



City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center
Plaza
Maricopa, AZ 85138
Ph: (520) 568-9098
Fx: (520) 568-9120
www.maricopa-az.gov

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was held by Mayor Smith, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Marsh.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

3.1 [PROC 26-06](#) Drinking Water Week Proclamation

Mayor Smith presented the Drinking Water Week Proclamation, proclaiming the week of May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Drinking Water Week in the City of Maricopa. She shared that the proclamation honored the essential role of clean and reliable drinking water in public health, fire safety, and quality of life, and recognized the dedicated professionals who work to deliver safe water to residents. The proclamation was presented to representatives of Global Water.

Read

3.2 [PROC 26-07](#) Peace Officers Memorial Day Proclamation

Mayor Smith presented the Peace Officers Memorial Day Proclamation, which recognized the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers, proclaimed May 15, 2026, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and designated May 10 through May 16, 2026, as Police Week. Lastly, she shared that the proclamation called upon citizens of Maricopa to observe the week and requested that flags be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Read

3.3 [PRES 26-08](#) Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy (MCLA) Spring 2026 Session Acknowledgement.

Communications Coordinator Luis Villa announced the completion of the 27th session

of the Maricopa Citizen Leadership Academy. Mr. Villa shared that it was one of the higher-graduating classes with 27 individuals completing the program. He added that over 450 alumni have now taken part in the initiative since its inception. Mr. Villa also informed the public that registration for the next session would open in September, with information available at maricopa-az.gov/mcla. He called upon each graduate to receive their certificate.

The Presentation was heard.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Board of Adjustments and Appeals Meeting on April 23rd, which was followed by a budget work session later that day. On April 27th, Councilmember Marsh attended a public review of the draft General Plan, which he described as a strong foundation for the next decade. Next, on April 28th, he reported attending the Pinal Partnership Government Relations Committee Meeting, which featured Senator Shope, where the Senator confirmed there were no State Route 347 project slashes. Later that day, Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority Board Work Session. On May 1st, he reported participating in the Pinal Partnership Breakfast. On May 4th, Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Pinal Partnership Water Committee Meeting, where it was announced that the lower basin states agreed on a proposal involving a reduction of 760,000 acre-feet in Arizona's Colorado River allocation for 2028-2029. Lastly, he reported attending the floor signing at the new Field House at Copper Sky.

Councilmember Knorr reported attending the Maricopa Water Safety Coalition's renewed efforts to raise awareness about drowning prevention ahead of National Drowning Prevention Day in July and invited interested community members to participate. Next, she reported attending the Blaze Ministries Council Meet and Greet, describing it as a valuable opportunity to engage with residents on community questions and concerns. She also attended the Copper Sky Field House floor-signing ceremony and expressed enthusiasm about the facility's imminent completion. Additionally, Councilmember Knorr reported attending the first-ever Maricopa Fire Foundation charity golf tournament. Lastly, she thanked community members who had submitted ideas for a new park, noting she had received over 40 emails with detailed suggestions, which she planned to compile into a document to share with Council and city staff.

Councilmember Goettl encouraged residents to engage with the ongoing General Plan update process, directing them to www.maricopaGP.com to review the draft, while adding that the next opportunity for public input before Council would be at the May 19 meeting. He announced a candidate public safety forum on the evening of May 6 at Leading Edge Academy, beginning at 7:00 PM, where all seven city council candidates would respond to questions from public safety organizations. He congratulated high school seniors approaching graduation season, encouraged community members to attend award ceremonies at local high schools, and noted Desert Sunrise High School's awards ceremony on May 7. Lastly, Councilmember Goettl shared that the first Memorial Day event to be held at the newly dedicated Veterans Memorial, located across from Copper Sky, on May 25 at 9:00 AM, and invited the public to attend.

Councilmember Liermann thanked the Maricopa library staff in honor of National Library Week, praising the quality and breadth of programming offered to all age groups. She reported on a Pinal County youth internship initiative in which 110 applicants aged 16–18 interviewed for 35 paid positions at \$15.15 per hour. Next, she recognized May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, noting a recent

proclamation presentation to Janelle Gomez of Learn with Aloha at Audubon Circle on Earth Day, and announced a forthcoming proclamation to be presented to Kevin Okuma at the Farmers Market on May 10. She acknowledged Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8, and invited military spouses present in the chamber to stand, and expressed gratitude for their sacrifice. Councilmember Liermann also recognized the organizers of a recent powwow held at Maricopa Elementary School on May 2 and highlighted a Global Water rebate and conservation event scheduled for May 18.

Vice-Mayor Manfredi shared his appreciation on the high level of civic engagement demonstrated by the Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy graduating class, noting the program has a waitlist due to its popularity. Next, he highlighted the forthcoming Ambassadors of Maricopa (AMP) program as an extension of this engagement. Lastly, Vice-Mayor Manfredi also remarked on the scale and significance of the Copper Sky Field House, estimating its capacity at approximately 990 people, which he shared is more than double the size of the existing Copper Sky gymnasium.

Mayor Smith reported on her attendance at a Greater Phoenix Economic Council delegation trip to Washington, D.C., where she participated in discussions with Senator Gallegos and Congressman Stanton on water availability and the CHIPS II Act. She also participated in a semiconductor panel and met with LG executives, to whom she promoted Maricopa as a future business location. Mayor Smith also reported attending a tour and speaking event at Southbridge Marketplace, noting the progress of Phase 1 development. She concluded by describing the Blaze Church City Council meet-and-greet as a model for community engagement, noting her intent to expand similar outreach to other congregations.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Ben Bitter confirmed that Governor Hobbs had vetoed the state budget approximately one hour prior to the meeting, with the House adjourning until June 1. He indicated a final budget was expected by the end of June. City Manager Bitter then introduced Multimedia Coordinator Elle Ortega to present the new Ambassadors of Maricopa Program.

Ms. Ortega described the Ambassadors of Maricopa Program as an extension of the Maricopa Citizen Leadership Academy designed to keep graduates engaged in ongoing city advocacy. She added that participants would be eligible to receive quarterly briefings from city staff on current topics, and could choose their level of involvement under a tiered recognition system, which would be categorized as bronze, silver, and gold.

She shared that eligibility requires participants to be 16 or older, reside in Maricopa, be a Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy graduate, and complete a standard volunteer screening. Ms. Ortega added that applications were announced to open on May 7 at 10:00 AM at maricopaaz.gov/amp, with the first quarterly meeting planned for the following month ahead of the July 4th event. General conversation ensued regarding the program.

6. Call to the Public

Mike Buskuhl acknowledged Desert Sunrise High School students, who placed sixth out of 30 teams at a Health Occupations Students of America competition, which he shared focused on disaster preparedness.

Chrystal O'Jon outlined her community service background, including founding the Maricopa Veteran Care Center and co-founding the Black Maricopa Chamber of Commerce. She also announced that Maricopa Lifestyle Magazine would host "Woven in Strength," a Maricopa Fashion Week event in May 2027 celebrating indigenous design.

Torri Anderson spoke on behalf of Open Arms Vocational Living Center, described plans for a vocational living facility featuring tiny homes and announced a fundraiser event on June 27 at Duke's Roadhouse.

Josh Eads, representing Maricopa firefighters, and Cole Homan, president of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 978, jointly reminded the community of the public safety candidate forum on May 6 at Leading Edge Academy at 7:00 PM, noting all seven candidates had confirmed attendance.

Tim Nuanes addressed the Council to inform the community of his candidacy for Pinal County Precinct 4 Constable.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Amber Liermann, seconded by Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr, to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.1 [RES 26-08](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, accepting public improvements and maintenance responsibility for all local internal streets within El Rancho Santa Rosa Parcel 7A, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.2 [SPEVLIQ 26-05](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for an application for a special event liquor license provided by Nick Brooks to allow Roots Eatery to serve alcohol during a special event known as Great American 4th on Saturday July 4, 2026 at Copper Sky, 44345 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Maricopa AZ 85138. Discussion and Action.
- This Special Event Liquor License was Approved.**
- 7.3 [MIN 26-30](#) Approval of Minutes from the April 21, 2026 City Council Regular meeting and the April 23, 2026 City Council Work Session. Discussion and Action.
- These Minutes were Approved.**
- 7.4 [MIN 26-31](#) Acceptance of meeting minutes from the March 23, 2026 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Discussion and Action.
- These Minutes were Approved.**
- 7.5 [MISC 26-10](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on canceling the July 21, 2026 City Council Regular meeting, reinstating the August 4, 2026 meeting that was

previously canceled, and call a special meeting on July 14, 2026 to comply with the City Code's requirement of holding one meeting per month. Discussion and Action.

This Miscellaneous Item was Approved.

8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings

8.1 RES 26-11

A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting a Special Community Designation Requests Policy to establish a process for official City of Maricopa recognition of a special community designation. Discussion and Action.

Assistant City Manager Jennifer Brown presented the proposed Special Community Designation Requests Policy, which was brought forward in response to a Council request from the January Futures Planning session. She shared that the policy establishes a formal process by which organizations may seek official City recognition for special community designations and its core principles are that designations must be community-initiated, community-led, and community-funded, with final approval resting with the City Council.

Ms. Brown added that the policy outlines eligibility standards requiring a recognized external framework, meaningful community impact, achievable and sustainable requirements, demonstrated community support, and alignment with city values. She shared that it also defines the distinct responsibilities of the sponsoring organization, city staff, and the City Council, and specifies that approved designations would be recognized through the city website, standardized city hall signage, and official city communications channels.

Councilmember Liermann expressed strong support for the policy, sharing a personal account from a community member whose family member experiences sensory overstimulation at public events, illustrating the tangible quality-of-life benefit that such designations could provide. She cited several examples of organizations that could partner with the city on designations. Next, Councilmember Liermann proposed one amendment to the policy, which was the removal of "realistic for Maricopa," from item three under the community eligibility standards.

Councilmember Knorr sought and received clarification from Ms. Brown that city staff would actively assist applying organizations in understanding and adhering to the city's branding guidelines, rather than leaving organizations to navigate those standards independently.

A motion was made by Councilmember Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Wade, that this Resolution be Approved as Amended, which would remove the term "realistic for Maricopa," from the community standards section. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 7:15 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 5th day of May, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of May 2026.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk