



City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall
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Mayor Nancy Smith
Vice-Mayor Amber Liermann
Councilmember Eric Goettl
Councilmember Vincent Manfredi
Councilmember Bob Marsh
Councilmember Rich Vitiello
Councilmember Henry Wade

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Naveen Sudarajan with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gave the invocation and Councilmember Vitiello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Marsh was present telephonically.

Present: 7 - Councilmember Bob Marsh, Councilmember Eric Goettl, Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, Mayor Nancy Smith, Councilmember Henry Wade, Councilmember Rich Vitiello and Vice Mayor Amber Liermann

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

There were no items presented.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Goettl reported supporting the Art for the Heart event and commended the young artists. He reported participating the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) meeting in Douglas by phoning in to address the board and express concerns with State Route (SR) 347. He stated he asked the board to consider the funding that was in danger of being clawed back.

Councilmember Vitiello reported also attending the ADOT meeting via Zoom. He elaborated on how the Council works to address the issues on SR 347. He stated it was a personal issue for him as a close friend was still in a coma due to an accident he had on that road and gave information on the Izzy Calderon fundraiser softball tournament. He encouraged the community to slow down on SR 347. He thanked the three Pinal County Supervisors who called in to the meeting to support funding for the SR 347 overpass at Rigg Road. He encouraged the community to reach out to state senators and congressmen to express concerns. He commended Mayor Smith and Councilmember Goettl for participating.

Councilmember Manfredi announced the next ADOT board meeting would be on March 15, 2024 at 9 a.m. He discussed the various ways council advocates for SR 347 and

encouraged the community to also comment. He stated community members could sign-up to comment online at aztransportationboard.gov. Next, he reported on the Future's Planning session on February 8. He encouraged community participation in future sessions. He elaborated that the session was part of the budget planning that gets approved in July.

Vice Mayor Liermann reported on Art from the Heart and commended the event including the young artist. She encouraged attendance to next year's event. She reported on the Future's Planning and encouraged participation. She commended Maricopa Police Chief Goodman for the city's rating as second safest City in Arizona.

Mayor Smith reported on the ADOT meeting. She reported three County Supervisors and four councilmembers provided public comments on SR 347. She stated residents also participated and commended the participation in a meeting that took place in Douglas, Arizona. She stated her comments emphasized the five-year plan and elaborated.

5. Report from the City Manager

There were no items reported.

6. Call to the Public

Aliviah Steen stated she was a member of the Maricopa Community Theatre (MCT) and discussed the impact it has made in her life. She commended everyone involved with MCT and stated it was a big part of the community.

Carrie Vargas expressed concerns that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MCT and the City of Maricopa was rescinded. She stated she funded MCT with the City and elaborated on the partnership. She expressed gratitude for the support visual artists received and noted that performing artists were always forgotten. She discussed operational cost, and stated that by rescinding the MOU, they no longer had rehearsal space. She stated \$31,000 in fees was astronomical and they could not pay that. She asked the Council to consider a reasonable fee. She stated they were not aware public meetings took place until comments were posted on social media. She encouraged the Council to reconsider and have open dialogue.

Matt Ortega discussed the impact that theatre and performing arts have had in his life. He expressed concerns that the MOU was rescinded around the time of the Wild West Music Fest and the loss of money for the event. He stated it was about profit at the expense of partnerships. He agreed with Carrie Vargas that performing arts were forgotten. He asked the Council to do better and noted elections were coming up in November.

David Vargas read a quote from City Manager Horst posted on the city website on the importance of arts in the community. "The Arts are a core service, integral to the health and vibrancy of our community. A city with well-developed cultural amenities offers its residents an enhanced quality-of-life and is also an important criterion for the success of a community. The accomplishment of the Maricopa Wild Horses Project is a tribute to our heritage, to our community and to the talented artists and sponsors who made the project possible." He stated Mayor Smith stated the City was healthy and thriving in the State of the City Address and arts organizations were being asked pay larger fees. He stated he was part of the Maricopa Arts Council (MAC) and MCT and they were concerned with the changes in fees. He stated MAC would be hosting

three upcoming events, the first one on Friday (February 23), featuring Crystal Denis' quilting at the library, and the following Friday (March 1) they would host Inside the Creative Mind Series, and finally on March 9 they would host the 8th annual All Maricopa Poetry Slam at the Global Water facility. He stated that they were holding the event there due to rising costs. He elaborated on MAC's financial and budget hurdles.

Laura Olivieri, with the Maricopa Music Circle Chamber Orchestra (MMC) and Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee (CAAAC) Secretary, gave information on the arts organizations. She stated that non-profit performing arts faced a lot of challenges and elaborated. She discussed their current meeting space for rehearsal and performances. She stated other cities partnered with non-profit performing arts organizations. She stated former Mayor Christian Price issued a proclamation in support of performing arts followed by Mayor Smith. She stated that within a year they dissolved the existing MOU's with the organization and asked for the City to support the organizations in more ways than the proclamation.

Mayor Smith expressed appreciation for the public comments. She stated the City and herself had a passion for the arts and the City has supported various art elements to the financial extend that they can. She discussed the benefits of the arts and detailed the arts initiatives the City has hosted or supported. She stated there were five public meetings for all non-profits to discuss the proposed fees and elaborated on the process and the comments received. She stated all the meetings were agendized and went out to the community. She asked for all those present in support of MCT to stand for acknowledgement. She stated she would like to open up dialogue with and asked Carrie Vargas if she wanted to represent the group or appoint someone, to open dialogue to discuss the process. She stated Council discussed the priority was to have the rooms used and elaborated. City Attorney Denis Fitzgibbons clarified that she could respond to the criticism and set up meetings later.

Peg Chapados, Chair of CAAAC and Secretary of Friends of the Arts, stated they supported the comments made tonight. She invited art organizations to present at the call to the public of the CAAAC that meets every third Mondays of the month with the next one being next Monday, February 26 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Pastor Craig Jackson stated he was a snowbird resident from Seattle. He expressed concerns with the intersection between Porter Road and Smith Enke when coming out of Homestead Drive. He stated there had been a lot of accidents at the intersection and stated there needs to be a light there.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Amber Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Rich Vitiello, to Adopt the Consent Agenda .The motion carried

- 7.1 [CON 24-06](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approving a fourth amendment to the Employment Agreement with Ricky Horst. Discussion and Action.

This Contract was Approved.

- 7.2 [CON 24-07](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approving an amendment to the Employment Agreement with Ben Bitter. Discussion and Action.

This Contract was Approved.

- 7.3 [MIN 24-10](#) Approval of Minutes from the February 6, 2024 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

- 7.4 [SPEVLIQ 24-02](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for an application for a special event liquor license provided by Brenda Campbell to allow Steve Levine Entertainment LLC to serve alcohol during a special event known as Carnival on March 21st, 2024 to March 24th, 2024 at Copper Sky Recreation Complex 44345 W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Maricopa, AZ 85138. Discussion and action.

This Special Event Liquor License was Approved.**8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings**

- 8.1 [PH 24-02](#) The Mayor and City Council shall hear public comment regarding updated and/or new Development Impact Fees for the City of Maricopa, as listed in the recently approved Comprehensive Land Use Assumptions, Infrastructure Improvement Plan, and Development Impact Fee Analysis, dated December 2023.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:48 p.m.

James Ashley, with the Home Builders Association of Central Arizona. He stated their members represented the single-family residential construction industry and elaborated. He expressed concerns with the current draft of proposed impact fees. He stated Arizona State Statue's (ARS) recognized reasonable limits of local governments when setting impact fees. He discussed examples of growth paying for growth. He stated they have also requested clarification on the City-wide signal interconnect. He discussed samples of thoughtful analysis by the City and projects they have supported. He stated they view other projects ineligible and elaborated on comparisons with other municipalities. He discussed the process with the City of Maricopa in comparison and stated there was time for the proposal to be amended.

Angela Mitchell with DR Horton expressed support for Mr. James Ashley's comments. She commended staff and Maricopa. She expressed concerns with existing projects that were currently in planning, such as Elena Trails. She elaborated on the process and asked for time for everyone to have a voice in the process. She stated that Maricopa's process was accelerated compared to other cites such as Surprise. She noted other municipalities had more stake holder meetings. She asked for the city to look at projects that were currently in planning stages and having some concession for that. She stated the City needed to consider how affordable homes could be delivered. She stated home builders understood that development needs to support development and elaborated.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:56 p.m.

Councilmember Wade stated there was a contradiction on how staff approached the process and commended staff.

Councilmember Goettl stated he was curious on how the City's process was accelerated in comparison to other municipalities. Mayor Smith directed Assistant City

Manager, Jennifer Brown to put some information together for the Council.

9. Executive Session

There was no executive session conducted.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was Adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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 20th day of February, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2024.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk