



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Regular Meeting

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

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A moment of silence was held in lieu of an invocation, which was followed by Vice Mayor Wade leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Liermann joined the meeting telephonically.

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

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

3.1 [PROC 25-06](#) Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Smith invited Brianna Reinhold from Northern Lights Therapy to join her, but noted Ms. Reinhold was delayed due to traffic. Mayor Smith proceeded to read the proclamation, declaring May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Maricopa. The proclamation highlighted the importance of mental health awareness, reducing stigma, and promoting access to mental health services.

Read

3.2 [PROC 25-07](#) National Water Safety Month Proclamation

Mayor Smith, while being joined by Councilmember Knorr, and various other representatives, read the proclamation declaring May 2025 as National Water Safety Month in Maricopa. The proclamation emphasized the importance of water safety education and drowning prevention. Councilmember Knorr spoke about the formation of the Maricopa Water Safety Alliance, a collaborative effort among various community groups to promote water safety year-round. She invited anyone interested to get involved with this initiative.

Read

3.3 [PRES 25-04](#) Maricopa Citizens Leadership Academy (MCLA) Spring 2025 Session

Acknowledgement.

Luis Villa, Communications Coordinator, presented the 25th session of the Maricopa Citizen Leadership Academy. Mr. Villa announced that the academy had been approved by the Arizona Department of Education as a program for Maricopa High School students to earn their seal of civics literacy. He mentioned that the next session would be held in September and encouraged interested individuals to subscribe to the city newsletter for updates. He called up all 27 graduating individuals to receive their certificate and take a group photo.

The Presentation was heard.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Pinal County Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon in Florence on April 16, where he gathered to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers across the county. He also reported participating in a Seniors Lunch and Learn session at the Community Center, which was hosted by Tom Rein to provide valuable information to the attendees. On April 21, he reported being present at a Senior Advisory Committee Meeting where Ron Smith shared insights into the dementia-friendly city program, aiming to better serve members of the community affected by dementia. On May 5, he reported attending a Pinal Partnership Water Resource Committee Meeting, which focused on removing "poison pills" from some water bills they are supporting and collaborating with local representatives such as Representative Martinez and Senator TJ Shope. Next, Councilmember Marsh reminded everyone of the upcoming Shred-a-thon event on May 10, set to take place in the MUSD parking lot. Lastly, he shared that the next Senior Advisory Committee Meeting is expected on May 19.

Councilmember Knorr shared that she attended the Western Way Energy Meeting held in Casa Grande. During this meeting, she learned that about the energy needs that currently exist, the energy demands that we are going to see over the next 10 years, and how renewable energy can play into that, and she also toured a solar farm. Additionally, Councilmember Knorr also reported participating in the Maricopa Unified School District Bond Accountability Meeting, ensuring transparency and proper use of funds gathered through the bond. On May 3, she reported being at the Chamber of Commerce's Fairway to Success Golf Putt-Putt Event, enjoying the community's initiative to engage people through sports. Additionally, Councilmember Knorr talked about the upcoming Maricopa Art Committee's MAC at MAC Farms Art Gallery Event that is taking place on Mother's Day weekend. Lastly, Councilmember Knorr reminded everyone that it was Teacher Appreciation Week, encouraging everyone to show gratitude to the educators who diligently contribute their hard work to the community.

Councilmember Liermann wished to pay tribute to Joe Abodeely, a local Vietnam veteran who recently passed away; she spoke on the importance of honoring those who've served the country. She also expressed her gratitude toward Maricopa teachers and encourage residents to thank them, if given the chance. Next, Councilmember Liermann reported on the Taste of Copa discount card initiative, which is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and offers various local discounts. Lastly, Councilmember Liermann also reminded residents about Heat Awareness Week, which is scheduled to run from May 5 to 9, providing essential safety tips to help residents stay safe in the rising temperatures.

Vice Mayor Wade reported attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony held on April 12 for the new boats at Copper Sky Lake, where community members were excited to try out

the new feature. Next, he acknowledged the achievements of the Youth Council members who successfully completed the Maricopa Citizen Leadership Academy. He spoke on the importance to recognize the commitment and leadership demonstrated by these young individuals.

Mayor Smith took a moment to acknowledge the dedication of those who attended the Arizona State Transportation Board meeting held in Benson, recognizing their significant contribution. She shared that their efforts were done at their own expense for gas and lodging to advocate for the interests of Maricopa's residents. Next, she asked for a moment of silence on the passing of Kathy Paulson, who she mentioned was a big advocate for the City of Maricopa.

Next, Mayor Smith announced the formation of a city council task force dedicated to discussing potential ways to honor the city founders. She shared that there are no existing parameters for how or what it means to be a founder, the task force aims to establish criteria and methods for honoring those individuals who have contributed significantly to the city's development. She shared that the inaugural meeting of this task force is scheduled to take place on May 14 at 4 p.m. in City Hall. Councilmember Goettl and Councilmember Marsh have been asked to serve on this task force alongside Mayor Smith, reflecting the city's commitment to recognizing and preserving its history.

5. Report from the City Manager

The City Manager had no report for this meeting.

6. Call to the Public

Teniecka Drake spoke on the upcoming Superstar Youth Business Fair, tailored for young individuals aged between 10 and 17. She shared that it is scheduled for May 17 at Pacana Park. Ms. Drake warmly encouraged youth participation and extended an invitation for volunteers who might be interested in assisting with this event to foster entrepreneurial skills among the youth.

Next, Joshua Eads, President of the Professional Firefighters of Maricopa Local 4561, shared his support for the Memorandum of Understanding with the firefighters. He spoke on the importance of the proposed contract, emphasizing its key components including competitive pay, funding for cancer screenings—which are vital due to the higher cancer risks faced by firefighters—and compensation for hazardous materials team pay, reflecting the council's commitment to bettering their working conditions.

Peg Chapados, Chair of the Cultural Affairs and Arts Committee, provided an acknowledgment for Laura Olivieri, a valued committee member who would be departing. She encouraged community engagement by extending an invitation to the Mother's Day Concert to be held at the University of Arizona Agriculture Center.

Next, Brad Follett spoke about his concerns regarding the wastewater billing practices of Global Water Resources. He argued that residential customers were facing undue overcharges on their bills. He sought the council's intervention, urging them to contemplate implementing specific environmental codes for the city to safeguard citizens from potential inequities in their utility charges.

7. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr, seconded by Vice Mayor Henry Wade, to Approved on the Consent Agenda .The motion carried unanimously.

- 7.1 [IGA 25-03](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approving an Intergovernmental agreement with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management. Discussion and Action.
This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.
- 7.2 [LIQ 25-04](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control regarding an application for a liquor license submitted by applicant Jared Michael Repinski on behalf of Chilaquiles Modern Kitchen located at 20800 N. John Wayne Parkway, Suite 101, Maricopa, Arizona 85139. Discussion and Action.
This Liquor License was Approved.
- 7.3 [SUB24-20](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve Subdivision Case # SUB24-20, Re-Plat Stonegate Lots 1-4, a request for final plat approval to subdivide +/- 4.961 acres of land from three (3) Lots into four (4) Lots for a commercial development. Discussion and Action.
This Subdivision was Approved.
- 7.4 [LIQ 25-05](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control regarding an application for a liquor license submitted by applicant Amanda Mae Adler on behalf of Mandy's Wine Bar, LLC located at 41600 W. Smith-Enke Road, Suite 120 A2, Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Discussion and Action.
This Liquor License was Approved.
- 7.5 [MIN 25-25](#) Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2025 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.
This Minutes was Approved.
- 7.6 [MOU 25-02](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on approving the 2025-2027 Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Maricopa and the City of Maricopa Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #78. Discussion and Action.
This Memorandum of Understanding was Approved.
- 7.7 [MOU 25-03](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on approving the 2025-2027 Memorandum of Understanding with the Professional Firefighters of Maricopa IAFF Local 4561. Discussion and Action.
This Memorandum of Understanding was Approved.
8. **Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings**
- 8.1 [APP 25-03](#) The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on making appointments to the various committees. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Liermann shared her appointments to various city committees. She began by reappointing Robert Brems to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Councilmember Liermann also reappointed Jeannine Edaakie to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Then, she introduced two new appointments: Chrystal O'Jon was appointed to the Cultural Arts and Affairs Committee, and Sharon Walker to the Senior Advisory Committee.

Next, Councilmember Marsh announced his reappointments of Tom Rein to the Senior Advisory Committee and Ted Yocum to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Additionally, he introduced James Liggins as his new appointee to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Lastly, Councilmember Marsh also appointed Edith Castro to the Cultural Arts and Affairs Committee.

Vice Mayor Wade shared his appointment of Priscilla Behnke for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Goettl, that these Appointments be Appointed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.2 [MISC 25-04](#)

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, shall discuss and take action on Strategic Priorities to provide transparency to residents and direction to staff. Discussion and Action.

Jennifer Brown, Assistant City Manager, summarized the city's revised strategic priorities to guide its growth and enhance community welfare. These priorities encompass six areas: Transportation, aimed at improving connectivity and regional connections, with a potential half-cent sales tax to fund projects like State Route 347; Job Creation and Business Development to sustain economic growth and build a skilled workforce through developments like Maricopa Business Park; Housing, focusing on diverse options and local zoning control to create vibrant neighborhoods; Quality of Life, promoting enhanced living standards through new parks, outdoor activities, and cultural arts projects; Maricopa as a Destination City, leveraging sports and event tourism to boost local businesses; and Public Safety, using data insights, adding a fire station, launching a hazardous materials program, and creating an ambulance service to safeguard community safety. During discussions, Councilmember Goettl emphasized investment in public safety and partnerships for transportation and infrastructure improvements, and the council expressed unified support for these priorities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Goettl, seconded by Councilmember Marsh, that this Miscellaneous Item be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.3 [ORD 25-06](#)

Public Hearing. An Ordinance of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting the document filed with the City Clerk entitled "The 2025 Amendments to the Tax Code of the City of Maricopa" to amend the City Tax Code to increase the general transaction privilege tax rate by one-half percent (.5%); excluding the tax classes of hotels, hotels/motels: additional transient lodging and retail sales: food for home consumption from the general rate increase; providing for severability; and designating an effective date of October 1, 2025 for a period not to exceed twenty (20) years. Discussion and Action.

City Manager Ben Bitter presented a proposed half-cent sales tax designed to fund improvements to State Route 347 and other commuting corridors. He addressed a significant \$162 billion funding shortfall for transportation projects in Arizona, with a 20-year need of \$231 billion and only \$69 billion available. Mr. Bitter reviewed previous

tax propositions, noting Proposition 417, which was overturned by the Supreme Court, and Proposition 469, which Pinal County voters rejected despite strong support in Maricopa. The new proposal, permissible under the city's constitutional powers, aims to improve public health, safety, economic growth, and job creation through enhancements to State Route 347. The proposed sales tax excludes groceries and fuel, assigning some financial responsibility to both growth and development, which are expected to fund 40% of the contribution. Mr. Bitter illustrated the minor price impacts; for example, a \$12 fast-food meal would increase by just six cents. He indicated the sales tax, pending council approval, may begin on October 1, 2025.

The public hearing opened at 7:20 p.m.

Priscilla Behnke spoke on the ongoing traffic delays and safety concerns on SR 347, advocating for immediate local action rather than relying on state measures.

Teniecka Drake shared personal experiences of witnessing accidents on SR 347, emphasizing the urgent need for infrastructure improvements to ensure family safety.

Tena Dugan spoke on her advocacy at governmental meetings, stressing the necessity for local financial support to achieve significant progress.

Kim Daniels spoke on Maricopa's future growth with the resolution of State Route 347's inefficiencies to support long-term development.

Ron Angerame, who was representing the 347Facts Team, spoke on the outlining years of advocacy and noting shifts in the Arizona Department of Transportation's discussions influenced by proposed local funding.

Bill Robertson and Brandi Homan spoke on the proposed tax as a strategic investment for Maricopa's future, reinforcing State Route 347's role in boosting local businesses, retaining commerce, and fostering economic growth.

Christian Price reflected on long-term improvement efforts for State Route 347 and encouraged the council to demonstrate courageous governance and emphasize self-investment for future opportunities.

Cooper Price shared his firsthand experience with Maricopa's growth and SR 347's safety issues, supporting the temporary sales tax as an investment in safer, well-connected opportunities for future generations.

Ron Fleming shared his support for the sales tax initiative, underscoring the need for dependable infrastructure and praising the council's innovative approach.

Mayor Smith read into record Rachel Leffall's email, which backed the tax proposal as essential for improving State Route 347, stressing broader transportation and safety implications.

Sharon Walker spoke on her support for the half-cent tax, viewing it as a practical solution to the ongoing State Route 347 issues.

Peg Chapados shared her approval of the initiative, noting the role of past and present leaders in Maricopa's infrastructure successes.

Supervisor Rich Vitiello spoke on the collaboration with government officials to secure

State Route 347 upgrades, advocating for community cohesion in the project.

Robert Klob spoke in favor of the sales tax, seeing it as vital for improving Maricopa's safety and economic growth.

Toryn Terrell spoke on the personal impact of State Route 347 accidents, supporting the tax initiative in hopes of preventing future tragedies.

Nobody spoke in opposition of the proposed half-cent tax increase. The public hearing closed 7:40 p.m.

Councilmember Manfredi recognized the strategic necessity of this particular investment to address the urgent and critical infrastructure demands of State Route 347, which directly impacts safety, the economy, and the future of Maricopa. He emphasized that waiting for state funds alone was impractical highlighting the importance of Maricopa taking proactive steps to improve State Route 347 now, rather than delaying and facing increased costs and further congestion issues in the future. Councilmember Manfredi elaborated that addressing the challenges of State Route 347 requires a united approach, involving collaboration not just within the city but also with external partners like the Gila River Indian Community, Pinal County, Maricopa County, Maricopa Association of Governments, and the Arizona Department of Transportation. He explained the choice of a sales tax over property tax as a measure to broaden the funding base, allowing growth and visitors, not just residents, to contribute to the solutions. He shared personal exchanges on social media, noting public misconceptions and expressing a desire to clarify the city's fiscal situation, emphasizing fiscal responsibility, and detailing the reasons behind not holding a public vote on the tax increase. He addressed common public concerns, such as the perceived permanence of the tax and worries about equitable distribution, reinforcing that the tax will not be applied to groceries or fuel, and reiterating his commitment, along with that of the council, to balance the overall tax burden for residents through strategic reductions in property tax.

Councilmember Goettl expressed frustration and anger at the necessity of implementing a tax, as he felt it went against his principles, but stated that the urgency of the situation left no other viable choice. He highlighted the importance of fixing the issues surrounding State Route 347. He recognized that it needed addressing not in the distant future but immediately. Councilmember Goettl explained that the decision to support the sales tax was driven by the urgent need to ensure the health and safety of Maricopa's residents, as well as the future economic growth of the community. He talked about the critical need for developing sustained partnerships with the Arizona Department of Transportation and other state-level stakeholders. He shared that the city's efforts are not just about raising money but also leveraging the relationships that have been built over decades, which are critical to the project's success and ensuring timely progress in enhancing State Route 347. Additionally, Councilmember Goettl emphasized the positive secondary benefits of the highway improvements, such as enhanced economic development prospects due to improved infrastructure that could reduce overall traffic congestion. He acknowledged that while the community would benefit in the long term, the construction process could mean growing pains and advised residents to be patient and drive courteously during this period.

Councilmember Goettl also encouraged residents to support local businesses, which would contribute to the sales tax revenue used for these improvements. He shared that this would not only help achieve the road infrastructure goals but also boost economic activity within the city.

Councilmember Marsh expressed his strong support for the ordinance, emphasizing the crucial role of the overwhelming community input that highlighted the immediate necessity for action to address the escalating traffic congestion on State Route 347. He shared that the pressing need for urgent intervention, noting that the status quo remained untenable for the future of Maricopa's transportation network. He acknowledged the significant contributions from various stakeholders, including the dedicated public, elected officials, and multiple partners, who have worked tirelessly to formulate a comprehensive and timely plan. Councilmember Marsh noted that the joint efforts were instrumental in accelerating the progress toward a more sustainable solution for Maricopa's infrastructure challenges. He particularly highlighted the importance of the collective drive to not just alleviate immediate transportation burdens but also to solidify long-term strategies that would ensure the future of Maricopa's roadways.

Councilmember Liermann highlighted the importance of prioritizing safety through her support of the tax. She acknowledged that over her 21 years of living in Maricopa, she has had countless conversations about State Route 347 with grandparents, moms, dads, and especially teenagers who are getting on State Route 347 for the first time. She shared that these discussions underscored the community's widespread concern over the road's safety and reliability. Councilmember Liermann emphasized that timing was critical and viewed the tax as essential for expediting necessary improvements on State Route 347 to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. She recognized the immediate need for action and described this decision as a life-saving vote, not an option to vote no on.

Councilmember Knorr acknowledged and praised the grassroots campaign efforts, specifically the contributions of the group known as 347FACTS, which has been instrumental in advancing the State Route 347 improvement initiative. She shared her profound appreciation for the group's diligence and unwavering commitment to advocating for the much-needed enhancements to this critical transportation corridor. Councilmember Knorr emphasized that without the organized and persistent efforts driven by this dedicated group, the city of Maricopa would not have made such significant progress in its quest to address the escalating issues related to State Route 347. She observed that leveraging public support through these grassroots campaigns was not only pivotal but had led to substantial momentum that created an all-important sense of urgency. Councilmember Knorr reflected on the effectiveness of the campaign, which had helped in galvanizing widespread support to address the longstanding issue of congestion on State Route 347.

Vice Mayor Wade reflected on his experiences with State Route 347, recounting not only the countless accidents he had observed but also sharing a personal experience of being involved in one. Vice Mayor Wade also emphasized the conversations he has had with community members who frequently express concerns about the safety, congestion, and inefficiencies of this critical corridor. Furthermore, Vice Mayor Wade acknowledged the unwavering support of the Maricopa community, noting their consistent efforts in attending meetings, writing emails, and participating in advocacy to improve State Route 347. He praised the collaboration and dedication shown by local and state political leaders, including past mayors and councilmembers, who had been champions for increasing safety and efficiency along the route. Vice Mayor Wade underscored that the persistent drive for a safer and more efficient transportation network demonstrates the collective commitment to enhancing the quality of life in Maricopa.

Mayor Smith emphasized the critical importance of resolving the SR 347 issues,

underscoring the ongoing collaborations with state and federal partners as essential components of the city's approach. She expressed her gratitude towards these entities, noting that without their cooperation, Maricopa would not be able to make the necessary advancements on the project. Mayor Smith also highlighted the invaluable role of community activism, which has been pivotal in maintaining the momentum required to bring attention and action to this vital initiative. She shared her heartfelt appreciation for the leadership within the community that has tirelessly advocated for improvements, illustrating the collective effort that has kept the conversation moving forward. This grassroots activism, exemplified by the 347FACTS group, has empowered the community and played a central role in driving legislative progress on State Route 347. Mayor Smith expressed sincere thanks to representatives like Teresa Martinez, Chris Lopez, and TJ Shope for their instrumental support, as well as to the Arizona Department of Transportation and the State Transportation Board for their unwavering partnership. She acknowledged the strategic leaders like past mayors Anderson and Price, whose groundwork laid the foundation for current endeavors. Mayor Smith spoke on the significance of partnerships with the Gila River Indian Community and others, which remain vital for future developments and innovations for Maricopa's infrastructure. She extended her gratitude to the tireless work of city staff, who, despite limited resources, have continuously ensured that Maricopa remains fiscally responsible while striving for infrastructure advancements. Mayor Smith reflected on the passage of the ordinance as a significant milestone, marking a transformative phase in Maricopa's legislative achievements.

A motion was made by Councilmember Marsh, seconded by Councilmember Knorr, that this Ordinance be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.4 [IGA 25-07](#)

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) for the design and construction of the widening of State Route 347 (SR347) between Interstate 10 (I-10) and the Maricopa city limits. Discussion and Action.

City Manager Bitter presented an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Maricopa and the Arizona Department of Transportation for the design and construction of the widening of State Route 347. He explained the significance of this agreement, highlighting the city's commitment to a payment of \$50 million by June 1, 2026, necessary to secure the project's inclusion in the Arizona Department of Transportation's five-year transportation improvement plan. The agreement specifies that the Arizona Department of Transportation will cover any cost overruns beyond the city's \$50 million commitment, protecting Maricopa's financial interests by ensuring any additional expenses are absorbed by the department. This demonstrates the city's diligent approach to fiscal responsibility and progress in addressing transportation needs.

Mayor Smith emphasized the importance of this agreement, calling it a historic moment for Maricopa. She acknowledged the partnership and support from State Transportation Board Chair Jen Daniels and Arizona Department of Transportation representative Stacy Guillen. Mayor Smith also expressed gratitude for the groundwork laid by former Mayor Christian Price and the persistent advocacy from the 347 Facts Team, which brought this issue to the forefront.

In addition, Robert Klob submitted a speaker card in favor of the Intergovernmental Agreement, but declined to speak in front of council, when Mayor Smith asked for him to approach.

Following the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement, Mayor Smith invited various officials, staff members, and community representatives to join the council for a group photograph to commemorate this significant decision.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Vice Mayor Wade, that this Intergovernmental Agreement be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

8.5 **MISC 25-05**

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on adopting a tentative budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 (FY25-26) and the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion and Action.

Matt Kozlowski, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, reported on the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, along with the comprehensive 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The presentation included a detailed overview of the budget process and its timeline, underscoring the city's commitment to transparency and diligent fiscal management.

Mr. Kozlowski detailed how recent reductions in state-shared revenues significantly impacted financial planning, with a noted decrease of approximately \$3 million in projected revenue for the current fiscal year. Despite these challenges, the city is committed to reducing property tax rates for the seventh consecutive year, showcasing its dedication to easing the financial burden on residents. The primary property tax rate decreased to 3.47%, and the secondary tax reduced by 10 basis points.

Next, he emphasized strategic investments in public safety, comprising the addition of 23 new full-time hires, 20 of which were allocated to public safety roles, reflecting 45% of the operating expenditures. Mr. Kozlowski expanded on those investments, which include \$4.5 million for memorandum of understanding compensation adjustments and \$2.8 million allocated for new personnel requests. He also shared that the city also plans to introduce 12 firefighter recruits, additional police officers, and to fund paramedic training to support the new ambulance services being developed.

Mr. Kozlowski shared that the transportation infrastructure emerged as a key focus, with \$118 million in revenues projected and over \$197 million earmarked for FY 2026 capital improvement projects. Of these, \$50 million is allocated to the local contribution for the State Route 347 widening project. He also shared that other notable capital projects, such as the pedestrian overpass and State Route 238 widening are prioritized. These investments align with 71% of capital expenditures going toward streets infrastructure and economic development.

Next, Mr. Kozlowski pinpointed Maricopa's fiscal prudence by maintaining a debt per capita figure at \$950, significantly lower compared to the thousands per resident seen in other rapidly growing Arizona cities, allowing for more sustainable development and investment opportunities.

Councilmember Marsh inquired about organizations working on grant money to help fund the State Route 347 projects and the level of involvement from both the city's staff and higher authorities within the hierarchy. Mr. Kozlowski explained that the Arizona Department of Transportation has a dedicated team of grant writers who actively seek out grant funding opportunities, especially at the federal level, to support such infrastructure projects. He also mentioned that, while Arizona Department of Transportation has significant resources and longstanding relationships that enhance their capacity to obtain funding, the city is not limited from pursuing similar avenues. In addition, Mr. Kozlowski stressed the importance of preparing for such grant opportunities by ensuring budget capacity, which allows for swift action should a grant

be awarded and highlighted the city's readiness to act in collaboration with Arizona Department of Transportation in securing necessary funds. In the end, Mayor Smith reiterated the city's fiscal responsibility focus, stressing the importance of informed public education on financial matters to enhance transparency and trust within the community.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Marsh, that this Miscellaneous Item be Approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 9:34 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 6th day of May 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated the 20th day of May, 2025.

*Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk*