



City of Maricopa

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Meeting Minutes - Final City Council Special Meeting

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

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Smith announced there were thirteen applicants.

2. **Roll Call**

Present, 6 - Mayor Smith, Vice Mayor Liermann, Councilmember Goettl, Councilmember Manfredi, Councilmember Marsh, and Councilmember Wade

3. **Agenda Items**

City Clerk Vanessa Bueras introduced the following thirteen applicants and they stood for recognition: Matthew Blair, Thomas Chapman, Joshua Hughes, Joseph Kane, Anna Marie Knorr, Adam Leach, Rhonda Melvin, Chrysta O'Jon, Bryan Ott, James Singleton, Toryn Terrell, Sharon Walker, and Patti Wasowicz.

3.1 **[APP 24-04](#)**

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and possibly take action on selecting one citizen to fill the vacancy on the City Council. Discussion and Action.

Mayor Smith commended all the applicants and stated she was impressed with the resumes. Councilmember Marsh stated as a previous recruiter, he was impressed with the resumes. Councilmember Goettl stated he was on the other side not too long ago and commended the applicants. Councilmember Wade commended the applicants. Councilmember Manfredi commented on the appointment process and encouraged the applicants to run for council in the future. Vice Mayor Liermann commended the applicants. Each member of the Council announced their top three applicants:

Councilmember Goettl selected Chrystal O'Jon, Matthew Blair, and Thomas Chapman. Councilmember Marsh selected Anna Marie Knorr, James Singleton, and Sharon Walker.

Councilmember Manfredi selected Anna Marie Knorr, Adam Leach, and Bryan Ott. Councilmember Wade selected Chrystal O'Jon, Anna Marie Knorr, and James Singleton.

Vice Mayor Liermann selected Ann Marie Knorr, Adam Leach, and James Singleton. Mayor Smith selected Ann Marie Knorr, James Singleton, and Adam Leach.

City Clerk Bueras announced the top three applicants moving to the interview process were Anna Marie Knorr, Adam Leach, and James Singleton. Their names were drawn

at random from a bowl to determine the order of the interviews: Adam Leach was first, James Singleton second, and Anna Marie Knorr was last. Mr. Leach remained in the room to begin the interview and Mr. Singleton and Miss Knorr were led to a meeting room to be sequestered for fairness.

The Council asked Mr. Leach to introduce himself. Mr. Leach stated he was a seventeen-year resident of Maricopa, and that he was married with two sons. He stated that, from a young age, he was driven by curiosity, a thirst for knowledge, and his desire to make a difference. His stated his drive has led him to volunteer as a recreation coach at Copper Sky for over ten years, as a local boy scout troop leader, as the director of the Rocket Challenge Program and to run for council seat in 2022. He stated his core values were kindness, and service in community. He thanked the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Goettl asked, "How do you define leadership, what does leadership mean to you, and what sets you apart as a leader?" Mr. Leach responded that a leader was not someone who wants power, but to empower and elaborated. He stated without that system in place, we would not succeed.

Councilmember Marsh asked, "What is the most important project, for a result, would you like to accomplish in your next two and a half years as a councilmember?" Mr. Leach responded finishing up the first phase of State Route (SR) 347 and if he could be part of the team to see the second phase done, it would be awesome.

Councilmember Wade asked, "What do you believe is your role as a city councilmember?" Mr. Leach responded the role of a city councilmember was to wear multiple hats, listen to resident concerns, be a champion for the city to bring business and employment, and lobby for state and federal funding.

Councilmember Manfredi asked, "A lot is happening in the City of Maricopa and the people want to be heard. How will you stay informed about local issues and connect with constituents between regularly scheduled council meetings." Mr. Leach responded that he would get himself out there to be involved with the community including youth, young adults, seniors, and so on. He stated he would put himself in programs and ultimately just be available.

Vice Mayor Liermann asked, "If selected what Board, Committee or Commission (BCC) would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Leach responded he believed there were at least six, and stated he was passionate about Parks and Recreation and young adults and elaborated on the importance of programming.

Mayor Smith asked, "What would you like to see done with housing, and what are the unintended consequences of slowing or stopping housing developments?" Mr. Leach responded that people wanted a moratorium, but we could not have that here because with the current momentum, if housing was slowed down, it would also slow down other opportunities such as future employment. He commented on a recent purchase of land by the city and elaborated.

The Council thanked Mr. Leach and he stepped out the separate meeting room. James Singleton entered the chambers.

James Singleton introduced himself stating he was the current Vice Chair on the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZ), worked as a senior software engineer, and that he built websites on his free time including coparesources.com, 347facts.com, and

maricopaseniorliving.org. He stated he was involved with Maricopa High School (MHS) swimming and liked to be involved.

Councilmember Goettl asked, "How do you define leadership, what does leadership mean to you, and what sets you apart as a leader?" Mr. Singleton responded leadership was not only making the easy decisions that everybody sees, but also making the hard decisions that might not be glamorous but lead people in the correct direction that his moral compass points towards. He stated also being a role model was a great part of leadership, and setting an example for people at work, children at school, sports teams and so on. He stated what set him apart was that he graduated from military school and was in a military program for eight (plus) years and it gave him the right compass and strong backbone to make tough decisions when they need to be made. He stated he has also mentored young people graduating to a higher rank.

Councilmember Marsh asked, "What is the most important project, for a result, would you like to accomplish in your next two and a half years as a councilmember?" Mr. Singleton stated he would say SR 347, but it was unpractical. He stated in the next two years, he would like to see more business and tackle that as the city grew to bring job offerings to have less people leave out of the city and spend money and work outside of the city.

Councilmember Wade asked, "What do you believe is your role as a city councilmember?" Mr. Singleton responded his role would be to listen to the people of Maricopa and taking that input, the Council's input, his input, and research to guide the City in the right direction.

Councilmember Manfredi asked, "A lot is happening in the City of Maricopa and the people want to be heard. How will you stay informed about local issues and connect with constituents between regularly scheduled council meetings." Mr. Singleton responded he was active on Facebook and social media. He stated he liked the idea of livestreams and having two-way conversations to take back to Council. He stated also going to events and talking to people as well as on the day-to-day.

Vice Mayor Liermann asked, "If selected what BCC would you like to be a liaison to?" Mr. Singleton responded that he would like to be a part of MAG (the Maricopa Association of Governments) because transportation was such a heated issue for the city. He stated he was already working with the Mayor on 347facts.com to help advocate for solutions for SR 347.

Mayor Smith asked, "What would you like to see done with housing, and what are the unintended consequences of slowing or stopping housing developments?" Mr. Singleton responded he would like to see continue its course as it was now. He stated there was a need for a mix of single and multi-family housing for professionals like doctors to be able to afford housing. He reiterated that affordable housing was needed. He stated that the community wanted big box stores and to attract large stores, more housing was needed. He stated that stopping building would put a stop to any industrial development because they followed roof tops.

The Council thanked Mr. Singleton and he stepped out the separate meeting room. Anna Marie Knorr entered the chambers.

Anna Marie Knorr introduced herself stating she had lived in the community for over eighteen years. She stated she was raising her children in the community and was a coach at a local school. She stated she was involved in several local organizations and

served in the MUSD Board for ten years. She stated she lived, worked, and played in the city and wanted to be a part of making the community the best that it could be.

Councilmember Goettl asked, "How do you define leadership, what does leadership mean to you, and what sets you apart as a leader?" Miss Knorr responded that leadership was an important quality for the role of elected official. She stated she believed in being a servant leader. She stated she was big on servant leadership and believed in being there for the people. She stated it was not about herself or her position, but about how she could best serve those she led and those impacted by the decisions she made.

Councilmember Marsh asked, "What is the most important project, for a result, would you like to accomplish in your next two and a half years as a councilmember?" Miss Knorr stated the most important issues to solve were SR 347 and transportation. She stated that it involved expanding SR 347, getting more high-paying jobs locally, and stated the industrial triangle would help alleviate that. She stated she looked forward to seeing that project come to fruition.

Councilmember Wade asked, "What do you believe is your role as a city councilmember?" Miss Knorr responded that the role of a city councilmember was to make decisions in the best interests of the community and those they served. She stated it also involved looking forward, seeing the future, making plans, and strategic goals that would set up us up for the future. She stated it also meant being involved in the community, being willing to talk to anybody regardless of their position, being able to agree to disagree, being able to consider all possibilities and opinions, and take those to be able to formulate the best solution.

Councilmember Manfredi asked, "A lot is happening in the City of Maricopa and the people want to be heard. How will you stay informed about local issues and connect with constituents between regularly scheduled council meetings." Miss Knorr responded that information was powerful, and misinformation was detrimental. She stated she would do what she has done in her role in the MUSD Board; be active in the community, be present, participate in forums, town halls, attend meetings, respond to emails, respond to questions whether at a soccer game or the grocery store, always be available to the community, be involved and engage in community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce or the Lion's Club. She stated she would be there to listen, understand the concerns of the residents, and share the successes, goals and plans of the city.

Vice Mayor Liermann asked, "If selected what BCC would you like to be a liaison to?" Miss Knorr responded she researched the four committees that councilmembers can be liaison for and added she would be willing to serve at any capacity that the Mayor and Council see fit. She reiterated she was willing to serve at will wherever she was needed. She noted she was passionate about families and children, so Parks and Recreation were exciting but that she was willing to learn about the Senior and Arts committees.

Mayor Smith asked, "What would you like to see done with housing, and what are the unintended consequences of slowing or stopping housing developments?" Miss Knorr responded that housing was an important issue and cycle-of-life housing was paramount to the community. She elaborated on cycle-of-life housing and emphasized that it was important to have housing for all aspects of the community and society such as young families, employees, teachers, firefighters, retirees, and assisted living. She stated the city could not stop people from building, that it would be illegal unless

there was a lawful reason. She stated she believed the city could continue to have smart growth and have all kinds of housing available.

The meeting moved to executive session. The meeting resumed at 6:52 p.m. The applicants were ushered back to the Council Chambers.

The Mayor and Council voted for their top choice as follows:

Councilmember Goettl voted for Anna Marie Knorr, Councilmember Marsh voted for Anna Marie Knorr, Councilmember Manfredi voted for Anna Marie Knorr, Councilmember Wade voted for Anna Marie Knorr, Vice Mayor Liermann voted for Anna Marie Knorr, and Mayor Smith voted for Anna Marie Knorr.

After the motion, Councilmember Manfredi encouraged the applicants to stay involved and stated various city departments were constantly looking for volunteers.

A motion was made by Councilmember Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Marsh, that Anna Marie Knorr be Appointment to fill the vacancy in the City Council. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Executive Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Vincent Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Henry Wade, to move to Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. before taking a vote. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Adjournment

This meeting was Adjourned 6:56 p.m.

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special meeting of the City Council of Maricopa, Arizona, held on the 23th day of April, 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7th day of May, 2024.

**Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk**