session, and was seconded by Councilmember Wade. The Council moved to executive session at 6:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

Mayor Smith asked all four candidates to pick a number at random from the City Clerk for the order in which they would have their turn. Each candidate gave a two minute introduction:

Ray Nieves stated he was a third generation Maricopa native and was very invested in the community. He stated he was Hispanic and younger and could reach a different demographic and elaborated.

Bill Robertson stated he was seven-year resident, married for 46 years, and currently served on the Planning and Zoning (PZ) Commission. He stated his initial plan was to finish his term in the PZ Commission and then run for Council in 2024 and elaborated.

James Singleton stated he was one of the youngest candidates but that it would give him dimension. He stated he jumped in since moving here with involvement in social media and educating himself. He stated he was involved in the academics and sports. He explained he initially wanted to join the PZ Commission but this opportunity presented itself.

Eric Goettl stated he had been a resident since 2004 resident. He stated he was married and had five kids. He stated he had been involved in the community ecclesiastically and elaborated. He noted he had served in council's and elaborated.

Applicants 2-4 exited the Chambers and went in to a conference room with Records Coordinator, Andy Juarez. Ray Nieves remained as the first applicant.

Councilmember Lierman: "If selected, what board, commission or committees would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Nieves responded he would like to be placed wherever there was a need and elaborated.

Councilmember Marsh: "What is the most important project, for a result, you would like to accomplish in your next two years as a Councilmember?" Mr. Nieves responded the most important thing was traffic, and the roadways in and around Maricopa. He stated he wanted to work with people at the county level, state level, and federal level to work on the roadways, and possibly an alternate route out of Maricopa.

Councilmember Vitiello congratulated Mr. Nieves on the birth of his new baby the previous night. He asked: "As a Council, there are three positions the Council is involved in the hiring and firing, can you name the three positions?" Mr. Nieves responded he could not.

Councilmember Wade: "What do you believe your role to be as a City Councilmember?" Mr. Nieves responded the role was to be a voice for the citizens, and take into consideration the people when making decisions. He reiterated the most important thing was to represent the people.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi congratulated Mr. Nieves on his new baby as well. He asked; "If

selected as a new council member, what is your number one priority?" Mr. Nieves reiterated on the roadways, highways and traffic. He added that business and economic development were also important. He stated that as a business owner he sees the struggles of small business owners. He stated economic development and helping generate the success of both small and big businesses.

Mayor Smith discussed resident's concerns with the significant amount of single-family homes and apartment developments. She asked: "Do you think Maricopa needs a moratorium on new single-family homes and new apartment developments?" Mr. Nieves responded that Maricopa did not need a moratorium.

Mr. Nieves left to the conference room and Mr. Bill Robertson entered the Chambers.

Councilmember Lierman: "If selected, what board, commission or committees would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Robertson responded that he's currently in the PZ Commission and has a good understanding of it, so the PZ Commission and Transportation.

Councilmember Marsh: "What is the most important project, for a result, you would like to accomplish in your next two years as a Councilmember?" Mr. Robertson responded he would continue on the direction already established by the Council and City Manager. He mentioned annexations, building relationships and water issues.

Councilmember Vitiello: "As a Council, there are three positions the Council is involved in the hiring and firing, can you name the three positions?" Mr. Robertson responded the City Manager, the City Attorney and that he was not sure of the third.

Councilmember Wade: "What do you believe your role to be as a City Councilmember?" Mr. Robertson responded it was to be a conduit to the community back to the city and elaborated. He stated as elected officials, councilmembers needed to listen to all levels, all cultures and be inclusive and diverse in listening and elaborated.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: "If selected as a new council member, what is your number one priority?" Mr. Robertson responded his number one priority would be good, open, transparent, honest and ethical communication to constituents.

Mayor Smith: "Do you think Maricopa needs a moratorium on new single-family homes and new apartment developments?" Mr. Robertson stated that he often gets that question as a PZ Commissioner and responded that without legal standing it was hard to deny property rights as long as the code and laws were met. He explained he did research on the cities that had done and the Town of Gilbert was successful a few years ago and elaborated. He stated most of the time moratoriums were without legal standing.

Mr. Roberts returned to the conference room and Mr. James Singleton entered the Chambers.

Councilmember Lierman: "If selected, what board, commission or committees would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Singleton responded that transportation was the biggest hurdle. He added he would like to be a part of the Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) to attract tech companies and elaborated.

Councilmember Marsh: "What is the most important project, for a result, you would

like to accomplish in your next two years as a Councilmember?" Mr. Singleton responded the loop around the city would provide State Route (SR) 347 traffic relief.

Councilmember Vitiello: "As a Council, there are three positions the Council is involved in the hiring and firing, can you name the three positions?" Mr. Singleton responded the Planning and Zoning.

Councilmember Wade: "What do you believe your role to be as a City Councilmember?" Mr. Singleton responded that the main role would be to put the success of the citizens first.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: "If selected as a new council member, what is your number one priority?" Mr. Singleton responded his number one priority would be diving in and figuring out Mayor Smith 100-day plan and how to carry it on.

Mayor Smith: "Do you think Maricopa needs a moratorium on new single-family homes and new apartment developments?" Mr. Singleton responded the short answer was no, and elaborated that in order to attract more businesses and jobs.

Mr. Singleton returned to the conference room and Mr. Eric Goettl entered the Chambers.

Councilmember Lierman: "If selected, what board, commission or committees would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Goettl responded he was interested in emergency management, and the new office of emergency management would be a good fit. He elaborated on his volunteer work with the CERT program and FEMA training. He also stated he was interested in the budget and elaborated. Lastly, he stated he would love to work on the Youth Council.

Councilmember Marsh: "What is the most important project, for a result, you would like to accomplish in your next two years as a Councilmember?" Mr. Goettl responded he would love to fix SR 347, but he knew that was more than a 2-year issue. He stated in the next two years he would just build a legacy and listen to the community. He stated there was friction due to the tremendous growth, and discussed strategic planning.

Councilmember Vitiello: "As a Council, there are three positions the Council is involved in the hiring and firing, can you name the three positions?" Mr. Goettl responded the City Manager was one of them and was not sure of the others.

Councilmember Wade: "What do you believe your role to be as a City Councilmember?" Mr. Goettl responded the main role was to represent constituents, and find balance of what the city can do versus what the needs are. He added also to provide a safe community and support first responders.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: "If selected as a new council member, what is your number one priority?" Mr. Goettl responded the priority would be to represent individuals. He stated he would look over the agendas and looked forward to working with staff.

Mayor Smith: "Do you think Maricopa needs a moratorium on new single-family homes and new apartment developments?" Mr. Goettl responded no, and elaborated on the need for smart strategic growth and diverse housing. This concluded the first round of interviews.

All candidates returned to the Council Chambers. Each member of the Council voted for their top two candidates as follows:

*Councilmember Liermann voted for Eric Goettl and Ray Nieves
Councilmember Marsh voted for Bill Robertson and Eric Goettl
Councilmember Vitiello voted for Bill Robertson and Eric Goettl
Councilmember Wade voted for Eric Goettl and Bill Robertson
Vice-Mayor Manfredi voted for Ray Nieves and Bill Robertson
Mayor Smith voted for Eric Goettl and Bill Robertson*

The top two candidates, Eric Goettl and Bill Robertson moved on to round two of the interview processes. Mr. Goettl returned to the conference room and Mr. Robertson went first.

Councilmember Liermann asked: "Preparation is critically important to be an effective Councilmember. What did you do to prepare for tonight's meeting?" Mr. Robertson responded he had been preparing for a few years by being a Commissioner in the Planning and Zoning and learning the history of incorporation. He elaborated on the importance of knowing the history. He stated he attended Council meetings virtually from other cities and towns to compare.

Councilmember Marsh asked: "As a Councilmember what one thing would you like to change about the City of Maricopa?" Mr. Robertson elaborated on change and growth. He stated he also watched the Pinal County Board of Supervisors meetings and one thing they do was that they ask the public if they would like discussion on the consent agenda. He stated there was a place for items on consent, and elaborated on transparency.

Councilmember Vitiello asked: "The City Council must work together as a cohesive unit for the betterment of its residents, and its businesses. What is your approach to resolve conflict and differences of opinion?" Mr. Robertson responded that differences of opinion are a good thing and elaborated.

Councilmember Wade asked: "The City Council has adopted Code of Ethics, including the expectation to sign an acknowledgement statement upon being sworn into office. As a member of the Council, what do you feel is your personal responsibility in upholding the Code of Ethics? And how will you set an example for fellow Councilmembers?" Mr. Robertson responded that the way they projected themselves before the public eye not only affected them in the voting booth, but also when community support with tough issues was needed. He stated their ethics must be grounded in honesty and transparency. He elaborated on the challenge of ethics and being open.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: "If you have the desire to be in the City Council, why did you not run during this election season?" Mr. Robertson that with his position in the Planning and Zoning Commission he sought engagement with the City first. He stated he planned on running in 2024 and elaborated on a future campaign.

Mayor Smith stated many residents in Tortosa wanted restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations. She asked: "What would be your role as a City Council member to bring those elements to them?" Mr. Robertson responded talking to investors and developers and elaborated on former Mayor, Christian Price's new position with MEDA and the relationship with the Chamber of Commerce. He elaborated on communication and stated he would love to go out there and promote the City.

Mr. Robertson returned to the conference room and Mr. Goettl entered the Chambers.

Councilmember Liermann: "Preparation is critically important to be an effective Councilmember. What did you do to prepare for tonight's meeting?" Mr. Goettl responded that he contacted each Councilmember to interview them and made notes to understand fully what it takes including the responsibilities and pressures. He elaborated on his experience stated he has had the opportunity to serve in various capacities in the Council and elaborated on learning how the process worked. He stated his preparations included being involved in the community and developing relationships.

Councilmember Marsh asked: "As a Councilmember what one thing would you like to change about the City of Maricopa?" Mr. Goettl responded he would change transportation to be able to move in and out of the City easily.

Councilmember Vitiello asked: "The City Council must work together as a cohesive unit for the betterment of its residents, and its businesses. What is your approach to resolve conflict and differences of opinion?" Mr. Goettl responded that listening to all sides and elaborated.

Councilmember Wade asked: "The City Council has adopted Code of Ethics, including the expectation to sign an acknowledgement statement upon being sworn into office. As a member of the Council, what do you feel is your personal responsibility in upholding the Code of Ethics? And how will you set an example for fellow Councilmembers?" Mr. Goettl responded that he believed in being transparent and accountable. He stated he has strived to live a principled life. He stated that ethically, he would never use his position for personal gain.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi: "If you have the desire to be in the City Council, why did you not run during this election season?" Mr. Goettl responded he did not want to run against current incumbents and did not see a need to replace anyone currently on Council. He stated a year ago, he was not ready but a lot had changed.

Mayor Smith stated many residents in Tortosa wanted restaurants, grocery stores, and gas stations. She asked: "What would be your role as a City Council member to bring those elements to them?" Mr. Goettl responded that strategic growth was important, and elaborated on having a defined vision of where the City was heading. He stated they needed to make sure the Tortosa community had the resources too, by inviting economic development, education institutions and so on. This concluded round two of interviews. Both candidates returned to the Chambers.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi motioned to move to executive session at 7:34 pm. He was seconded by Councilmember Liermann. The motioned passed unanimously. The meeting reconvened at 7:49 pm.

Mayor Smith acknowledged the applicants. Each member of the Council voted for their top candidate:

Councilmember Liermann voted for Eric Goettl.

Councilmember Marsh voted for Bill Robertson.

Councilmember Vitiello voted for Eric Goettl.

Councilmember Wade voted for Eric Goettl

Vice-Mayor Manfredi voted for Bill Robertson.

Mayor Smith voted for Eric Goettl.

Mayor Smith introduced Eric Goettl as Councilmember-elect and stated he would be sworn into office at the next regular council meeting on September 20, 2022 and would immediately assume the role.

4. Executive Session

5. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Amber Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Henry Wade, to Adjourn at 7:52 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of Maricopa, Arizona, held on the 13th day of September, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2022.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk