



City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Special Meeting

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Monday, December 8, 2025

5:30 PM

Executive Conference Room

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present, 5 - Mayor Smith, Councilmember Goettl, Councilmember Knorr, Councilmember Manfredi, and Councilmember Marsh

Absent, 1 - Councilmember Liermann

3. Agenda Items

3.1 SP 25-07

The Mayor and Council shall meet with the City's Washington, DC based lobbying team, Nexus Consulting, to discuss matters related to federal legislation and agencies.

The Mayor and City Council met with the City's Washington, DC based lobbying team, Nexus Consulting, to discuss matters related to federal legislation and agencies.

Bob Holmes of Nexus Consulting began by introducing his team, which now includes Tracy Sutton, who previously worked as Greg Stanton's legislative director and chief of staff for six years. Mr. Holmes noted that Tracy was instrumental in creating the 595 program (Arizona Environmental Infrastructure Program) and has extensive experience with transportation and Army Corps of Engineers matters after 28 years on Capitol Hill.

Mr. Holmes provided an update on the FY26 appropriations process. He reported that the city's fire equipment funding request for \$687,000 was included in the current continuing resolution. He explained that the first continuing resolution passed at the end of November after a 43-day government shutdown and included three appropriations bills: Agriculture, Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch. Mr. Holmes expressed optimism that earmarks would be preserved in the remaining appropriations bills, unlike the previous year when a year-long continuing resolution eliminated all earmarks nationwide.

Mr. Holmes indicated that the current continuing resolution will run until January 30th, at which point Congress is expected to pass a "minibus" with several more appropriations bills. He anticipated that soon after, around February 1st, congressional members would release their portals for FY27 appropriation requests.

Regarding strategy for future funding requests, Mr. Holmes advised focusing on projects between \$1-4 million that are in less oversubscribed programs. He noted that transportation projects face significant competition, with programs like BUILD/RAISE having only about a 1-in-15 chance of approval due to being dramatically oversubscribed. He recommended identifying strategic projects that have the greatest

chance for success rather than necessarily the highest-priority projects for the city.

City Manager Ben Bitter discussed the potential for requesting funding for a ladder truck that was totaled when hit by a drunk driver, noting that replacement ladder trucks currently have a 3-5 year production timeline and cost approximately \$2.5-3 million. Mr. Holmes acknowledged that fire trucks can be more difficult to get funded than police equipment but emphasized that Senator Kelly's office does favor funding equipment.

Katy Proctor, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, and Mr. Holmes reported on their work to secure self-administration language for transportation projects, which would allow localities to administer their own projects instead of going through ADOT. They indicated that Congressman Siscomani inserted this language and they were confident it would be included in the final legislation. This would help address issues like the pedestrian bridge funded in FY22 for \$3.5 million that still hasn't been constructed and now costs \$9 million.

Council members and staff discussed several potential projects for future funding requests including extending Smith Lake East to the Seed Farm Road interchange to connect with Gila River Indian Community, which Councilmember Marsh noted could serve as both an economic development opportunity and an escape route from East Maricopa to I-10. Rail crossing for the east-west corridor, Green Road Loop and East Road Loop projects in partnership with Gila River Indian Community and Infrastructure needs in the industrial triangle area

The group also discussed the I-11 corridor project, which has been stalled due to litigation concerning the southern portion. Mr. Bitter reported that Senator Kelly's office suggested the possibility of separating the project sections to allow progress on the northern portion while the contested southern section remains in litigation. This approach has precedents with 27-28 similar examples nationwide.

Katy Proctor informed the Council that she would be sending out legislative priorities for the upcoming year and invited individual discussion on these items. She also noted that the National League of Cities meeting in March would need to be rescheduled since the House of Representatives would not be in session that week. She asked that if council has any changes or question regarding the legislative priorities, to let her know.

The meeting included discussion of political dynamics affecting funding requests, with Mr. Holmes providing insights on how the 2024 elections might impact federal funding and which congressional offices would be most effective to work with for specific projects.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.