



2005 CITIZEN BOND COMMITTEE

August 10, 2005

The 2005 Citizen Bond Committee met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on August 10, 2005 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Eric Jackson, Chairman
Craig Ahlstrom
Beth Coons
Michele Fiore
Linda Flick
Pat Gilbert
Robert Hisserich
Greg Holtz
LaShawn Jenkins
Albert McHenry
Judy O'Neill
Scott Rhodes
Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo

COMMITTEE ABSENT

Bob Saemisch

COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity, will remain as listed on the agenda.)

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Chairman Jackson welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2005 Citizen Bond Committee and stated that the members will meet over the next three months to review and make recommendations to the City Council regarding a bond-funding program to propose to Mesa voters in 2006.

At the request of Chairman Jackson, the Committeemembers briefly highlighted their professional and civic activities. Chairman Jackson stated that Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo would serve as Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Overview of the City of Mesa's financial future.

Mayor Keno Hawker expressed appreciation to the Committeemembers for their willingness to serve on the Citizen Bond Committee. He stated that each appointee possesses a wide array of knowledge regarding the City of Mesa, as well as expertise in varying fields that would assist the Committee as a whole in making the most appropriate recommendations concerning Mesa's future bonding needs.

Mayor Hawker commented that the timing of the Bond Committee's tenure is somewhat interesting in that the Council is anticipating receiving the Financing the Future Citizen Committee's final report soon. He explained that in addition to staff making presentations to the Bond Committee concerning the City's bond funding needs, the members would also receive Council direction relative to the Financing the Future Citizen Committee's recommendations regarding new and existing revenue sources for Mesa.

Mayor Hawker further spoke relative to a series of issues including, but not limited to, the following: that at the October 6, 2005 Council retreat, a major topic of discussion will be the future financing of Mesa, and the Committeemembers are invited to attend that meeting; that in a draft report from the Financing the Future Citizen Committee, a May 16, 2006 election date has been suggested (pending Council discussion and approval) to seek voter approval of a sales tax increase and a possible property tax proposal (the amounts are not yet determined); that in a community college bond election, an individual is voting for the sale of the bond and a tax assessment, and that voters in a City of Mesa bond election authorize the future sale of the bonds, but not the sale itself unless there is a repayment source; that the Bond Committee will be faced with certain challenges by not knowing whether the City has specific revenue sources to support different levels of bond indebtedness; and election date timelines for potential bond questions.

Mayor Hawker concluded his remarks by urging the Bond Committee to become educated, from the staff's perspective, with the City's different bonding needs; that they gain a working knowledge of the different types of bonds; and that they utilize the City's financial model during their analysis of the bond proposals.

Chairman Jackson voiced appreciation to Mayor Hawker for his remarks.

3. Review of the Committee's purpose/mission and an overview of past bond programs.

Capital Improvement Project Administrator Anthony Araza thanked the Committeemembers for their valued participation in shaping the City of Mesa's capital infrastructure. He explained that staff has compiled a list of program needs generated by the various departments, but stated that they are not based on financial restrictions.

Mr. Araza displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided a brief analysis of Mesa's past Special Bond Elections from 1979 to 2004. He also highlighted some of the projects that have been completed as a result of those elections including, but not limited to, the Northwest Water Reclamation Plant, expansion of the CAP Water Treatment Plant, Fire Stations 202 and 216, Brimhall Junior High pool facilities, Red Mountain Multigenerational Facility, and the widening of the Superstition Freeway.

Mr. Araza informed the Committeemembers that approximately five years ago, the City established a joint planning process called "*Mesa 2025: A Shared Vision*," which was designed to provide oversight of all planning efforts and ensure coordination/consistency of all master planned components into one document. He commented that the capital improvements and infrastructure derived from the updated master plans represent the projects that the Bond Committee will discuss and consider in the upcoming weeks. Mr. Araza noted that nine bond proposals have been submitted for Committee consideration, and said that staff would also make a financial presentation relative to the City's bond program.

Mr. Araza briefly highlighted the procedural process by which the Bond Committee would review the nine proposals. He explained that staff has prepared draft recommendations for the various projects in each of the bond categories; that the Committee would receive information displayed on spreadsheets one week prior to the department presentations; and that the program managers would make brief PowerPoint presentations and respond to any questions the Committeemembers may have on the projects. Mr. Araza added that upon review of the bond project spreadsheets, the Committee has the prerogative to make any changes or modifications that they deem necessary.

Chairman Jackson thanked Mr. Araza for his presentation.

4. Review of the Committee's work schedule.

Special Assistant to the City Manager Eric Norenberg reported that he has provided the Committeemembers with tentative agendas for the upcoming meetings and noted that any changes would be e-mailed to the members. He stated that the spreadsheets referenced by Mr. Araza, as well as other informational packets, would be distributed via e-mail and the US mail. Mr. Norenberg commented that additionally, a page on the City's website has been created specifically for the Bond Committee, wherein agendas, minutes, presentations and other documents would be readily accessible to the Committeemembers and the public. He advised that the Bond Committee meetings would be broadcast live on Mesa Channel 11 and then rebroadcast at designated times. Mr. Norenberg added that tours of various City facilities could be arranged, and he encouraged anyone who may be interested to contact him in that regard.

In response to a question from Committeemember Rhodes, Mr. Norenberg clarified that if, by the Bond Committee's currently scheduled final meeting on October 19th, they have not received clear Council direction regarding the Financing the Future Citizen Committee's recommendations, additional Bond Committee meetings could be scheduled, if necessary.

Chairman Jackson voiced appreciation to Mr. Norenberg for his presentation.

5. Discuss and consider Committee ground rules/guidelines.

Chairman Jackson requested input from the Committeemembers regarding the criteria for voting on the various bond proposals.

Chairman Jackson advised that if there were a quorum (8 out of 14 members), the majority of those present at the meeting would carry the vote.

It was moved by Committeemember O'Neill, seconded by Committeemember Rhodes, that a majority of the quorum present would carry the vote.

Chairman Jackson called for the vote.

Chairman Jackson declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Committeemember Ahlstrom stated that after a motion and second has been made, he would like the opportunity for the Committee to discuss an item prior to a vote being taken.

Chairman Jackson concurred with Committeemember Ahlstrom's suggestion.

Chairman Jackson indicated that as staff's presentations move forward, the Committee will consider possibly one or two bond proposals during the course of an evening. He commented that while everyone's memories are fresh regarding such items, it might be appropriate at that time to ask questions and consider staff's recommendations on each bond proposal, subject to reconsideration of all nine proposals at the end of the process. He requested input from the Committeemembers regarding his suggestion.

It was moved by Committeemember McHenry, seconded by Committeemember Ahlstrom, that a vote be taken by the Committee (on the individual bond proposals) as close in time to the contiguous discussion as possible.

Discussion ensued relative to the following modification to the motion: that if the Committee is not prepared to vote on the night of the presentation, they are not obligated to make a tentative decision that evening and can vote at the next meeting.

Chairman Jackson and Committeemembers McHenry and Ahlstrom, as the maker and second of the motion, concurred with the modification to the motion.

Chairman Jackson called for the vote.

Chairman Jackson declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Further discussion ensued relative to a mid-term Census; a brief overview of the Open Meeting Law; and the sequence under which citizens would be permitted to address the Committee on the various bond proposals.

6. Hear and discuss a presentation on demographics/population/growth trends.

Planning Director John Wesley addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview of this agenda item. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation and offered a statistical analysis of various growth characteristics in the City of Mesa. Mr. Wesley also discussed the number of annexations within the City between 2000-2005; Mesa's current population; the total projected growth area for the City; and major development/redevelopment projects within the community.

Chairman Jackson expressed appreciation to Mr. Wesley for the presentation.

7. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the 2005 Citizen Bond Committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the 2005 Citizen Bond Committee of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 10th day of August 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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