



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 AnnaMarie Knorr
Councilmember Vincent Manfredi
Councilmember Bob Marsh
Councilmember Henry Wade

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. Pastor Kevin Teeling with the Door Church of Maricopa gave the invocation and Vice Mayor Liermann 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

3.1 PROC 24-03 EMS Appreciation Week Proclamation

Mayor Smith read the proclamation and proclaimed the week of May 19-25, 2024, as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. Maricopa Fire/Medical Department Chief Pitassi and EMS staff accepted the proclamation.

3.2 PRES 24-10 Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy (MCLA) Spring 2024 Session Acknowledgement

Communications Coordinator, Luis Vila gave information on the Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy (MCLA). He presented certificates to the following Spring 2024 session graduates: William Ross, Zariah Vasquez, Yanni Daskalakis, Velia Duran, Leon Potter, Ruby Gorule, Russell Miller, Robert Klob, Chad Binder, Dorothy Welsh, Katie Starnes, Justin Lawrence, Jarriet Pheps, Patricia Hesse, Ilani Alexander, James Maynars, Don Reese, Betty McGee, and Amanda Atler.

The Presentation was heard.

3.3 PRES 24-01 The Mayor and City Council shall hear a presentation by Pinal Partnership President and CEO, Tony Smith, on Pinal Partnership activities.

Pinal Partnership President and CEO, Tony Smith, presented. He stated that Pinal Partnership was a non-profit 501 c(6) organization. He stated that the c(6) designation allowed them to do some limited lobbying efforts. He stated they currently had 24 board of directors and over 200 members including municipalities in Pinal County. He went on to present their mission. He stated that they accomplished their mission by

having their monthly breakfast event to inform and communicate important issues.

He went on to state that they had committees that informed or developed actions to be considered by policymakers. He stated that some of their recent topics included Mayor and City Manager updates, Water Management, Elliott Pollack's 2024 Market Forecast, Transportation, and Pinal County in the news. He went on to discuss some topics that would go on future agendas. He stated that they had various committees to cover a number of important topics, which included Economic Development, Government Relations, Transportation/Infrastructure, Business and Education, Water Resources, Health and Human Services, Open Space and Trails, and Renewable Energy.

Mr. Smith went on to discuss past project involvement which included providing assistance in the 2022 transportation election ballot issue, partnered with Pinal County to help create interactive map viewers and printing updated wall maps. Current projects included renewing the existing ½ cent Transportation Maintenance Fund, the fall 2024 golf tournament and launch the 2024 "Emerging Leaders Initiative" with networking events and forums. Vice-Mayor Liermann and Councilmember Marsh commended and thanked Mr. Smith. Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation.

The Presentation was heard.

3.4 PRES 24-09

The Mayor and City Council shall hear a presentation from Global Water Resources.

Global Water Vice-President and Regional Manager, Jon Corwin, introduced Andrew Miller who recently joined their team as Regional Manager. Mr. Miller went over some 2023 highlighted projects. He talked about growth going on in Maricopa and stated that summer demand went up 30% from 2021 to 2023, construction water use was up 250% from summer 2022 to 2023. He added that although they have seen tremendous growth, Global Water has been able to meet the demand seamlessly. There were no interruptions in services. He went on to discuss some projects that were recently completed. One of those projects was the completion of a portable water production well that would add 1.7M of gallons a day in production capacity. He stated that they had done some odor control enhancements which included enhanced odor mitigation to help decrease the amount of hydrogen sulfide that contributes to odors and deterioration in the system. They have also worked on the Ak-Chin easement with obtained approval from the Ak-Chin Council and was currently going through the final approval process from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). He stated the line would service the area along State Route (SR) 238 to APEX. Another highlight discussed was the southwest area re-commissioning to provide service to the area south of our city limits off Papago Road. He stated they improved some pumps in Rancho Mirage which included upgrading four booster pumps, increased pumping capacity and system resiliency and minimize fluctuating pressures that contributed to main breaks. He went on to discuss planned projects for 2024 which included the Terrazzo Uranium Treatment, which completed in March of 2024. The facility treats natural occurring uranium found in the system. He stated that they were also commissioning the Sorrento Well which was rated for 1.1 million gallons/day. Next, he stated that they planned on working on their Sewer Screening Initiative which would catch most, if not all, the items that clogged up their system like baby wipes, clorox wipes, etc. before it entered their system. He discussed the southwest Maricopa infrastructure expansion for the Lowes development which included working on a sewer line extension, lift station, and a water main extension.

Jon Corwin discussed the rate case. He stated that the necessity was to keep up with the City's exponential growth. He stated that inflation impacted the rates, and the

current rates were based on the 2019 costs. He stated that the southwest plant activation also impacted the rates. He went on to provide a timeline process with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for the rate case. He stated that they anticipated filing in January 2025 and it would work its way through the process but did not anticipate any new rate implementation until June 2026, if approved by the ACC. He went on to discuss the public outreach process. He then updated on water resources. He stated that the Designation of Assured Water Supply (DAWS), which was the water supply they have to service the community. He stated that they had 22,914-acre feet available. Last year they used approximately 8,707 acre feet. He stated that they have been working on customer conservation tools which included sending out lead alerts saving an estimated 13.3 gallons of water in 2023. Another thing that they offered were Smartscape and Groundwater classes where 164 community members attended. Another project that they were excited about was a Groundwater Recharge Facility, which would help take the excess recycled water that they have in the winter months and put it back in the ground to get credit. Those credits could then be used for future growth. He highlighted their customer assistance program. He stated that they offered \$700 in annual assistance if eligible.

Councilmember Wade commended Global Water's staff for their customer assistance program.

Councilmember Manfredi stated that he appreciated the communication regarding the rate case and for letting the public know almost 2 years in advance.

Councilmember Liermann and Mayor Smith also thanked Global Water's staff.

The Presentation was heard.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh congratulated Maricopa in the announcement that population was over 70,000. He reported attending the You Talk, We Listen presentation, the Asian Seoul ribbon cutting ceremony, and reported giving a tour of the Desert Cedar track, that was converted to xeriscape, to Global Water's Conservation Specialist. He reported attending the 40th anniversary for the Hope Women's Center with his wife, then the Pinal Water Augmentation Authority's board meeting, and speaking to the Maricopa Citizen's Leadership Academy. He reported on his sponsored Senior Lunch and Learn, on his participation at The Way Wellness Center ribbon cutting ceremony, and attending the Senior Advisory Committee meeting. Lastly, he announced the next Senior Lunch and Learn would be on June 21st and would feature Mayor Smith as the guest speaker.

Councilmember Goettl reported touring the Hope Women's Center for their 40th anniversary and gave information on the non-profit organization. He reported attending the Community Emergency Response Team's (CERT) graduation as well as the graduation of three Maricopa Fire/Medical recruits. He acknowledged the recruits. Lastly, he stated he toured the Boys and Girls Club of the Sun Corridor in Casa Grande and hoped those services expanded to Maricopa.

Councilmember Wade reported attending the Senior Night at Maricopa High School and commended the youth. He stated he also attended the Black Student Union graduation ceremony and elaborated on the organization.

Councilmember Knorr reported that there were many graduations happening this week. She mentioned that Maricopa High School had approximately 600 students graduating

and asked for patience when dealing with the resulting traffic.

Councilmember Manfredi extended his congratulations to all graduates. He reported on various Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) meetings and talked about growth.

Mayor Smith reported participating in the ribbon cutting for Asian Seoul Copa Kitchen and The Way Wellness Center. She reported attending the preschool graduation at Molly's House of Little Feet. She acknowledged the members of the 347facts.com group and elaborated on what they do. She commended the public engagement and advocating, and lastly shared information on the Shred-A-Ton.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Ben Bitter reported that the State Route (SR) 347 widening project was near completion, within city limits, and would now move to the next phase to the intersection of Smith-Enke and SR 347. He stated that they hoped to get more cars through that intersection soon. Next, he reported speaking at the Leadership Academy and noted what great community leaders we have in Maricopa.

6. Call to the Public

Patrick McCobb introduced Terry Oldfield, who initially proposed the Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Oldfield gave information on the purpose of the Veteran's Memorial Park and the process. He thanked the council for their support and for funding the memorial. They asked veteran's to stand for recognition.

Cedrick Brown stated he was a new resident and stated he wanted to come together to do something for the children of our community.

Lisa Whitefield stated she was a nurse practitioner and owned a mobile medical care business. She stated her brick-and-mortar business was in Tempe but was hoping to get something in Maricopa.

Bishop Dion Hill with Blaze Christian Development Ministries stated their ministry had just started at La Quinta Hotel and gave information.

A member from the Veteran's Foreign Wars (VFW) invited everyone for the Memorial Day Flag Raising Ceremony 8 a.m. on Monday, May 27 at the Veteran's Center.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Henry Wade, seconded by Councilmember Bob Marsh, to Adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

7.1 SUB 23-12

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve Subdivision Case # SUB23-12, Final Plat for Ironwood Ranch Apartments, a request for final plat approval to combine +/- 13.92 acres of land into one (1) Lot. Discussion and Action.

This Subdivision was Approved.

- 7.2 [ORD 24-04](#) An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting the document filed with the City Clerk and entitled "Amendments to Section 18.90.030: Landscaping, General Requirements" by reference to amend that Section of the Maricopa City Code and providing for severability and the effective date thereof. Discussion and Action.

This Ordinance was Approved.

- 7.3 [IGA 24-08](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), for the construction of Murphy Road and Hartman Road from the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) boundary to Honeycutt Road. Discussion and Action.

This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.

- 7.4 [ORD 24-05](#) An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting the document filed with the City Clerk and entitled "Amendments to Section 5.15.060: Massage Establishments, Special Requirements" by reference to amend that section of the Maricopa City Code and providing for severability and the effective date thereof. Discussion and Action.

This Ordinance was Approved.

- 7.5 [RES 24-20](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, approving and adopting the First Amendment to the Development Incentive Agreement between the City of Maricopa, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 1, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 2, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 3, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 4, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 5, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 6, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, TTRG AZ Maricopa Honeycutt 7, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and Thompson Thrift Development, Inc., an Indiana corporation in compliance with A.R.S. §9-500.05. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

- 7.6 [MIN 24-32](#) Approval of Minutes from the May 7, 2024 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

8. **Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings**

- 8.1 [APP 24-05](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on making appointments to fill the vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Wade nominated Dr. William Ross and Mayor Smith nominated Adam Leach to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Vice Mayor Liermann, that the nominees be Appointed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- 8.2 [APP 24-06](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on making an appointment

to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Wade nominated Maurice Thomas to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

A motion was made by Councilmember Marsh, seconded by Councilmember Manfredi, that the nominee be Appointed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.3 **MISC 24-14**

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on an Ethics Violation Formal Complaint dated April 23, 2024, based on Section 2.30.040 of the City Code. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Knorr stated that based on her review of previous council's actions, the ethics code was meant to be used by council to bring up ethics issues amongst themselves. She explained the community had the ability to elect and recall councilmembers. She expressed concerns that if the ethics process was opened to everyone, then it would cost the city upward of \$5,000. She reiterated that in her opinion, the previous council direction was to use the ethics code to address ethic issues among themselves.

Councilmember Goettl stated one of the responsibilities of the council was to review the ethics code and pledge to follow the code. He explained that when he read the code it was clear to him that it was meant to be an internal check and balance for the council. He stated the proper channel would be a recall or voting someone out of office.

Councilmember Wade stated he thought about it carefully and agreed with Councilmember Knorr that the recall process was available to the community.

Councilmember Marsh stated that there was a way for the public to use the ethics code. He explained they could talk to a member of council and that member could file the complaint. Councilmember Goettl concurred.

Councilmember Manfredi recused himself from the discussion.

Vice Mayor Liermann stated she was present at the previous meeting when the ethics code was discussed and that there was a consensus at that time that the process was not meant to be used by a third party. She agreed with the consensus and made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Wade, to not accept the ethics complaint received on April 23, 2024.

Mayor Smith elaborated on her State of the City Address speech on civility. Councilmember Wade stated the City of Maricopa set the standard. Councilmember Goettl recommended directing staff to clarify the code. Mayor Smith clarified that at the previous meeting in May of 2020 Council directed staff to change the code, with redlines available, it just never made it's way back for council approval.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Wade, to dismiss the ethic complaint filed on April 23, 2024 and was Amended to include direction to staff to clarify the section of the code that states who can file a complaint. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bob Marsh, Councilmember Eric Goettl, Mayor Nancy Smith, Councilmember Henry Wade, Vice Mayor Amber Liermann and Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr

Recused: 1 - Councilmember Vincent Manfredi

9. Executive Session

There was no executive session held in this meeting.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was Adjourned at 8:04 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 21st day of May, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2024.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk