City of Maricopa

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council Regular Meeting

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

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | **6:00 PM** | **Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. An invocation was given by Pastor Roger Thompson from Calvary Church, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Marsh.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Proclamations, Acknowledgements, Awards and Presentations

3.1 PROC 26-12 Fall Prevention Proclamation

Mayor Smith presented a proclamation declaring September as Fall Prevention Awareness Month. She shared that the proclamation cited statistics indicating that slips and falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths among Arizona residents aged 65 and older. Mayor Smith added that the proclamation called upon older adults, caregivers, healthcare providers, first responders, and community partners to routinely assess fall risks and enact strategies to improve mobility, stability, and independence. Mayor Smith asked Members of the Council and resident Ron Smith to join her at the podium for the presentation.

Read

4. Report from the Mayor

Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Pinal Partnership Breakfast on August 7th, where the discussion centered on energy topics such as gas, electric, solar, and wind. On August 11th, he reported taking part in the Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority Board Meeting, which he shared focused on addressing the long-term drought conditions and the recent reduction in Arizona's allocation of Colorado River water by the federal government. Councilmember Marsh added that the meeting explored several strategies to cope with these challenges, including turf water reduction strategies, converting turf watering from potable to reclaimed water, and using aquifer recharge, particularly through the introduction of beaver dams in the Santa Cruz and

Santa Rosa washes, as a means to hold back water and encourage it to percolate into the aquifers.

On August 17th, Councilmember Marsh reported attending the Senior Advisory Council meeting where discussions included planning for the January Senior Info Expo and filling a role vacancy within the council. On August 20th, he reported participating in a Lunch and Learn Event, featuring a presentation by Jake Lenderking from Global Water. He added that this session provided valuable insights into water sourcing and conservation practices.

On August 27th, he reported attending a Board of Adjustments Meeting in Florence that dealt with property variances, including one case related to an undersized lot in Hidden Valley, south of Maricopa. He mentioned the weekly meet and greet events for seniors every Monday from 10 to 11 AM at the Maricopa Community Center.

Additionally, he shared information about a movie matinee held every Friday at 1 PM, except on September 11th when it starts at noon, and a blood pressure clinic on September 11th from 10:30 to 11 AM. The senior-focused events aim to support the well-being of Maricopa's older population and encourage community engagement.

On September 17th, Councilmember Marsh shared that resident Ron Smith would lead a Lunch and Learn focusing on strategies to prevent falls among older adults. Furthermore, a Fall Prevention Awareness Info Expo was announced for September 26th from 9 AM to 1 PM, designed as part of a broader initiative to enhance the safety and health of older adults within the community.

Councilmember Liermann congratulated her son, Air Force Cadet Charles Liermann, a senior at the United States Air Force Academy, on receiving his assignment in cyberspace operations. She thanked event organizer Adam Orta for hosting Maricopa's Got Talent on August 29th, noting that 34 acts performed and that 12 finalists would compete on September 12th at Duke's Roadhouse from 2 to 5 PM, with the public serving as judges and the event serving as a fundraiser for Maricopa 1st Friday.

Councilmember Liermann shared that a second art gallery would be opening in City Hall as a solo artist spotlight gallery, crediting the Cultural Affairs and Arts Committee, Travis Orian and Brenda Campbell for their work. Next, she reported that the Maricopa Police Department made 80 contacts and issued 62 citations on the first day of school for speeding, failure to yield, and cell phone violations, and highlighted the department's new online Ride Safe Program for e-bike and scooter violations. She also thanked Arizona Department of Public Safety for their consistent presence on State Route 347.

Councilmember Liermann praised the library for its youth programming and reminded the community of upcoming events including Stagecoach Days and 1st Fridays beginning October 2nd. Additionally, Councilmember Liermann acknowledged Pinal County Supervisor Vitiello for continued discussions regarding animal welfare and the potential for a shelter in Maricopa, recognized Global Water for generously opening their facilities to community groups, and praised the Maricopa Police Department for their broad community engagement beyond standard patrol duties.

Next, she also thanked Councilmember Goettl for organizing a coalition bringing nonprofits and churches together to coordinate community service. Lastly, Councilmember Liermann relayed guidance from Arizona Game and Fish Officer Travis Clarkson regarding bobcat, coyote, and fox sightings, including the dispatch hotline

number, 602-942-3000, and deterrent strategies.

Councilmember Wade reported on the Youth Council orientation held the previous week, which drew a full room of prospective members who participated in a glow-in-the-dark activity. He noted that the Youth Council leadership would be transitioning, as seven senior members who had participated for at least three years were completing their tenure. He encouraged residents with civic-minded young people in their homes to have them attend the next Youth Council meeting on September 9th at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, at which elections for the new season would be held.

Councilmember Knorr reported on her service as council liaison to the Cultural Affairs and Arts Committee, praising the all-volunteer committee's work and expressing enthusiasm for the return of the City Hall gallery featuring local artists. She reported attending the Greater Maricopa Pinal Business Alliance economic development forum hosted at Global Water, as well as a League of Cities and Towns breakout session on economic development. She described a tour of the Alma Farrell Innovation Academy for State Senator Karen Warner and a fellow Scottsdale Unified School District board member, noting that the visitors were so impressed they expressed interest in bringing the academy's model to Scottsdale. Councilmember Knorr credited Maricopa Unified School District's career and technology focus, as well as local families, for producing students who were noted as particularly professional and respectful. She also announced that she had completed a certificate course in continuous compression CPR and AED skills, taught free of charge by Bill Robertson and Kelly Anderson using resources provided by the Province HOA, and encouraged community groups to seek out this training.

Vice Mayor Manfredi reported attending the League of Arizona Cities and Towns conference, sharing that the opportunity it provided for dialogue with state, county, and federal representatives including Pinal County supervisors and state legislators. Next, he also reported on a Pinal Regional Transit Authority Meeting, explaining that of the approximately $80–90 million collected under Proposition 416/417, approximately $48 million had been refunded to businesses, with approximately $44–45 million remaining. He added that his intention to advocate that the remaining funds be distributed in the same manner as the existing 0.5-cent sales tax for road maintenance, which he estimated could bring the City of Maricopa $6–8 million. Vice Mayor Manfredi announced that Maricopa High School and Desert Sunrise High School would each hold 9/11 flag-raising ceremonies and encouraged attendance. He noted the return of the Salsa Festival, with sign-ups available on the City website. He closed by recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Month, encouraging residents to check in on one another, and providing the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as a free, confidential resource available 24/7. He also offered his personal cell phone number, 602-373-9996, to anyone in need of support.

Mayor Smith reported on her attendance at the 10th anniversary celebration of Grace Fellowship Church and encouraged businesses, organizations, and nonprofits to share milestone celebrations for posting on her mayor's Facebook page. She noted that she spoke on two panels at the Arizona League of Cities conference with one on growth in rural communities and one on Global Water's Aquifer Recharge and Water Recycling program with highlighting that the City of Maricopa recycles approximately one billion gallons of water annually. Mayor Smith echoed praise for the Youth Council's performance at the conference, noting that attendees stopped her in the halls to compliment the youth booth. She also reported that the Maricopa Art Council Open Mic event held at Honeycutt Coffee, the success of Cops and Cones, the graduation of a new Maricopa Police Department officer, and her role as a judge at Maricopa's Got Talent.

5. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Bitter announced that restroom facilities were coming to Mike Ingram Heritage Park, with construction anticipated to begin within a few weeks and a projected completion by the end of the year. He introduced a Veterans Banner Program being launched in partnership with the American Legion as a fundraiser, with banners featuring veterans and active duty community members to be displayed during Veterans Day and the Fourth of July. City Manager Bitter added that these banners would be retired after a two-year period and made available as keepsakes. Lastly, City Manager announced that the ribbon cutting for six new outdoor pickleball courts at Copper Sky would take place on Tuesday, September 22nd at 9:00 AM, with adjacent sand volleyball courts having been relocated to accommodate the expansion. He noted that indoor courts were also anticipated to open that fall.

6. Call to the Public

Resident Torri Anderson spoke on behalf of Against Abuse Incorporated, inviting the Council and community to the organization's 21st Annual Seeds of Change Gala on October 10th at 6:00 PM at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. She described the gala's theme, which would feature decorated Christmas trees donated by 22 businesses to be auctioned off, with a moving company providing delivery. She noted that the gala has supported the domestic violence shelter in Maricopa for 12 years, serving thousands of families including those in outreach programs and a men's program.

Resident Ron Smith thanked the Council for the Fall Prevention Proclamation and elaborated that the September 26th information expo at the library was intended as a kickoff for an ongoing series of workshops, seminars, and community outreach initiatives which include home assessments in partnership with the fire department and it extends into the following year.

Dr. Rosenna Bakari introduced herself as the founder of 7 Exits, a professional and personal development business founded in Maricopa in 2020. She described an inaugural women's empowerment event scheduled for October 17th at the Element Event Center, expecting 50 to 80 attendees from across Arizona and nationally. She requested community support in three areas: sponsorships to assist women who cannot afford the $125 registration fee, volunteers for the planning committee, and sponsors to assist with printing and advertising needs.

Dr. John and May reminded the Council and public about Kids' Day Maricopa, scheduled for Saturday, September 19th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Maricopa Wells Middle School. They described approximately 100 activities covering health, safety, and environmental awareness, with sponsors and participants including Maricopa Police Department, Phoenix Children's, Electrical District 3, Global Water, Pinal County Search and Rescue, Duke's Roadhouse, Maricopa Pantry, and others. They also noted the Maricopa Police Foundation Golf Tournament on September 26th.

Resident Tena Dugan addressed the Council regarding recently proposed industrial zoning changes, specifically in the context of potential data center development. She referenced a Pima County Health Department public health review developed with Johns Hopkins researchers identifying 21 health and infrastructure impact pathways associated with data centers, including water use, air quality, noise, heat, grid stability, and decommissioning. She cited the example of Casa Grande, which faced approximately $146 million in Proposition 207 claims after attempting to regulate data

center development after-the-fact, and noted that the Arizona Attorney General had called for a statewide pause on data center approvals. She urged the Council to hold off on any additional industrial zoning changes until Maricopa had established comprehensive, enforceable data center regulations with public reporting requirements.

Resident Chrystal O'Jon addressed the Council regarding the City's Flock Safety automated license plate reader cameras. She requested that the City make publicly available the system's audit log detailing every search of Maricopa's data, performance data comparing total searches to cases cleared, and a list of all outside agencies with access to the cameras and under what agreements. She cited polling suggesting that community confidence in the cameras had declined, with 41 percent of residents now opposing them.

Resident Gregory Follett spoke on pedestrian and crosswalk safety, describing hazardous conditions faced by school-age residents navigating busy intersections. He referenced City Code Title 10, Chapter 10.50, which authorizes the city engineer or chief of police to designate safety zones and establish protective markings. He was directed to meet with City Manager Bitter after his allotted time expired to continue the discussion.

Resident Brad Follett addressed the Council regarding data centers, AI, quantum computing centers, and battery energy storage systems. He described a 60-page evidence-based report he had submitted to staff and Council, available on his website, advocating for a ban rather than a moratorium on such facilities due to security concerns related to components sourced from countries of concern. He noted that the Arizona Attorney General had recently responded to a similar request he submitted in July, and he offered to assist the City in developing regulatory guardrails.

Jon Corwin spoke on behalf of Global Water, providing three updates: a change in payment processing vendor taking effect in December, which would require customers on Auto Pay to update their payment information; an adjustment to the walk-in office hours in Maricopa to 8:30 AM–12:30 PM, Monday through Friday, effective October 19th. Mr. Corwin shared a clarification that Global Water's supply in Maricopa is groundwater-based and therefore not directly impacted by recent Colorado River allocation reductions, while reaffirming the company's long-term focus on conservation and future water sourcing.

Resident Alan Anderson expressed strong opposition to the Flock Safety camera system, stating that the cameras record far more than license plates and that the data is transmitted to Flock Safety. He characterized the approval of the cameras as a decision that should have been brought before the Council or the public for a vote, and expressed concern that surveillance tools are inevitably subject to misuse over time.

Resident Kathleen Stephens expressed concern about the proliferation of surveillance cameras throughout the city, including in areas near schools and playgrounds. She urged the Council to reconsider the Flock camera program.

Resident Julia Romero Gusse stated her opposition to data center development, noting that she had attended a Pinal County Supervisors meeting to oppose the La Rosa Data Center and that Global Water had been proposed as the water provider for that project. She also opposed the Flock cameras, drawing on her background working at the National Security Agency to make the point that surveillance tools are for monitoring adversaries, not the general public.

Resident Gary Benedict called for the removal of the Flock Safety cameras, arguing that the core issue is not potential misuse of the data but rather the data itself. He described the cameras as creating detailed behavioral profiles of innocent citizens, while tracking movements, patterns, and associations. He cited Pinal County Sheriff Ross Teeple's decision not to renew his office's Flock contract due to Fourth Amendment concerns. He urged the Council to follow the Sheriff's example.

Resident Dale Dresel expressed opposition to the Flock cameras on both privacy and fiscal grounds, questioning whether the expenditure was justified given the city's crime environment and suggesting the funds could have been directed toward infrastructure needs such as right-turn lanes, road widening, or sidewalks. He also raised concerns about water conservation, noting a new school in his neighborhood with several acres of turf being irrigated frequently, and questioned the consistency of environmental standards applied to residents versus public institutions and developers.

Resident Jay Wolford expressed opposition to the Flock cameras, characterizing them as a violation of First and Fourth Amendment rights and arguing that the funds could be better used to improve the community.

Resident Jesse Martinez asked the City to publish a clear account of how and when the Flock camera system was approved, noting that many residents were unaware of any public process. He added that mass surveillance of innocent people goes beyond the legitimate governmental role of protecting society.

Resident Alyssa Kohuth expressed concern about the safety of data collected by the Flock system, particularly regarding information pertaining to children, and asked that the cameras be removed.

Resident Sean Stinson stated his opposition to the Flock cameras on Fourth Amendment grounds.

Kenya Rivers invited the Council and community to a Business Expo on September 12th from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Maricopa Library and Culture Center.

Resident Amber Ruston urged the City to end its relationship with Flock Safety. She acknowledged the cameras' role in locating stolen vehicles and missing persons but argued that effectiveness cannot be the sole standard for evaluating government surveillance tools. She cited Pinal County Sheriff Teeple's decision not to renew the Flock contract and the City of Chandler's discontinuation of its 40 Flock cameras following an audit that revealed an officer had improperly used the system to locate a family member. She called for a transparent public process to determine what surveillance limits Maricopa residents wished to place on law enforcement technology.

Resident Cherise Trask expressed her concern about residents being continuously tracked through their daily movements. She argued that what is lawful today can be redefined in the future and framed the present moment as a pivotal opportunity to resist the normalization of a surveillance state.

Pinal County Supervisor Rich Vitiello urged the Council and community to contact Pinal County supervisors and state legislators to advocate that the remaining $44–45 million in the funds be returned to Pinal County rather than absorbed into the state's general fund. He noted that approximately $50 million had already been refunded to businesses and that state legislators were positioning to control the remaining balance.

Resident Peg Chapados urged voter registration ahead of the October 5th deadline and noting that the November 3rd general election was approaching. She observed that the previous primary election had seen just over 20 percent voter turnout and encouraged residents who had spoken at the meeting to channel their civic engagement into voting.

Vice Mayor Manfredi informed the public that Good Arc, a local animal rescue organization, had sustained significant damage during a recent storm and had lost several animals. He noted that Earthwise Pet Supply was collecting cash donations and coordinating volunteer sign-ups to assist with rebuilding efforts, directing residents to contact Candice at Earthwise Pet Supply for more information.

7. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Manfredi, seconded by Councilmember Wade to Approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7.1 RES 26-24 — 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 for Fiscal Year 2027. Discussion and Action.

This Resolution was Approved.

7.2 SPEVLIQ 26-09 — The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for a Special Event Liquor License application submitted by Wendy Webb for approval of an event known as Thirsty Thirdsday on October 15, November 15, November 19, December 31, 2026 and January 1, 2027 to be held at 20942 N. Province Parkway, Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Discussion and Action.

This Special Event Liquor License was Approved.

7.3 SPEVLIQ 26-10 — The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on recommending approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control for a Special Event Liquor License application submitted by Kent O'Jon on behalf of the Black Chamber of Commerce for a special event known as the Black Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Gala to be held on December 5, 2026 at Global Water Resources, 22590 N. Powers Parkway, Maricopa, Arizona 85138. Discussion and Action.

This Special Event Liquor License was Approved.

7.4 POL 26-01 — The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on adopting the Alcohol & Drug Testing Program, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) policy. Discussion and Action.

This Policy was Approved.

7.5 MIN 26-51 — Approval of Minutes from the August 4, 2026 City Council Regular meeting. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

7.6 MIN 26-52

Acceptance of Minutes from the March 26, 2026 and May 13 ,2026 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings, May 18, 2026, June 15, 2026 and July 20, 2026 Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee meetings, June 22, 2026 and July 27, 2026 Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Discussion and Action.

These Minutes were Approved.

8. Regular Agenda and/or Public Hearings

8.1 ANNX26-01

PUBLIC HEARING: The Mayor and City Council shall hear public comment regarding Annexation case # ANNX26-01, approximately ±73 acres of land generally located east of N. Anderson Rd., one-mile south of Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, within Pinal County. Discussion only.

LaRee Mason, Associate Planner, presented a request to bring approximately 73 acres of unincorporated Pinal County land into the City of Maricopa. She shared that the subject parcel, which she identified as Parcel 502-14-002B, known as the Dobson Trust parcel and is located on the east side of Anderson Road, one mile south of the Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway. Ms. Mason added that staff confirmed that the property carries an existing single-residence zoning designation with a PAD approved in 2005, and that no development or rezone is currently planned. Next, she reviewed the procedural steps completed since the Council's June 16th authorization to initiate annexation, including site posting, neighborhood outreach, a neighborhood meeting held on July 13th with approximately six attendees, legal notices published in the Casa Grande Dispatch and Maricopa Monitor, and submission of the annexation petition. She added that the next steps would include preparation of a 10-year infrastructure plan for Council review and adoption of an annexation ordinance, anticipated to return before the Council on October 6th.

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing at 7:44 p.m. No speaker cards were received and no members of the public came forward. The public hearing was closed.

The Public Hearing was held.

8.2 APP 26-07

The Mayor and City Council shall discuss and take action on making an appointment to fill the vacancy on the Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee. Discussion and Action.

Councilmember Liermann recommended the appointment of Lisa Anderson to the Cultural Affairs and Arts Advisory Committee. She noted that Ms. Anderson is a Leadership Academy graduate with 14 years of volunteerism in the City of Maricopa, and holds experience in arts, performance, dance, and choreography, as well as having hosted a podcast for 106 episodes.

Vice Mayor Manfredi expressed strong support for the nomination, stating that he knew Ms. Anderson and could not think of a person more capable or more available to the community. Councilmember Wade shared that he had recently presented Ms. Anderson with a personal community recognition award.

A motion was made by Councilmember Liermann, seconded by Councilmember Wade, that this Appointment be Appointed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

9. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

10. Adjournment

This matter was adjourned at 7:47 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 1st day of September, 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 6th day of October, 2026.

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Vanessa Bueras
City Clerk