



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Nancy Smith
Vice-Mayor Rich Vitiello
Councilmember Eric Goettl
Councilmember Amber Liermann
Councilmember Bob Marsh
Councilmember Vincent Manfredi
Councilmember Henry M. Wade Jr.

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. Pastor Doug Munday with Cavalry Church of Maricopa gave the invocation and Councilmember Goettl led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

3.1 [PRES 23-13](#) The Mayor and City Council shall hear a presentation by Christian Price, President & CEO of the Maricopa Economic Development Alliance. Discussion only.

Maricopa Economic Development Alliance (MEDA) President/CEO, Christian Price presented their Annual Report. He detailed their Mission Statement and elaborated on what MEDA does. He reported their achievements and prospects for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. He discussed the identified challenges and what MEDA was doing to overcome them.

Councilmember Lierman inquired what square footage buildings were prospective businesses looking for. The answer was in the presentation. Councilmember Marsh commended Mr. Price on his presentation at the League of Cities and Towns Conference. Mayor Smith asked him to elaborate on how a master plan could help. Mr. Price elaborated.

The Presentation was heard.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Pinal County Plan Review hosted at City Hall, the Pinal County Partnership Breakfast' transportation meeting, the Senior Lunch & Learn, the Age-Friendly Committee meeting, the Pinal County Board of Adjustment meeting, an Arizona Commerce Authority event, and the League of Cities and Towns Conference. He elaborated on the conference and stated he focused on water, power and transportation. He commended the Youth Council, MEDA President Christian Price and Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Katy Proctor. Mayor Smith

commended Katy Proctor as well.

Councilmember Wade highlighted the Youth Council's attendance at the League of Cities and Towns Conference. He reported the opportunity to meet with African American elected officials and elaborated on diversity. Lastly, he reported on the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. He acknowledged the members of the African American community in the audience.

Councilmember Liermann acknowledged the veterans in the audience and stated she went to the Airforce Academy for parent weekend to visit her son. She elaborated and thanked the veterans present and the group of veterans that are working towards a place to recognize veterans.

Vice Mayor Vitiello reported on the League conference and stated he focused on public safety and elaborated on the safety of City of Maricopa and State Route (SR) 347.

Mayor Smith elaborated on speaking at the Pinal County Partnership Breakfast on transportation. She encouraged the community to reach out to legislators and senators to address the transportation gap and the City's transportation needs. Next, she announced the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on September 30th from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Veteran's Center. She stated proceeds would go the American Legion Auxiliary to aid and benefit Maricopa's veterans.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Horst turned over his time to Communications and Cultural Services Director, Quinn Konold. Mr. Konold gave information on the City's 20th Anniversary event, the Wild West Music Fest and the Trail to the 20th leading to the event. He stated the Train to the 20th would include a Western Movie Series each Monday at the Community Center from September 11th through October 9th at 1 p.m. for ages 55+, a Western Movie in the Park at Pacana Park on Saturday September 23, the Zephyr Grand Opening hosted by the Maricopa Museum and Visitor Center on Saturday, October 7th, and the Solar Eclipse viewing at the Maricopa Library & Cultural Center on Saturday, October 14th at 8 a.m. He discussed other community activities and events in celebration of the 20th anniversary including, the Wild West Quest, a time capsule and the Community Day Kick-off on October 15th. He gave details on the act line-up.

6. Call to the Public

Crystal O'Jon, owner of Maricopa Lifestyle Magazine, announced she would be running for Council and encouraged support.

Gretele R. expressed concerns that since the Copper Sky dog park closed, the interaction in the new parks was not the same. She stated there was no division for small and big dogs at the Pacana Dog Park and her dog was bit. She stated it was not clean, there were no picnic tables, insufficient lighting, an unused agility course and insufficient parking. She asked why the old dog park was still not torn down.

Mayor Smith clarified that the dog park at Pacana Park was still a work in progress, and a new area and amenities were still coming. She stated there would be another dog park in the Civic Center and another at Copper Sky. She stated City Manager Horst would be happy to respond to any question.

Tim Johnson reiterated the previous dog park concerns. He stated that the amount of

space was greatly reduced and asked that the concerns be addressed.

Rick Lutz also expressed concerns with the dog park including insufficient parking spaces, lack of shade, and no seating.

City Manager Horst explained that picnic tables and additional shade were already underway. He stated the latch had been fixed, but some issues were new and wanted a better understanding of those. He suggested the group pick a spokesperson or two to bring concerns forward.

Joe Thompson expressed concerns with the water fountain, parking, ants and mosquitoes. He stated the benches and amenities from the old park could be repurposed. He expressed concerns with the discrepancies in reported sizes for the dog park by two local reporters. He asked when the development would start at the old park. He asked if snowbirds were considered. He suggested establishing a dog-park advisory committee to avoid issues in the future. He expressed concerns with the lack of clean ups, inadequate trashcans and that an email be available to send concerns to. He also stated the entrance needed to be made ADA compliant.

Ignacio Acuna stated the park used to be great, but it had degraded. He expressed concerns with the maintenance and stated he wanted to put together a volunteer group to keep up the upkeep. He elaborated on his concerns.

Mayor Smith elaborated on the link that was provided for input on the dog park, she asked Mr. Lutz to be the spoke person and contact City Manager Horst.

Patrick McCobb with USA Energy Efficiency gave information on his business.

Ed Michael spoke in support of Agenda Item 8.1. He stated he was interested in what the selection process will be.

Christine Bolinger expressed concerns with LGBTQ+ books in the library. City Manager Host clarified that the question before was regarding displays, however those books were a segment of the community, and they had to be respected as residents as well. He stated the books were available for people to choose to read or not to read them and elaborated.

Aubrey Morris expressed concerns with the Wild West Music Fest and disagreed that Nelly and Flo-Rida had cross-over appeal and elaborated.

Kelly, Commander of Post 133 of the American Legion in charge of the Veteran Center gave information on upcoming events including the Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, the potlucks the second Saturday of the month at 5 p.m. for veterans and their families. He stated they would also have a 9/11 Flag Raising Ceremony at 8 a.m. He stated they would also host a First Responder BBQ on September 23rd at 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. for veterans, first responders and their families. Lastly, he stated they would also have an American Legion Craft Fair on October 28th and a car show on October 29th. He reminded everyone that Veteran's Day was coming up and the Parade Committee was already meeting.

Antonia Presume spoke in support of LGBTQ+ books in the library. She stated it was nobody's responsibility but her own, on what her family chose to read.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

- 7.1 [SUB 23-03](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on approving a one (1) time six (6) month extension of final plat approval case # SUB21-48, The Trails Phase 2A and 2B Final Plats. Discussion and Action.
- This Subdivision was Approved.**
- 7.2 [CON 23-25](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow Instructions with Outside the Box Marketing, Inc., related to the sale of approximately 1 acre of real property generally located on the north east corner of Maricopa Rd. and W Mercado St. for \$326,700.00 and authorizing the City Manager to execute this agreement, any future amendments to extend the Closing as he deems necessary and any closing documents related thereto. Discussion and Action.
- This Contract was Approved.**
- 7.3 [IGA 23-15](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) along the Maricopa Road alignment, west of the State Route 347 overpass. Discussion and Action.
- This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.**
- 7.4 [SUB22-46](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve Subdivision case # SUB22-46, a Final Plat for Moonlight Parcel P. Discussion and Action.
- This Subdivision was Approved.**
- 7.5 [RES 23-47](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, accepting public improvements and maintenance responsibility for southbound lanes and median of Porter Rd. between Smith Enke and Honeycutt. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.6 [MIN 23-45](#) Approval of Minutes from the August 15, 2023 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.
- The Minutes were Approved.**
- 7.7 [CON 23-29](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approval of a Presiding Judge Agreement with Stephen McCarville. Discussion and Action.
- This Contract was Approved.**
8. **Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings**
- 8.1 [CON 23-30](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approving a third amendment to the Employment Agreement with Ricky Horst. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Wade commended City Manager Horst and spoke in support of the agreement.

Mayor Smith asked for an amendment of the job description on the 4th paragraph, second line that reads "Work is performed with independence, initiative, and wide latitude for judgement allowing sovereignty to carry out policy decisions and goals as set forth by the city strategic plan and as assigned." She asked that it read, "Work is performed with independence, initiative, and wide latitude for judgement allowing sovereignty to carry out policy decisions and goals as set forth by the City Council and aligned to the city's strategic plan." She stated she had some conversation on why a Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) and stated the City of Mesa and City of Tempe had something similar and elaborated on the benefits of the position.

Councilmember Manfredi discussed the city manager recruitment process, he stated this position would allow 11 months to recruit while still having City Manager Horst on board. He commended Mr. Horst. He asked if the city was allowed to not post the job listing. Mr. Fitzgibbons responded it was allowed.

Lori Wilson expressed concerns that the position was not budgeted and was not part of the budgeting process and elaborated on zero based budgets. She stated that money could hire firemen or police officers. She elaborated on concerns that \$174,500.00 was too much and did not need to be done today.

Mayor Smith responded, the decision did not need to be done today and elaborated on the recruitment process to fill the City Manager position. She stated there were funds that were saved and into the CIP. She stated the job alone had the potential to bring significantly more revenue and elaborated. She stated she did not foresee any cuts to public safety or the library due to this position. Vice Mayor Vitiello elaborated on the reserved funds and being fiscally responsible. Councilmember Manfredi elaborated.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Wade, that this Contract be Approved as Amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Amber Liermann, to move in to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Adjournment

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 September, 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 19th day of September, 2023.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk