

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 10, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 10, 1999 at 7:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Kathy Barrett
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Candace Cannistraro
Tanya Collins
Lowell Hamilton
Joe Holmwood
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Ken Jones
Wayne Korinek
Karen Kurtz
Tray Mead
Faye Meyer
Tim Meyer
Ellen Pence
Lynne Potts
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Cindy Schofield
Rob Schultz
Sherri Slaughter
Walter Switzer
Carla Wagner
Jamie Warner
Mindy White
Brenda Yost

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Brinton
Charles Crismon
Vince DiBella
Kent Layton
Barrett Marson
Kathi Neal
Tom Verploegen

1. City Court.

Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer introduced staff present at the meeting and described the function and responsibilities of the City Court. Judge Switzer highlighted activities affecting the Court, including number of jury trials, unfunded mandates, additional police officers, and a recent 7 percent surcharge added to criminal fines. Judge Switzer advised that the proposed FY1999/00 budget for the City Court does not include funding for an additional division but said that such a request may be necessary next year.

Judge Switzer presented an organizational chart for the City Court and provided statistical data pertaining to the distribution of funds, the new court user fee and default fee, monthly Court security traffic counts, motions filed, annual misdemeanor caseload for interpreters, and collections. Judge Switzer noted that the proposed budget reflects an additional collection agent and part-time interpreter.

Discussion ensued concerning the effect of the surcharge, feasibility of increasing user fees, potential for additional collection agents, options offered to individuals unable to pay fines (e.g., community service),

diversion programs, increase in the number of DWI cases, and supplemental requests for Saturday court and additional personnel relative to the expansion of the photo radar program.

At the request of Judge Switzer, Court Administrator Kathy Barrett presented an update concerning Council's recent request of the Arizona Legislature and the Arizona Supreme Court to authorize and fund the maximum feasible utilization of video technology in the operation of municipal courts.

Mayor Brown thanked Judge Switzer and Ms. Barrett for the information.

2. City Attorney.

City Attorney Neal Beets advised that the proposed FY1999/00 budget for the City Attorney's Office reflects the addition of three personnel (Assistant City Prosecutor III, Legal Services Specialist II, and a Legal Secretary) and an overall increase of 6 percent. Mr. Beets distributed an organizational chart for the City Attorney and City Prosecutor responsibility centers.

Mr. Neal reported that the proposed budget additionally includes \$80,000 for liability insurance, which will increase the City's excess coverage from \$8 million to \$60 million.

Mr. Beets outlined supplemental personnel requests for a Pro-Tem Prosecutor (in the event Saturday court is implemented) and a Victim Rights Advocate.

Mr. Beets commented concerning the previous Council discussion pertaining to diversion programs and noted that the most resource-intensive cases are typically ineligible for diversion programs.

Mr. Beets and City Prosecutor Lowell Hamilton responded to questions from Council regarding the anticipated reduction in outside legal services as a result of staff increases, insurance levels, efforts to increase victim rights advocacy, administration of diversion programs, immigration enforcement, and collections.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Beets and Mr. Hamilton for the presentation.

3. Break.

At 8:07 a.m., Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:19 a.m.

4. Miscellaneous issues.

Mesa Town Center Corporation

Vince DiBella, President of the Mesa Town Center Corporation (MTCC), presented a budget summary for FY1999/00 relating to three contracts with the City of Mesa: a) Mesa Town Center Improvement District (\$229,846), b) parking management (\$127,000), and c) public space management (\$181,476). Mr. DiBella highlighted services provided pursuant to each contract.

Mr. DiBella and Tom Verploegen, Executive Director of MTCC, responded to questions from Council concerning the City's expanded redevelopment area, potential need to redirect efforts in response to the downtown concept plan, and the anticipated impact of projects such as the Mesa Verde Resort and the Arts and Entertainment Center on parking.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. DiBella and Mr. Verploegen for the information.

Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau

Kathi Neal, President of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCVB), reviewed activities of the MCVB in relation to the proposed Rio Salado Crossing Project, Mesa area golf package, Cubs spring training, and the Arizona Cardinals. Ms. Neal spoke concerning tourism trends and MCVB's marketing plan.

Robert Brinton, Executive Director of MCVB, commented that the proposed FY1999/00 budget has not changed significantly from the previous year's budget. Mr. Brinton presented an overview of projected revenues and expenses (marketing and administrative) and outlined actions undertaken in an attempt to assist quality growth within the City.

Ms. Neal and Mr. Brinton responded to questions from Council pertaining to funding, promotional efforts, the Rio Salado Crossing Project, and benefits offered to employees.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Ms. Neal and Mr. Brinton for the presentation.

5. Community aid issues.

Recommendations of the Human Services Advisory Board

Human services funding recommendations

Human Services Coordinator Karen Kurtz presented housing and human services funding recommendations for FY1999/00 as proposed by the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board. Mr. Kurtz stated that the recommendations represent a 5.8 percent increase over the previous year. Mr. Kurtz provided background information pertaining to applicants and noted the following priorities identified by the Board: a) PLUS fund replacement, b) Save the Family, c) Boys and Girl Club (Young Fathers program), d) Volunteer Center, e) Caring Corps, f) Boys and Girls Club (summer program), and g) United Food Bank (Food for Thought program).

Discussion ensued concerning the funding levels proposed by the Board, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding, and utility billing/PLUS fund replacement. Council requested information pertaining to the Young Fathers program.

Council expressed appreciation to staff and the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board for their efforts.

Recommendations of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board

Arts and cultural community aid grants

Arts Administrator Robert Schultz outlined the FY1999/00 arts and cultural community aid grant requests and the recommendations of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board. Mr. Schultz presented background information pertaining to discussion and interviews by the Board and indicated that the recommended funding level represents an increase of 14 percent. Mr. Schultz noted an additional proposal for mini-grant "contingency" funding.

Council and staff spoke concerning the percentage increase in recommended funding, the previous year's funding levels, and criteria for mini-grant funding.

Mesa Historical Museum

Museum Administrator Tray Mead outlined a request by the Mesa Historical Society for \$100,000 in funding for 1999/00. Mr. Mead advised that the additional funding would allow the Museum to operate 10 months of the year. Mr. Mead related services provided by the Museum and noted that the Museum typically provides matching funds.

Charles Crismon, Director/Curator of the Museum, responded to questions from Council regarding number of visitors, matching funds, exhibits/programs, long-term planning, and the importance of preserving the history of Mesa.

Mesa Historical Museum adobe schoolhouse exhibit

Mr. Mead presented a recommendation to appropriate funds within the FY1999/00 budget for the Little Adobe Schoolhouse exhibit to be located on the southeast corner of Lehi and Horne. Mr. Mead provided background information concerning the request and the anticipated six-month time frame for construction and restoration. Mr. Mead stated that the Mesa Historical Society would serve as the general contractor and that a one-time grant for \$65,625 is proposed (\$75 per square foot).

Discussion ensued regarding anticipated components of the exhibit, volunteer labor, and importance of the exhibit to the community.

Councilmember Hawker stated opposition to the request and suggested that the restoration be completed over an extended time frame, relying on private funds/volunteer labor.

Councilmembers Davidson, Kavanaugh, and Pomeroy spoke in favor of the proposal.

Council thanked staff and the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board for their work.

6. Adjournment.

City Manager Charles Luster noted that a Budget Review Session will be held at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, and that a Fire Committee Meeting will be held following the Study Session on Thursday, May 13.

Without objection, the Budget Review Session adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 10th day of May 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK