



City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final 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, June 18, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. Maricopa Spring Church's Pastor, Grady Root gave the invocation and Councilmember Manfredi 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 attending the Maricopa Flood Control District meeting and elaborated on the organization. He reported that on June 12th along with other council members, he attended the session You Talk, We Listen. He elaborated on the speaker, the head of the Pinal Health Council for Senior Citizens, and stated they provide services to seniors throughout Pinal County including free Meals on Wheels with home delivery to over 50 people here in Maricopa and respite support to home givers. He added they currently manage more than 80 cases here in Maricopa and are involved with 10 senior centers in Maricopa and Pinal County. Next, he reported attending the Flag Day flag-raising ceremony hosted by local chapters of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) at the Community Center along with the mayor and other council members. He reported yesterday, he and Councilmember Goettl attended the Senior Advisory Committee meeting where the Community Center Manager, Chance Love presented the city's plan for the January 18th, 2025 Senior Info/Expo. He stated he presented the committees fiscal year 2025 goals on tonight's agenda, and noted the committee approved the recommendation to council unanimously. He went on to report that along with the mayor and several other council members, he attended a presentation of the city's current vision for redesigning the old police station for use as a Maricopa Arts Center with a capacity of 200 plus people. Next, gave a reminder of the Senior Lunch & Learn on Friday, June 21st that would feature Mayor Smith. He stated the July Lunch & Learn would feature City Manager Bitter and in August it would be Vice Mayor Liermann. Lastly, he ended with bad news that the state legislature ended their session this past weekend approving a budget that delayed the Riggs Road interchange project until 2028.

Councilmember Knorr reported attending the Maricopa Chamber Breakfast where Christian Price presented on the importance of economic development and noted it was a packed house. She reported also attending the Flag Day ceremony and commended the event. Lastly, she stated she was still part of the Maricopa Unified School District (MUSD) governing board through December, and stated the board referred a bond to give the voters the opportunity to support building new schools that are necessary for growth.

Councilmember Manfredi stated everyone has worked hard to fix our transportation issues and reported attending a Maricopa Alliance of Governments (MAG) Transportation Infrastructure Committee meeting. He discussed the funding that Bret Roberts and Teresa Martinez secured for the Riggs Road overpass and reported there was a possibility that we would lose all that money, or that it wouldn't be allocated to us anymore, but Representative Teresa Martinez stood up and made sure that, although it's being moved to 2028, it's still allocated to the project. He thanked the representative and stated there was also supplemental funding provided for the State Route (SR) 347 project design which included \$1.5 million for right-of-way easements related to the Riggs Road overpass and emphasized its importance. He explained it ensured the Riggs Road project wouldn't die or wait entirely until 2028. He stated there was also \$1.9 million for widening and intersection improvements on the 347 and explained why it was a good thing. He discussed possible improvements at the cement plant road as well as Casa Blanca. He elaborated on the state budget and funding being moved to 2028 and noted it could have been worse without Intergovernmental Affairs Director, Katy Proctor, staff, council and more importantly without the hundreds and hundreds of letters sent out, not just to the governor, but to legislators, through 347Facts.com. He encouraged people to visit the website and fill out the letters and reported there had been over 700 letters sent out and emphasized their importance.

Councilmember Wade recognized that tomorrow was Juneteenth and gave information on the holiday. He reported on event on Saturday at the library in recognition of Juneteenth and acknowledged Johanna Vanderpool for putting together the event for several years. He noted Mrs. Vanderpool was not doing well and asked for prayers as she was servant for the community. He stated there would be another event on the 22nd at Central Arizona College (CAC) at 3:00 pm. and another at Province, tomorrow June 19th, and he would be the guest speaker. He encouraged participation.

Vice Mayor Liermann reported attending the Flag Day ceremony and commended the event. She reported also attending the You Talk, We Listen event and welcomed Ana Medina as President/CEO of the Pinal/Gila Council for Seniors. She stated several community members had expressed gratitude for the non-stop right turn lane out of Rancho El Dorado. Lastly, she thanked everyone who came out to honor her son on June 7th at the second annual Trey Liermann 7 on 7 in Big Man Competition. She stated the goal was to raise enough money to send six student athletes to football camp and they achieved that goal. She thanked everyone and stated they raised \$987 and most importantly the kids had a great time.

Mayor Smith asked the members of the 347facts.com who were present to stand for acknowledgement and commended the approximately 700 letters sent out. She reiterated that the letters do not only go to the governor's office, but additionally to 98 different representatives of the state such as senators, governor's office, and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) board members. She commented on the feedback from Representative Martinez. She stated Councilmember Manfredi made a social media post about the state budget and encouraged everyone to the website,

and that day approximately 100 letters were sent out. She discussed the funding moved to 2028 and explained it was because ADOT said they were not ready for the funds and commended them for acknowledging that, so therefore they moved them. She stated it was painful but understood it. Next, she reported she and City Manager Bitter met with Congressman Greg Stanton and Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Andrew Baker to sign a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) to allocate \$6.5 million for an aquifer recharge project within the city and in partnership with Global Water. She discussed why that was important. She went on to report that, along with Vice Mayor Liermann, she attended an evening with women veterans in Maricopa and was touched by their stories of heroism. She stated she also attended the 7 on 7 and Big Man Competition in honor of Trey Liermann and commended the event. Latly, she congratulated the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduating class and gave information on the volunteer program.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Bitter reported two items. First, he discussed the city's investment on infrastructure and stated that he did some calculations with Chief Financial Officer/Deputy City Manager Matt Kozlowski, and the city spent more on capital projects and infrastructure in the last four years than the previous 17 combined. He said, more importantly, based off of the next fiscal year plan, he would likely at that point next year, be able to say we've spent more in the last three years than the previous 18 combined. He stated that was the amount of focus on improving the infrastructure within our community and ensuring that the roads were going to meet the needs for the community. Secondly, he reported on the opportunity to sit down with a young man from the community named Cameron Parker. He gave background information on Mr. Parker and stated he had a great passion for public service, and they discussed how to be a community champion as an individual within our community. He stated that he expected that he'll likely be a citizen leadership applicant here in the coming months and commended his strive to serve and make the community better.

6. Call to the Public

Representative Teresa Martinez provided an update on the Arizona State approved budget as it relates to funding for State Route (SR) 347. She stated that when she found out about the budget cuts, she had some choice words and a lot of passionate conversations with some folks. She went on to say, that once she calmed down, there were some serious conversations. She started off with the good news that the project for Casa Blanca and Cement Road were moving quickly, and that there was a shortfall, which the state of Arizona said they were going to take care of. She stated the Interstate I-10 project was also on track. Next, she discussed funding that former Representative, Brett Roberts, secured. She gave a brief background on her involvement since she took on the role and how she found out that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) had not even selected a contractor yet in two years. She stated the reality was that the state budget was at 18 billion when she first got there, and today it was 16 billion, so they were able to cut down and whittle the state budget down \$2,000,000 which was important. Next, she discussed SR 347 and stated ADOT was not ready to move on that project and elaborated. She stated they pushed the project out to fiscal year (FY) 28. She stated she did not know what next year's budget would say, but her goal was to get ADOT and the money at the same point, so that when ADOT is ready to move the money is there. She assured everyone that the money was not gone, and legally that money was going to be there. She stated the good news, that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) was probably

going to pass their half-cent sales tax and that the funding was there. She reported that what works with ADOT, was to keep on them and so she wanted to put together a committee. She requested members of the City Council, James Singleton from 347facts.com, somebody from the chamber, and a couple of people from the public to join her in August. She stated the committee's purpose would be to help ADOT and that to coach them, was going to take a village. She encouraged those interested in helping and being part of this August meeting, to call her at (520) 709-2311.

Barry McCain stated that it has been a bad year for Maricopa and Pinal County with the state and told Representative Martinez he was there for her. He discussed his legislative and public service background. He stated he was a write-in candidate for Pinal County Board of Supervisors. Next, he expressed concerns about cronyism. He stated cronyism was bad for the economy because it was about relationships, rather than qualifications or education. He stated it was the worst thing in this country and was a bad thing and had to be addressed. He stated democracy cannot exist in backroom deals, and there must be free speech. He stated that as an activists and freedom rider, since 2020, it was important because that was why we had such a rough time this year at the capitol, and there were so many lawsuits. He commended Representative Martinez for her dedication. He thanked the council for their time.

Becky Clark requested an apology be made to her husband, Terry Clark, and herself both in writing and at a public City Council meeting for the method of misinformation provided by City Manager, City Clerk, and reviewed by the City Council and the City Attorney. She stated it was mishandled at every level and should not have been placed on the 5/21/24 agenda. item 8.3. She stated Terry contacted Mayor Smith on an e-mail and was directed to contact City Manager Ben Bitter for direction on filing an ethics violation. She stated City Manager Bitter responded on an e-mail what to do, and attached the form to fill out, and submit the form on that e-mail. The email was copied (cc'd) to the City Council and City Attorney, Tina Vannucci. She stated there was nothing stated "for internal use only" on the form, or any statement that clarified the in-house intention referenced on the video of May 21st. She stated Councilman Goettl stated it was his responsibility to review and apparently was not and had not been accomplished by City Council or staff since the May 2020 meeting that was referenced. She stated not one person on the Council or city staff contacted Terry to let him know the form was intended for internal use and should not have been emailed to him, or what the proper procedure was, therefore the form and method in question should be accepted as valid until it's been changed. She stated the change apparently was not important enough to accomplish until the August meeting, and that any ethics violations submitted prior to changing the form to "internal use only" be valid. She stated Councilmember Knorr stated investigations cost \$5,000 or more, when the violation had already been corroborated by 5 people at this point, directly to three council members in person. She stated at the Province town hall, Mayor Smith said the complaint was invalid, unfounded and denied and was covered by in Maricopa publicly. She stated an apology was in order. In closing, she thanked the council for their time in allowing her to address this injustice and hope it was corrected so other city of Maricopa residents did not have to face the public scrutiny for following their direction, and then being told they were wrong. She asked that they please have the honor to admit the mistake and the integrity to correct it.

Ron Angerame thanked the City Council. He discussed SR 347 and thanked everybody for their hard efforts including Representative Teresa Martinez, Intergovernmental Affairs Director Katy Proctor, and Councilmember Manfredi. He reminded them that June 21st would be the last public opportunity to comment on the final acceptance of ADOT's five-year plan. He encouraged everybody to participate in

the critical meeting, and to really take some time to develop a presentation full of facts, figures, and stats to have an impact on the ADOT board members. He stated he was planning to participate and would talk about all the accidents on 347 in the last four weeks. He reported there had been four accidents on 347 on June 7th, May 29th, May 22nd, and May 14th. He stated that if they delayed the improvements on 347 from 2026 to 2028 that would be two years, and about 104 accidents per weeks based on how we're averaging so far. He stated that could mean 104 accidents that could be avoided if the original timeline was not changed. He encouraged each and every one to take some time this week put together a factual presentation to be impactful on the last chance for public input.

Kenneth discussed education and lunch programs. He stated he would like to partner with the city with his non-profit.

Leon Potter stated he would like to remind City Council of the code of ethics, Chapter 2.0, of the Maricopa city code, "Councilmembers have a duty to report violations of the code of ethics or any misconduct that raises a substantial question as to a member's integrity or fitness as a public official. Council shall serve as a committee of the whole for purposes of code of ethics enforcement, which includes a reasonable process for investigating complaints that affords the subject of a complaint a full and fair opportunity to be heard. The city benefits from formal and informal reporting procedures that encourage prompt resolution of grievances and concerns." He thanked Council for their time.

Pastor Dion of Blaze Ministries gave information on their ministry. He reported on their membership growth within a year and discussed their purpose.

Former Councilmember Rich Vitiello, representing the Maricopa Pantry, stated he was selling 50-50 raffle tickets. He stated that about a year and a half ago, the food bank building burned down out in Hidden Valley. He reported that just this weekend they served 1,900 people. He stated the raffle tickets were \$20 each and provided his phone number (480) 358-8051 for those interested. He stated it could be paid through Venmo, or he could pick up the money. He stated the raffle tickets winners would be drawn on the 30th of this month, attendance was not necessary, at Raceway.

Seth Brown, member of Blaze Ministries thanked the council and Councilmember Wade for being so nice. He stated he would like to see us come together as one, and invited council members to their service to see what they were behind. He discussed some of their recent activities and reiterated the invitation.

Paul Golden stated he was a recent Maricopa resident and provided his personal background. He expressed national level concerns with high taxes and people losing their homes as a result. He stated at the local level, he would like to have a local radio station because Facebook was not enough to get the message across. He stated people would respond better.

7. Consent Agenda

Councilmember Manfredi requested to pull Agenda Item 7.10 from consent.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Bob Marsh, to Adopt the Consent Agenda except Agenda Item

7.10. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 7.1 [MOU 24-03](#) The City Council shall discuss and take action to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pinal County, a political subdivision of the State of Arizona, by and through the Pinal County Sheriff's Office ("PCSO") and City of Maricopa, a municipal corporation, by and through the Maricopa Police Department ("Local Agency") for administering the 9-1-1 System Services billing and payment process. Discussion and Action.
- This Memorandum of Understanding was Approved.**
- 7.2 [RES 24-22](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, approving and adopting a Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) Pension Funding Policy. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.3 [RES 24-23](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, supporting the submission of a grant application to the Ak Chin Indian Community for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Sun Corridor and agreeing to act as the designated fiscal agent of such funding. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.4 [RES 24-24](#) 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 Santa Rosa Springs Parcel 4, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.5 [RES 24-25](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, accepting public improvements and maintenance responsibility for half street improvements of Lexington Ave. and Edison Rd from Roosevelt Ave. to Rio Drive constructed by Paragon Hampton Edison LLC, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.6 [RES 24-26](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, accepting public improvements and maintenance responsibility for half street improvements of Loma Rd from State Route 238 to south boundary of Lot 2 of West Maricopa Village, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.7 [RES 24-27](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, restating the requirements for members of the Senior Advisory Committee and updating the goals for the Committee. Discussion and Action.
- This Resolution was Approved.**
- 7.8 [RES 24-28](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, restating the requirements for members of the Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee and updating the goals for the Committee. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

- 7.9 [RES 24-29](#) A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, restating the requirements for members and the goals of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

- 7.11 [CON 24-55](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on executing the Participation Co-op Agreement with Pinal County for FY 2025-2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding. Discussion and Action.

This Contract was Approved.

- 7.12 [ORD 24-07](#) An Ordinance of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, levying separate amounts to be raised for primary and secondary property tax levies upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of the assessed valuation of property subject to taxation within the City of Maricopa for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Discussion and Action.

This Ordinance was Approved.

- 7.13 [MIN 24-36](#) Approval of Minutes from the June 4, 2024 City Council Special and Regular meetings. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.**8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings**

- 7.10 [CON 24-19](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Maricopa Unified School District, related to the purchase of 24.2 acres of real property generally located on the northeast and southeast corner of W. Rancho El Dorado Parkway and W. Placone Lane, Maricopa, Pinal County, Arizona, Assessor Parcel Nos. 510-12-001K and 510-12-001L, for \$3,880,000.00, and authorizing the City Manager to execute any future amendments to extend the Closing as he deems necessary and any closing documents related thereto. Discussion and Action.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Wade, that this Contract be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Recused: 1 - Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr

- 8.1 [PRES 24-12](#) The Mayor and City Council shall hear a presentation from Organizational Performance Director, Josh Bowman on a transit overview presentation including transit options and a grant transition plan. Presentation and Discussion only.

Organizational Performance Director, Josh Bowman presented an update on transit. He explained that transit and transportation were often confused and clarified it strictly was the Maricopa Express Transit (MET). He provided history on the transit services in Maricopa. He provided overview of the current operations, including the fixed route and

the 2 dial-a-ride vans. He stated there was a mobile application (app) launched for the dial-a-ride that would increase numbers. He discussed funding including the current grant, and then the potential new grant. He detailed the current cost of operating the services. He discussed service needs and request from seniors. He discussed the options that have been explored including the pros and cons: Expanding, which was not currently recommended. Outsourcing, which was also not currently recommended. Stopping Services was also not currently recommended. Modify funding was also not currently recommended. He elaborated on Grants 5310 and 5307. He discussed other available programs and opened for comments.

Councilmember Goettl thanked Mr. Bowman for the presentation. Mr. Goettl asked if the 5310 grant would allow to expand services to Tortosa. Mr. Bowman confirmed it would.

Mayor Smith asked for clarification of grant 5307 and what trails meant. Mr. Bowman stated that trails that would connect to the bus stop. Mayor Smith stated she liked the rider choice and would like to explore that. She stated she heard seniors would like the opportunity to get rides at night. Mr. Bowman discussed the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) study and stated routes would be a big topic. He stated he would be coming back to present findings of the study. Mayor Smith stated she appreciated the information and looked forward to the information.

The Presentation was heard.

9. Executive Session

There was no executive session conducted.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was Adjourned at 7:30 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 18th day of June, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 16th day of July, 2024.

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk