



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Regular Meeting

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

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. Pastor Gary Williams from Journey Church in Maricopa gave the invocation and Councilmember Knorr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported participating in the Province candidate forum and thanked Bill Robertson for coordinating the event. He reported on the Pinal Board of Adjustments meeting of May 23rd and the Pinal County Partnership meeting on May 24th on mining operations. He stated he attended the flag raising ceremony on Memorial Day at the Veteran's Center. He reported meeting with City Manager Ben Bitter, Assistant City Manager Jennifer Brown and the Mayor to discuss the goals of the Senior Advisory Committee. Lastly, he announced that on June 21st the Senior Lunch & Learn would feature the Mayor as the guest speaker from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Councilmember Knorr reported participating in the Maricopa High School graduation ceremony, and the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce awards dinner.

Councilmember Wade gave information on the debutant's program and the Community Coalition for Change. He went on to discuss the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce award dinner and commended the award recipients.

Councilmember Goettl gave further information on the Community Coalition for Change to discuss three important community issues: feral cats, the teen center, and the homeless challenges. He invited non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations interested in joining the conversation to their next even in July 25th.

Councilmember Wade recognized that June was the beginning of of LGBTQ+ month.

Mayor Smith reported on the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) regional council and reported three guest that wanted to know more about the city were also in attendance. She reported attending the Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony. Next, she stated that she and Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Katy Proctor met with Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Director, Jennifer Toph and her staff to discuss State Route (SR) 347 and how all partners involved would understand and communicate the sequencing of the work on the SR. She added they also talked about all the traffic accidents on that road and how majority of the accidents were due to driver behavior. She stated she also attended the Maricopa Chamber of Commerce award ceremony and congratulated the winners and commended the event.

5. Report from the City Manager

No items were reported.

6. Call to the Public

Peg Chapados announced that the 4th annual Maricopa Main Street Marketplace was now open and accepting artisan applications. She stated it would be held Saturday, November 30th at Leading Edge Academy from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. She stated the event focused on homemade products and elaborated. She directed those interested to contact via Facebook. She acknowledged Lynn Bernier and Helen Brown as the lockbox program coordinators and announced that today they installed the 600th lockbox. She thanked Maricopa Fire/Medical Department, Fire Corps, YANA volunteers, Maricopa Police Department (PD) and everyone in Maricopa Seniors who make it happen.

Kent O'Jon gave an update on the Black Maricopa Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) and stated they were currently at 100 members. He invited the Mayor and Council to the following Juneteenth events: First event sponsored by Joanna Vanderpool on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at the Maricopa Library and Cultural Center, rooms Redwood A and B from 1 to 3 p.m. and the second event sponsored by Kingdom Weddings, Legacies and Events on Saturday, June 22 at the Central Arizona College (CAC) campus from 2 to 7 p.m. He noted both events were co-sponsored by BMCC.

Matthew Gallagher stated he and his wife operated the Field of Vision Academy micro-school. He gave information on micro-schools. He stated the academy was served with a notice of violation and asked to attain a zoning permit from the city to continue to operate the school, and failure to do so would result in a \$1,000 per day fine. He stated they met with Derek Scheer with the Development Services Department, and then came in to meet with a team from the same department. He stated that he learned that the city did not understand what a micro-school was and did not know how to regulate it, and so the city classified their micro-school as a traditional school which meant any amount more than five students would trigger an insurmountable list of requirements that micro-schools could not meet. He stated he believed city staff wanted to help, and they suggested changing the verbiage such as a tutoring center, facilitators, or a church. He stated the issue was that there was no 'other' category in city ordinances or city code. He stated this forced them to find a space to operate out of next year and they did not know any available spaces to rent in Maricopa that a micro school could afford. He asked city leaders to understand the value that micro-schools offer to the community and act decisively to form a task force to help with this problem. He stated he feared failure to do so would result in other micro schools having to face the same problem.

Terra Gallagher asked those present in support of micro schools to please stand and

a majority of the audience stood. She gave information on Field of Vision Academy and the students they service. She discussed the benefits of their services and the services they would lose if they couldn't continue operations.

Mayor Smith stated the Council started the dialogue today and noted she was pro school choice and it was important to find a solution. She directed them to meet with the team they had already met with and Maricopa Police Chief Goodman.

Kenneth stated that schools were doing summer breakfast and lunch for kids during summer break and encouraged the city do something to get involved. He stated Ak-Chin was offering summer movies and encouraged the city to offer summer programs.

Maricopa Police Community Support Specialist Jim DeVenezia provided history on the You Are Not Alone (YANA) program. He stated they currently had 11 volunteers and elaborated on the services they provide. He discussed a luncheon they held for seniors and acknowledged those who helped coordinate. He thanked everyone for the support.

Heather Michum stated she had a micro school student and spoke in support of micro schools. She discussed her son's experience in traditional school and his success in micro schools.

Sedrick with Maricopa Blaze Ministries asked how they could get on the list do the invocation at the council meetings. Mayor Smith directed him to contact her or her assistant Marlene Pearce.

Ocean Kent, founder of Ocean Industries gave information on her organization and stated she met with Vice Mayor Liermann and discussed seniors challenges with technology in particular. She stated her organization would like to put together a senior 101 technology class. She stated announcement would come soon.

Taylor Bayhart spoke in support of micro schools. She stated she was homeschooled and discussed her experience and success. She stated every single child was different and elaborated.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

- 7.1 [MIN 24-33](#) Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2024 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.
- These Minutes were Approved.**
- 7.2 [SPEVLIQ 24-04](#) 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 Roots Eatery to serve alcohol during a special event known as Great American 4th on July 4th, 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.

- 7.3 [ORD 24-06](#) An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, amending the zoning requirements as described in Zoning Case Planned Area Development (PAD) 23-06 for the Cortona PAD which is approximately 236 acres generally situated on the southeast corner of W. Farrell Rd. and N. Hartman Rd. within the City of Maricopa incorporated limits. The parcels of land are situated in a portion of Section 4, Township 5 South, Range 4 East of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Pinal County, Arizona. Discussion and Action.

This Ordinance was Approved.

8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings

- 8.1 [PRES 24-11](#) The Mayor and City Council shall hear a 2023 City of Maricopa Fire/Medical Department's Annual Report Presentation from Fire Chief Brad Pitassi. Discussion Only.

Maricopa Fire/Medical Department (MFMD) Chief, Brad Pitassi presented. He provided vital statistics including the total calls for service in 2023 (6,171), and the average response times. He detailed the total calls by month and the top complaints reported to dispatch in 2023. He discussed total hours of training completed in 2023 and the areas of focus. He went on to talk about fire prevention and community outreach. He stated they now have a Community Risk Reduction Specialist, Daniel and elaborated on what he does. Next, he discussed the Maricopa Fire Corps volunteers and what they provide. He talked about the new health and safety office and detailed what they provide for firefighters and the benefits. He then discussed the Fotokite Tethered Drone, its features, and how it can be used. He spotlighted the new administration positions and then highlighted there were 16 promotions of existing staff. He gave a sneak peek into 2024 and discussed the submission of the Certificate of Necessity (CON) application for ambulance services, and other highlights. He concluded his presentation and opened for comments.

Mayor Smith commended the MFMD on all their recent hires and expressed gratitude that the firefighters were being taken care of. She asked what the status was on the pre-emption signalization and if he could elaborate. Chief Pitassi explained that it was light on firetrucks that emits a signal that communicates with the traffic signals to turn the traffic lights in the path of the firetrucks green and all other lights in those intersections red. A brief discussion ensued.

Councilmember Goettl expressed gratitude for MFMD's level of service. He expressed his devotion for public safety. Chief Pitassi responded and commented on how PD and Fire in Maricopa work very well together.

Councilmember Marsh stated he experienced their level of service recently when he was injured and commended his team.

Councilmember Wade commended Chief Pitassi and his staff. He commended Community Risk Reduction Specialist, Daniel.

Vice Mayor Liermann congratulated all those promoted.

Councilmember Knorr reported visiting all fire stations and was present when a member of the community stopped by to thank them for their service they provided them.

Councilmember Manfredi thanked Chief Pitassi and all firefighters. He asked if he could expand on the new station going in the south of the city, the ambulance services, and the timeframes. Chief Pitassi explained they were starting to look at designs for the new fire station, and getting as prepared as possible at the department level and would make recommendations. He stated the ambulance services were moving very well and got feedback from the state on the first draft application. A brief discussion ensued.

The Presentation was heard.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was Adjourned at 7:22 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 4th day of June, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 18th day of June, 2024.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk