



COUNCIL MINUTES

November 29, 2018

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 29, 2018 at 7:53 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
David Luna
Mark Freeman
Christopher Glover
Francisco Heredia*
Kevin Thompson
Jeremy Whittaker

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

(*Councilmember Heredia participated in the meeting through the use of telephonic equipment.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the December 3, 2018 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None.

Items removed from the consent agenda: 4-c, 6-a, 7-a

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Whittaker regarding agenda item 4-c (**Five-year Term Contract for Photo Safety Enforcement Program Services for the Police Department (Sole Source) (Citywide)**) Transportation Director RJ Zeder remarked City Engineers continuously evaluate traffic safety throughout the City and have completed analysis regarding the effectiveness of the photo enforcement program. He added there is data available that shows a reduction in accidents at locations where the photo enforcement has been installed.

City Manager Christopher Brady reported staff have received requests from residents to have the photo enforcement installed in their neighborhoods due to traffic safety concerns.

Mr. Zeder advised a resident is requesting photo enforcement be installed at the intersection of Carriage Lane and Guadalupe Road due to motorists driving through the signal. He stated staff completed a study at that location and found there is evidence to support the concern and the request. He added it is being proposed that photo enforcement also be installed near Red Mountain High School and the intersection of Ellsworth Road and Pecos Road.

Mr. Brady stated that the photo enforcement program is a great tool the City can utilize instead of having patrol officers always located at the intersections with traffic safety concerns.

Vice Mayor Luna commented that the photo enforcement program is an effective way of controlling speed in school zones and mitigating any potential problems.

Mr. Zeder reported that the average speed of a motorist at Red Mountain High School reduced from 48.1 MPH to 36.4 MPH once the cameras were installed in that area, which indicates the effectiveness of the program.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Whittaker, Mr. Zeder replied that general standards are used to set speed limits and engineers focus on traffic studies to determine if lower speeds are warranted in certain neighborhoods in the City.

Mr. Brady commented that revenue generated from citations issued through photo enforcement is used to fund the traffic safety program and pay for driver feedback signs.

Discussion ensued relating to red light cameras and speed on green cameras.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman, Assistant City Manager John Pombier reported there are currently 25 active locations with photo enforcement; 7 locations are school zones and 18 locations are intersections. He added the cost of the program is approximately 2.2 million dollars and the anticipated revenue from the program is approximately 4.2 million dollars.

Councilmember Freeman stated his opposition to the photo enforcement program but advised education in traffic safety is important, especially for young adults.

At the request of Vice Mayor Luna, Mr. Pombier detailed a parent meeting held at Guerrero Elementary School where the concern of children crossing at Broadway Drive was discussed, along with finding a resolution.

Councilmember Freeman suggested utilizing funds generated from the photo enforcement program to provide safe driver education lectures to new drivers at Mesa Public Schools.

Mr. Zeder commented that “mock crashes” are currently being conducted at the schools to show students what a serious accident looks like.

Councilmember Heredia expanded on the photo enforcement request from residents on Carriage Lane and expressed his support for cameras to be installed at that intersection.

Mayor Giles asked staff to provide additional information regarding the revenue generated from the photo enforcement program and how those funds are being utilized throughout the City.

Councilmember Glover requested staff present at the next Study Session the photo enforcement program process from beginning to end.

Councilmember Whittaker requested information pertaining to the number of accidents at an intersection before and after the installation of the photo enforcement cameras.

Environmental and Sustainability Department Director Scott Bouchie introduced Environmental and Sustainability Deputy Director Laura Hyneman who displayed a PowerPoint presentation **(See Attachment 1)** and discussed item 5-d **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Solar Participation Agreement with the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District. (Citywide))** on the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

In response to questions posed by Councilmember Whittaker, Mr. Bouchie reported the City would save approximately \$11,000 annually by entering into the Solar Participation Agreement. He stated SRP offered select commercial customers the opportunity to share in a portion of the solar at the facility and the City will be responsible for 2.6 MW of solar power from the facility.

Councilmembers Freeman and Whittaker thanked staff for working with SRP to enter into the agreement and utilizing renewable energy as a source of electricity for the City.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles, City Manager Christopher Brady explained there will be an opportunity in the future for staff and Council to have a discussion regarding the City purchasing solar power from SRP as a form of electricity and distributing the solar powered electricity to Mesa residents.

Councilmember Freeman commented on agenda item 6-a **(Acknowledging receipt of the report and recommendations of the Independent Compensation on Commission for Elected Officials (ICCEO) and to increase the compensation for the Office of City Council as recommended by the ICCEO by amending Ordinance 5196)**. He stated an appreciation to the ICCEO for analyzing data to determine the correct compensation for Council and expressed his opposition to Council receiving a wage increase at this time.

Council agreed to remove item 6-a from the agenda and no compensation increase would occur.

Councilmember Whittaker requested additional information regarding the Planning and Zoning Boards recommendation of denial for agenda item 9-b **(GPA ZON18-00181 (District 6) The 9500 to 9800 blocks of East Hampton Avenue (south side). Located north of the U.S. 60 Superstition Freeway and west of Crismon Road (33± acres). Minor General Plan Amendment to change the Character Type from Employment to Neighborhood. This request will allow for a small-lot single-residence subdivision and multi-residence development. Reese Anderson, Pew & Lake, PLC, applicant; Crismon BFC, LLC, owner.)**

Councilmember Thompson stated that currently the general plan for the area is employment and the developer is requesting the area to be zoned as a neighborhood. He explained an assisted living facility, restaurants, a church, apartment complexes, and a post office are located in the area, therefore it now seems appropriate to allow for the general plan amendment and the proposed project to occur.

2-a. Hear a presentation by the new Mesa Historical Museum Executive Director and discuss and provide direction on the current and future heritage preservation program and services by the Mesa Historical Museum.

Arts and Culture Director Cindy Ornstein introduced Mesa Historical Museum Executive Director Leon Natker and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)** She provided personal and professional background information for Mr. Natker.

Mr. Natker detailed the projects and events taking place at the Mesa Historical Museum (MHM). He advised staff is working to reacquisition collections that are currently in the possession of the Arizona Museum of Natural History (AZMNH). He reported there are 1,600 artifacts, as well as over 16,000 historic photographs, to be obtained from the AZMNH. He stated staff and volunteers will be at every spring training game to hand out flyers and inform the community of what the MHM has to offer and upcoming events. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2)

Councilmember Thompson commended Mr. Natker for prioritizing the need to inventory the collection and having a presence at spring training games with appropriate exhibits.

Vice Mayor Luna requested the museum showcase the early Mormon Pioneer settlers, along with the diversity in the community and the families that built the City.

Mr. Natker advised living history lessons will be available to elementary school children in the spring and the development of education programs will be a priority.

Councilmember Freeman commented that the MHM is a legacy in the community and he thanked Mr. Natker for the hard work put forth to grow and develop the museum. He suggested public and private partnerships for fundraising opportunities.

Mayor Giles thanked Mr. Natker for the presentation.

2-b. Hear a presentation and discuss an update on the SkyBridge development.

Economic Development Department Director Bill Jabjiniak introduced Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport Executive Director & CEO Brian O'Neill and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 3)**

Mr. O'Neill displayed a map outlining the 3,000 acres at the airport. He advised the Gateway Executive Park is located on the north end of the airport where Embraer, Cessna, and Constant Aviation are located. He stated the Northeast Development Area consists of 700 acres and is located on the east side of the airport. He added a portion of this area will be preserved for a future passenger terminal and the remaining acreage will be used for private development. He identified the south end of the airport as the location for SkyBridge Arizona. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Mr. O'Neill detailed the new Bilateral Trade Agreement between U.S. Customs and Mexico. He stated the agreement allows for a Mexican Customs Official to be stationed at Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and this official will be involved in the joint inspection of cargo with U.S. Customs. He explained once product is cleared at the airport it will be shipped domestically to Mexico, which will expedite the transfer of goods. (See Page 5 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Thompson, Mr. Jabjiniak replied that SkyBridge will have a positive effect on the City, as well as the State, due to the number of jobs that it is expected to bring and the development that will occur.

Councilmember Thompson requested that a presentation be given to Council in the future providing an update on any changes at the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport.

Discussion ensued relating to ecommerce companies shipping product through SkyBridge and shipment timeframes.

In response to questions posed by Councilmember Whittaker, Mr. O'Neill advised the goal is to eventually have both inbound and outbound processing of goods from the United States and Mexico. He added the airport has enough capacity to allow both operations. He reported the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport has three 10,000-foot runways and 1.5 million passengers a year travel through the airport. He added Phoenix Sky Harbor has a similar infrastructure and approximately 45 million passengers travel through that airport in a year.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Heredia, Mr. O'Neill advised the SkyBridge Arizona team has a great working relationship with the new administration in Mexico and the new administration is very supportive and aware of the project.

Mayor Giles thanked Mr. O'Neill for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on an update to the Building and Fire Codes.

Deputy Fire Chief John Locklin introduced Development Services Deputy Director John Sheffer and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 4)** He advised the Building and Fire Codes are published every three years and the intent is to refine the previous codes and address any new technologies, techniques, and building constructions. He advised the City is utilizing the 2006 codes and the goal is to implement the 2018 codes in order to bring the City up to standards. He added this will also enhance regional consistency as other cities in the valley are transitioning to the 2018 codes.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Sheffer advised the three-month window given to developers with projects under design starts when the new codes take effect. He added staff will work with developers with larger projects that do not fit within the three-month grace period.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Whittaker, Mr. Locklin advised the new solar panel requirements apply to residential and commercial buildings.

Mr. Locklin noted that the 2018 codes will only apply to new construction.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Locklin stated the 2018 code will specify which buildings will need to be evaluated for emergency responder radio coverage. He explained during the construction phase the builder will have a third-party contractor test electronic devices to ensure there is sufficient radio coverage and a signal is being received in the building.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Transportation Advisory Board Meeting held on September 18, 2018.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Freeman-Glover-Heredia-Luna-Thompson-Whittaker
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Monday, December 3, 2018, 5:00 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, December 3, 2018, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Meeting

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 29th day of November, 2018. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 4)