City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall
39700 W. Civic Center Plaza
Maricopa, AZ 85138
Ph: (520) 568-9098
Fx: (520) 568-9120
www.maricopa-az.gov

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

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 | **6:00 PM** | **Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. An invocation was given by Pastor Roger Thompson from Calvary Church, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Liermann.

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Mayor Nancy Smith, Councilmember AnnaMarie Knorr, Councilmember Amber Liermann, Councilmember Bob Marsh, Councilmember Henry Wade and Vice Mayor Vincent Manfredi

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Eric Goettl

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

No proclamations, acknowledgements, awards, or presentations were given.

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Bob Marsh reported on a Pinal Partnership breakfast on June 5th featuring city managers from across Pinal County, praising the City Manager's strong representation of Maricopa. He also reported on the June 10th Arizona Department of Transportation listening session at the library, describing it as more productive than social media commentary. Next, Councilmember Marsh reported on his participation in a citizens working group hosted by Ivanhoe Electric regarding the Santa Cruz Copper Mine being developed in Casa Grande, noting the ore body sits at approximately 3,500 feet underground, which is below the local aquifer and that the company intends to bore through using a $65 million tunnel boring machine lined with 16-inch thick concrete pipe. He added the importance of protecting Maricopa's drinking water supply and encouraged residents to learn more via the company's QR code cards. He also announced a Senior Expo on September 26th at the library focused on fall prevention and reminded residents of an Arizona Department of Transportation Open House scheduled for the following evening from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Wade congratulated the organizers of the Juneteenth celebration held the previous Saturday, praising the event as well-organized, well-attended, and noting that vendors were helpful and informative.

Councilmember Knorr shared her appreciation for the Arizona Department of Transportation listening session, noting that staff asked for candid feedback and appeared genuinely receptive. She encouraged residents to attend the upcoming Arizona Department of Transportation Open House either in person or virtually. She also reported on the Cultural Affairs and Arts Committee meeting, highlighting a landscape-themed gallery at the library featuring local artists, an abstract art display at the Community Center, and an upcoming Juneteenth film screening at the Community Center on Friday.

Councilmember Liermann wished the U.S. Army a belated birthday and thanked the Maricopa Police Department for its ongoing education campaign related to the City's e-bike and scooter code, noting that officers had distributed 54 free helmets to youth. She shared the Summer Reading Program running through July 25th and shared a schedule of upcoming library events. She also recognized the success of the 4th Annual Trey Liermann 7-on-7 competition, which raised more than $2,000 in football camp scholarships.

Vice-Mayor Vincent Manfredi elaborated on the Arizona Department of Transportation listening session, noting it was organized by the Governor's office as part of a statewide tour to gather feedback on transportation planning. He highlighted the City staff's work in facilitating productive dialogue with the agency. He also described a Father's Day meet-and-greet luncheon at the Community Center.

Mayor Smith reported on the Juneteenth celebration, noting she purchased books at the event which she subsequently donated to the library. She then provided a detailed account of her comments at the Arizona Department of Transportation listening session, including her critique of the agency's project prioritization process. Specifically, she noted that growth, economic development vitality as measured by more than just commercial truck traffic, safety weighting for roads like State Route 347, which she shared was identified as one of the ten most dangerous roads in the western United States and air quality impacts from congestion are currently underweighted or absent in the process. She expressed optimism that the session's feedback would result in meaningful improvements. Mayor Smith also noted that dedicated Department of Public Safety officers have been deployed along State Route 347 in connection with the current construction project.

5. Report from the City Manager

Chief Financial Officer Matt Kozlowski presented an update on the Commuting Corridors Fund tracker available on the City's website. He reported that during May, the City received $20 million from Pinal County for their contribution to the State Route 347 widening project and $30 million from a revenue bond issued against the commuting corridor sales tax. Next, Mr. Kozlowski shared that a combined $50 million was sent to the Arizona Department of Transportation as the City's first expense payment for the State Route 347 Widening Project. Mr. Kozlowski noted that the website now includes direct links to all relevant documentation, which includes the intergovernmental agreements with Pinal County and Arizona Department of Transportation and the revenue bond documents, which allows for full public transparency.

6. Call to the Public

William Zwierankin addressed the Council regarding infrastructure needs accompanying the City's approximately 5% annual growth rate. He suggested the City pursue additional national-brand supermarkets, additional gas stations offering top-tier

fuel, structured tax incentives for businesses over a 5-to-10-year period, more sit-down restaurants, and additional school capacity to accommodate anticipated population growth from new apartment construction.

Tara from Little Whiskers Animal Rescue addressed the Council regarding what they characterized as an animal welfare crisis in Maricopa. She shared 856 animal-related police calls in 2024 and 804 in 2025, the identification of 13 feral cat colonies with only 4 receiving treatment and over 900 animals assisted by Little Whiskers in the past 12 months, which is approximately 95 percent of which originated in Maricopa. She added that the absence of a local animal shelter and the limitations facing nonprofit organizations operating without a permanent facility.

Teniecka Drake addressed the Council regarding barriers she has encountered in attempting to bring health services and programming to Maricopa residents. She described challenges with hosting health fairs due to cost and logistical obstacles and asked the City to create pathways that would make it easier for community members and small organizations to deliver health services locally. Ms. Drake expressed concern that residents are seeking services in other cities due to a lack of awareness of our access to local resources. In the end, Mr. Kozlowski offered to connect with Ms. Drake to identify appropriate staff resources.

Britney, Founder of Little Whiskers Animal Rescue, announced the official launch of the Maricopa Shelter Project, a community initiative founded by Little Whiskers, and formally requested a meeting with the Mayor and Council to develop a plan. She added that the community had gathered more than 10,000 signatures seeking relief and called on the City to take immediate steps toward establishing local animal shelter services.

Torri Anderson addressed the Council on behalf of Open Arms Vocational Living Center, announcing a fundraiser on June 27th at Duke's Roadhouse at 6:00 PM to support construction of a facility for homeless young men, including youth who have aged out of foster care. She added that tickets were noted at $100, with sponsorship opportunities available.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

7.1 LIQ 26-05 — 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 Series 12 liquor license submitted by applicant Chad Michael Lahaise on behalf of Buffalo Wild Wings located at 17819 N. Stonegate Road, Maricopa, AZ 85138. Discussion and Action.

This Liquor License was Approved.

7.2 RES 26-14 — 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 El Rancho Santa Rosa Parcel 5, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.3 RES 26-15

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 El Rancho Santa Rosa Parcel 7B, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.4 RES 26-16

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 El Rancho Santa Rosa Parcel 8, into the City Street/Road Maintenance System. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.5 CON 26-11

The Mayor and City council shall discuss and take action on a request from the Police Department to enter into a sub recipient agreement with the Arizona Department of Homeland Security for Operation Stonegarden (OPSG). A 100% match grant award of $52,500.00 for employee overtime, employee related expenses, and mileage. Discussion and Action.

This Contract was Approved.

7.6 RES 26-19

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 funding Maricopa Friends of the Arts and agreeing to act as the designated fiscal agent of such funding. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.7 CON 26-10

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve the Sponsorship Agreement with Play it Safe Playgrounds & Park Equipment, Inc. and Chasse Building Team, Inc. related to the new signage for the disc golf course at Copper Sky Regional Park located at 44345 W Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Maricopa, Pinal County, Arizona and authorizing the City Manager to execute the Agreement and any future amendments related thereto. Discussion and Action.

This Contract was Approved.

7.8 ORD 26-11

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, 2027. Discussion and Action.

This Ordinance was Approved.

7.9 IGA 26-03

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and Pinal County to provide animal care, sheltering, and related services for animals originating within the City's incorporated limits. This partnership leverages Pinal County Animal Care and Control's (PCACC) established shelter system and enforcement expertise to ensure safe, humane, and consistent animal care services for the community. Discussion and Action.

Police Chief Mark Goodman presented a brief overview of the proposed renewal agreement with Pinal County Animal Care and Control, providing context on the City's animal control activity and the updated fee structure.

Chief Goodman reported that the City averaged approximately 830 animal-related calls annually over the past two years, at an annual shelter cost of approximately $17,000 to $18,000. He added that the new agreement includes both increases and decreases to specific fees: the first-day dog intake fee increases by $35 to $115, while quarantine fees are reduced by $50 for dogs to $250, and by $75 for cats to $225. He added that a notable new provision places a 50% cost-sharing responsibility on the City for veterinary care in cruelty, neglect, or abuse cases. Chief Goodman shared that only two such cases involving three animals occurred over the past two years, and that the Police Department's FY27 budget is considered sufficient to absorb the new cost-sharing requirement. He also reported that the fee structure is uniform across all Pinal County jurisdictions.

Councilmember Liermann asked whether 48-hour quarantine is routinely required when an animal is surrendered. Chief Goodman explained that the department works actively with animal owners to facilitate self-quarantine, and that shelter placement is a last resort. He described a new effort to cross-train police service aides for weekend animal control coverage and confirmed that the department recently purchased new microchip scanners to facilitate owner reunification. The department's animal control officer maintains relationships with Little Whiskers and other nonprofit partners to minimize shelter utilization.

Mayor Smith and Chief Goodman discussed the absence of a cap on shelter costs under the proposed agreement and the Chief's approach to managing overages within his operating budget. Mayor Smith also raised the question of ongoing conversations with Pinal County, which included Supervisor Vitiello and the County Manager. She added that it regarded the feasibility of establishing an animal control facility on the west side of the County. She noted that with San Tan Valley assuming greater County responsibilities beginning July 1st, there may be an opportunity to redirect County resources toward a west-side facility. Chief Goodman confirmed openness to those discussions and agreed to be included in a forthcoming meeting organized by Councilmember Liermann.

This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.

7.10 **RES 26-23** 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 funding Sounds Promotions Inc and agreeing to act as the designated fiscal agent of such funding. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.11 **IGA 26-06** The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and Pinal County through the Arizona@Work Pinal County Workforce Development Board ("ARIZONA@WORK Pinal County"), for use of space for workforce services. Discussion and Action.

Library Manager Angela Howell presented this item, explaining that the agreement establishes the Maricopa Library as an official Arizona@Work access point. She shared that the services to be provided include resume writing assistance, job search support, career development coaching, assistance removing barriers to employment,

unemployment insurance filing assistance, and specialized resources for veterans and individuals with disabilities. Ms. Howell shared that a dedicated career coach will be present during posted weekly hours, with walk-in access available to community members. Lastly, she shared that Arizona@Work lists the library on its workforce development website, increasing the City's visibility as a service access point and providing computer access to job seekers who may not have their own.

Councilmember Liermann expressed strong support for the agreement, commending Supervisor Vitiello for his role in bringing the program to Maricopa and describing Arizona@Work's employer-matching services as a significant community asset.

This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.

7.12 IGA 26-05 The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action to approve the Second Amendment to the Intergovernmental/Development Agreement (IGA) between the City of Maricopa and Pinal County Community College District, dba Central Arizona College (CAC), for reimbursement for Right-of-Way improvements constructed by the City of Maricopa as outlined in the agreement, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary documents related thereto. Discussion and Action.

This Intergovernmental Agreement was Approved.

7.13 LIQ 26-06 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 Series 12 liquor license submitted by applicant John Anthony Beerling on behalf of Someburros located at 42618 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Maricopa, AZ 85138. Discussion and Action.

This Liquor License was Approved.

7.14 MIN 26-38 Approval of Minutes from the June 2, 2026 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings

8.1 RES 26-17 A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting an amended fee schedule for the rental of facilities owned by the City of Maricopa, including fees for rooms, courts, open space, and membership additions. Discussion and Action.

Parks and Recreation Director Rocky Brown and Recreation Manager Misty Bitter presented jointly proposed new and amended fees for City facilities, driven primarily by the forthcoming opening of the Fieldhouse at Copper Sky.

Ms. Bitter provided background on the research process, noting that staff examined more than 25 comparable facilities, which included municipal, private, and school facilities and evaluating rental rates, membership structures, peak versus non-peak pricing, and staffing models. She emphasized that the team prioritized resident access, community usability, and youth programming throughout the process. Ms. Bitter reported that demand for the Fieldhouse is already emerging ahead of its opening, with schools, club organizations, and camp and clinic operators already reaching out to the City's reservations coordinator.

Mr. Brown then detailed the proposed fee structure. For Fieldhouse court rentals, the resident and nonprofit rate for adult groups is $50 per hour per court; the youth group rate is $44 per hour. All four courts reserved together for a youth tournament would cost approximately $177 per hour, which was favorable compared to the Croc Center at $200 for three courts and the Marana Recreation Center at $250 for three courts. Mr. Brown also explained the rationale for a proposed gate fee of $5 for out-of-town tournament visitors, noting that without an established fee, tournament promoters may charge excessive amounts that reflect poorly on the facility. He added that Maricopa residents would be exempt from any gate fees by showing identification. Lastly, Mr. Brown shared that gym rental fees at the Multigenerational Center are being reduced to match the new Fieldhouse rates.

Regarding memberships, Mr. Brown shared that existing Copper Sky members will have access to the Fieldhouse at no additional cost. A separate, reduced-rate day pass, which were set at half the Multigenerational Center rate and will be available for those who wish to use only the Fieldhouse. Mr. Brown also described the reintroduction of previously lapsed fees for the disc golf course and the running path around Copper Sky Park, intended to facilitate the hosting of tournaments and events. He added that new vendor space fees were proposed to formalize and improve the experience for food trucks and other vendors at Copper Sky, identifying dedicated, well-situated locations near the soccer fields, Fieldhouse entrance, and aquatic center. Additionally, he reported that cleanup items included adding the Lakeview Park Ramadas and the Mike Ingram Heritage Park amphitheater and Ramada to the fee schedule and establishing a rate for the Willow Art Studio.

Councilmember Marsh commended the team for the depth of work performed alongside regular duties. Councilmember Liermann asked about food and beverage availability, and Mr. Brown confirmed that vending machines would be available, with food trucks encouraged to utilize the new vendor spaces, particularly during all-day tournaments. She suggested the possibility of pop-up kiosks for non-food items such as flowers and sports merchandise. Councilmember Knorr praised the forward-thinking approach to vendor and community integration.

Mayor Smith commended the team's work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, noting the committee's approval reflected meaningful engagement with residents. She highlighted the resident exemption from tournament gate fees as particularly meaningful, drawing positive reactions from those in attendance. She also asked for clarification on the membership tiers, Copper, Bronze, and Iron. Mr. Brown explained that it is tied to annual, mid-tier, and monthly membership options respectively.

Vice Mayor Manfredi raised a broader concern about the complexity of the current fee structure, particularly the treatment of resident business owners who may be charged business rates even when not conducting revenue-generating activity. He expressed a preference for simplifying the structure to two tiers—resident and non-resident—rather than distinguishing between residents, nonprofits, and businesses. Mr. Brown acknowledged this feedback, confirming that the issue is on the scope of the upcoming Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with a recommendation to Council anticipated following that process.

Mayor Smith noted a caution against underpricing that might allow businesses to monopolize room availability but acknowledged that current utilization rates suggest room for increased activity. Vice Mayor Manfredi clarified that his concern was specifically about local businesses conducting free community events being treated

the same as for-profit commercial operators and offered to fund a future health fair event at resident rates.

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

8.2 RES 26-18

A Resolution of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Maricopa, Arizona, adopting amendments to the City's Facility Rentals Policy. Discussion and Action.

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

8.3 ANX 26-01

The City Council shall take action on a request to initiate an annexation of unincorporated land within Pinal County, generally located one (1) mile south of W. Maricopa Casa Grande Hwy and N. Anderson Rd, specifically a portion of parcel # 502-14-002B (72.02 +/- acres). Discussion and Action.

Planning and Zoning Manager Rick Williams presented a procedural request to initiate annexation proceedings for a 79.02-acre parcel of unincorporated Pinal County land located approximately one mile south of West Maricopa Casa Grande Highway, near North Anderson Road. Mr. Williams explained that the City's zoning ordinance requires a formal Council directive to initiate the annexation process, which is governed by Arizona Revised Statutes and involves a specific sequence of requirements. He added that the adjacent Anderson Russell PAD, established around 2004, was identified as context for the subject parcel.

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

8.4 PRES 26-09

The Mayor and City Council shall hear a 2025 Maricopa Fire Department Annual Report Presentation from Fire Chief Brad Pitassi. Discussion Only.

Fire Chief Brad Pitassi presented the Fire Department's 2025 Annual Report, highlighting significant investments marking the department's 20th anniversary. He reported that calls for service rose to 6,800, an increase from the previous year's 6,500, with apparatus responses up nearly 20 percent. He added that the department's 90th percentile response time is 9 minutes and 14 seconds, largely due to the absence of a new fire station since 2013. Chief Pitassi reported that Station 571's green zone, covering the city's northern to southern boundaries, primarily drives these longer response times. He shared that Station 573 has acquired land at Sonoran Parkway and Porter Road, planned to reduce these times significantly, with completion anticipated in 2029. Lastly, Chief Pitassi shared that this timeline is contingent on ambulance staffing and the fire academy's annual 12 firefighter capacity. Over 40 percent of the department is eligible for retirement, adding pressure on training needs.

Next, Chief Pitassi shared that in May, the city received a Certificate of Necessity from Arizona's Department of Health Services, affirming its capacity to operate ambulance services. He added that a 30-day appeal window is pending; should an appeal occur, a hearing may extend the decision process but won't affect the ambulance rollout timeline. Chief Pitassi shared that ambulance operations are expected to begin in the first quarter of 2027, following deliveries in late 2026 or early 2027. He reported that the staffing will include 24 firefighters by May 2027, with additional backups ready by the year's end. Lastly, Chief Pitassi shared that the sworn model uses firefighters instead of civilian EMTs, improving safety, adding flexible roles, and providing scalable

ambulance capacity.

Next, he reported that in 2025, training hours exceeded 11,000, a jump from 8,000 the previous year, thanks to better tracking and a comprehensive training plan. He added that staff also graduated three new paramedics from a rigorous program and hired additional certified instructors. In fire prevention, the department filled the Fire Marshal role and aligned inspections under its jurisdiction, enhancing operational-code enforcement synergies.

Next, Chief Pitassi reported that the Community Risk Reduction launched a smoke detector program, inspecting 110 detectors and replacing 78 batteries; detectors for the hearing impaired were installed via an Arizona Burn Foundation partnership. Lastly, he shared that the community outreach continued with programs like Fire Pals and initiatives targeting prevalent issues like falls.

Additionally, he shared that the department recognized Firefighters of the Year Firefighter Spencer Nathe and Engineer Ben Blanco, honored Ladder 571 B-Shift for a notable swift water rescue, acknowledged Captain Neumann and Engineer Flaherty's commendable performance, and awarded Engineer Claudio Rodriguez for his courage in a collision incident. Chief Pitassi added that Ron Smith received a Community Service Award, while Captain Shayleen Perez and Engineer Olderbak celebrated promotions. Lastly, he reported that in two academy classes, ten new firefighters were hired, offset by three retirements totaling over 70 years of experience.

Furthermore, Chief Pitassi reported that in capital investments, 10 new fire apparatus were ordered, marking substantial advancement during the reporting period. He shared that the department's purchase includes apparatus for future stations and emergency replacements. Chief added that Recognition by NIOSH for reaching Gold Helmet status in the Firefighter Cancer Registry highlighted wide departmental participation. Council members expressed appreciation for the department's strategic progress and foresight. They suggested investment in a local training facility to lessen reliance on costly regional alternatives.

Lastly, Chief Pitassi distinguished the scale and purpose of potential future training developments, while reiterating ongoing dedication to effective public safety solutions. Council members commended programs like the smoke alarm initiative, expressed gratitude for service responses, and encouraged further exploration of integrated support systems, underscoring shared community commitment.

The Presentation was heard.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was conducted.

10. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

11. 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 16th day of June, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called

and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 14th day of July 2026.

_____

Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk