

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 3, 2003

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 March 3, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Janie Thom
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 3, 2003 Regular Council Meeting.

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

Items placed on the consent agenda: 7c and 8a.

2. Hear and consider a request from representatives from Arizona State University concerning Arizona State University's research infrastructure.

Assistant to the City Manager Jim Huling, Virgil Renzulli, Arizona State University (ASU) Vice President for Public Affairs, and Steve Miller, Deputy Vice President for Public Affairs, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Renzulli explained that ASU is seeking a letter of support from the City of Mesa regarding its efforts to garner State support for a \$14 million investment for the construction of new facilities that would enhance ASU's ability to perform world-class research in the areas of science and technology. He advised that at the present time, California, Colorado, Illinois, New York and North Carolina have all made substantial investments to increase the research capacities of their systems of higher education, and added that it is crucial that Arizona make similar investments to ensure the State's economic prosperity, as well as its position as a leader in science and technology fields for the 21st Century.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that a \$14 million investment from the State would enable ASU to build \$185 million worth of research infrastructure at its various campuses (Tempe, Mesa, west campus and downtown Phoenix); create a more vibrant business and economic climate; provide a skilled and technically literate workforce at all levels; generate an estimated \$400 million in economic activity and \$15 million in tax revenues; the fact that Phase 1 of a \$69 million AZBiodesign Institute is currently under construction at ASU's Tempe campus, and ASU's bonding authority.

Councilmember Griswold expressed support for ASU's proposal and commented that many universities throughout the country now seek alternative funding sources for a variety of programs including, among others, patents, intellectual rights and research grants.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh voiced concerns regarding ASU's ability to Constitutionally and legally bind the State Legislature to a future commitment of \$14 million per year in debt service which would extend over a number of years.

Councilmember Walters noted that although she is personally supportive of this agenda item and would be willing to write a letter of support to ASU, in her opinion, it is inappropriate for the Council to make a policy decision regarding this issue and not consider similar funding requests for other entities in the future. She cited, as an example, the proposed K-12 funding reductions for the Mesa Public Schools.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson questioned whether a consensus existed among the Council relative to this issue and recommended that the Council send a letter to the State Legislature expressing support for ASU's \$14 million funding request.

Mayor Hawker concurred with Councilmember Walters' comments. He stated that as a private citizen, he is willing to show support for ASU's funding request, but noted, however, that it is improper for the City to interfere with the State Legislature's funding decisions and added that all requests should come directly from ASU.

Mr. Renzulli stressed that it is not his intention to ask the members of the Council to do anything that would be contrary to their sense of ethics. He added that if individual Councilmembers wish to submit personal letters of support, he would readily accept them on behalf of the University.

Councilmember Whalen expressed support for the Council sending a letter to the State Legislature endorsing ASU's \$14 million request. He said that ASU's goal of constructing new facilities to enhance its ability to produce world-class research in science and technology will result in economic benefit not only to the City of Mesa, but the entire State as well.

Councilmember Walters reiterated her previous comments. She stressed the fact that ASU is making a specific budgetary request to the State Legislature in the current budget cycle and commented that a number of City entities are being impacted by the budget at the same time.

It was moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Mayor Hawker, that the Council take no action on a request from representatives from Arizona State University concerning Arizona State University's research infrastructure.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Jones-Kavanaugh-Thom-Walters
NAYS - Griswold-Whalen

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried by majority vote.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Renzulli and Mr. Miller for the presentation

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

a. Transportation Advisory Board Meeting held February 18, 2003

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

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

The following members of the Council provided brief updates on various meetings/conferences they attended as follows:

Councilmember Walters	Eureka Canal Cleanup Kickoff Event
Mayor Hawker, Vice Mayor Kavanaugh and	Sister City Meeting in Guaymas,
Councilmember Thom	Sonora, Mexico
Councilmember Jones	Mesa Community College Task Force
	Meeting; Mesa Day Parade

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 6, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session – Cancelled

Thursday, March 13, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, March 13, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – Police Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, March 17, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, March 27, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, 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 3rd day of March 2003. 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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