



COUNCIL MINUTES

September 17, 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 September 17, 2018 at 5:15 p.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

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Whittaker from the beginning of the meeting; he participated in the meeting through the use of telephonic equipment and called in at 5:24 p.m.

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 17, 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: None.

Councilmember Thompson acknowledged agenda item 6-a and advised the community adjacent to the project and the owner of the project have a set of development agreements that are not a part of the City's development agreement with the property owner.

Environmental Management and Sustainability Director Scott Bouchie and Special Projects Manager Niel Curley displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and discussed item 5-c (**Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents for, and acting on behalf of, Arizona State University for bench-scale digester testing as a part of the conceptual food-to-energy program. (Citywide)**) on the Regular Council Meeting agenda.

Mr. Curley explained the food-to-energy program is where the City would collect food waste from commercial establishments, transfer the food waste to the Northwest Water Reclamation Plant (NWWRP) and turn the waste into biogas to be used to power the plant or fuel collection trucks. (See Page 1 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Curley advised the City wishes to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Arizona State University (ASU) to conduct bench-scale testing at their Biodesign Swette Center. He explained the digesters needed at the NWWRP will be created at ASU's lab, but on a smaller scale, to determine the impact to the digesters once food waste and FOG (fats, oils and grease) have been introduced to them. He added the results of the tests will determine the operational parameters needed at the NWWRP. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Councilmember Thompson expressed concern regarding the bench-testing project and advised that research has already been conducted on the success rate of turning biodegradable food into methane.

Mr. Bouchie advised several City Departments are in agreement that the project is feasible, however the testing is being completed to determine the actual gas production coming from the City's digesters using food waste collected from Mesa customers. He added this information will also help determine the financial feasibility of the project.

City Manager Christopher Brady commented the project and testing will help determine the "recipe for Mesa." He added the data and information from the bench-scale testing will also provide insight into the expected biogas production and aid in determining the future operation procedures and needs.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Heredia, Mr. Curley reported the feasibility study will last one year; beginning October of 2018 and ending in September of 2019.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles, Mr. Curley stated the selected facilities will be given 35-gallon barrels to place their food waste into and the waste in those barrels will be given to ASU for the bench-scale testing.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles, Mr. Bouchie advised the existing digesters at the NWWRP have the capacity to process food waste only. He explained if the City wished to process other organic material, such as yard waste, additional infrastructure would need to be built.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Thompson, Mr. Bouchie stated the project is a "commercial only operation" and food waste collection would not become a part of the residential services. He added the current facilities were selected in order to get an understanding of the amount of food waste anticipated from a grocery store, a restaurant, a food bank, etc.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Whittaker, Mr. Bouchie reported there is now a cost associated with recycling, whereas in the past it was a form of revenue for the City. He added it is still less expensive to recycle the material instead of taking the material to the landfill. He advised the additional cost is embedded in the rate for solid waste customers and has not changed; the future rate will depend on the commodity markets.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss an update on efforts underway in Mesa to reduce homelessness.

Deputy City Manager Natalie Lewis introduced Detective Aaron Raine who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)**

Detective Raine reported staff is collaborating with non-profits, faith-based groups and City Departments to reduce homelessness in the City. He noted the Municipal Court is offering services in lieu of incarceration, which allows individuals to get off the streets and improve their quality of life. He added our judicial system has turned into a conduit to connect people to services. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2)

Detective Raine described “functional zero” where the goal is to have a more robust system in connecting services to individuals and reduce homelessness over time. He noted that staff has partnered with Community Bridges and Maricopa County Association of Governments (MAG) to identify the people that are constantly in the system and putting them in touch with the services that would best fit their needs. He stated staff is working with the East Valley City Managers to develop a master housing plan to meet the future housing needs in the community. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Councilmember Thompson thanked Detective Raine for his tremendous work thus far and collaborating with area agencies. He commented on his compassion for homeless individuals and stated the opinion that Mesa is inheriting other city’s issues by funding Mesa organizations that feed individuals all day instead of taking care of the homeless living specifically in the City. He added it will cost a lot if the City continues to take on the burden.

Councilmember Whittaker stated his appreciation to Detective Raine for proactively addressing the issue of homelessness in the community.

In response to a question posed by Vice Mayor Luna, Detective Raine reported he is part of the Maricopa County Association of Governments Outreach collaborative that meets monthly to discuss homelessness issues each community is dealing with and share policies regionally.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman, Ms. Lewis advised staff communicates with new businesses or faith-based organizations that want to provide help to homeless individuals to ensure services are not being duplicated in the City.

Mayor Giles recognized the ongoing homelessness issue in the community and thanked Detective Raine for his commitment in working with non-profit organizations to connect individuals with the appropriate services.

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

3-a. Housing and Community Development Advisory Board meeting held on May 3, 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-Luna-Glover-Freeman-Heredia-Thompson-Whittaker
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Thompson:	Community Leaders of America Conference
Vice Mayor Luna:	Hispanic Local Elected Officials Meeting

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 5:30 p.m. – Councilmember Heredia’s Mobile Office

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 5:30 p.m. – Councilmember Glover’s Mobile Office

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 6:09 p.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 17th day of September, 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 – 2)