

# COUNCIL MINUTES

February 10, 2000

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 February 10, 2000 at 7:30 am.

## 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  
Joan Baier  
Wayne Balmer  
Denise Bleyle  
Jamie Brennan  
Mike Brennan  
Karen Calacci  
Tanya Collins  
Dennis Compton  
Mark Coon  
Linda Crocker  
Bob DeLeon  
Luigi Digirolamo  
Jo Ferguson  
G. T. Fowler  
Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones  
Wayne Korinek  
Ron Krosting  
Karen Kurtz  
Rich Lorig  
Tom Mattingly  
Frank Mizner  
Keith Nath  
Ruth Anne Norris

## STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Jo Padilla  
Ellen Pence  
Bill Petrie  
David Plumb  
Bryan Raines  
Tom Remes  
Becky Richardson  
Regan Robbins  
Sharon Seekins  
Jenny Sheppard  
Jan Strauss  
Ed Tato  
Lois Underdah  
Judy Wessel  
Mindy White  
Paul Wilson  
Others

## OTHERS PRESENT

Betty Beard  
Barrett Marson  
Others

1. Hear a presentation by the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona concerning the State income tax initiative.

Fire Captain Chris Medrea, representing the Professional Fire Fighters Association of Arizona, introduced additional members of the organization to the Council and provided a brief overview of this agenda item.

Captain Medrea highlighted a presentation on this issue and informed the Council that a State-wide initiative, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2000, to eliminate State and corporate income tax over a four-year period of time is underway and discussed the negative impacts such legislation would have on the City of Mesa and the entire State of Arizona.

Discussion ensued relative to significant State-shared revenue losses that would occur resulting in significant reductions in City services, impacts on State funded education, specific negative impacts on the Department of Public Safety and the fact that the State police force would be cut in half, additional local and State-wide programs that would be eliminated should the initiative be successful, the fact that Arizona's residents currently pay the 10th lowest personal income tax in the United States, efforts to form a coalition that will involve a wide variety of groups to combat this movement, the Association's goal to defeat the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2000 by preventing sufficient signature collection, marketing efforts, and a plan of action to assist them in achieving their goal.

Captain Medrea responded to questions from the members of the Council and recommended that a task force be compiled to study the potential impacts of the elimination of these taxes.

Mayor Brown thanked Captain Medrea and the members of the Professional Fire Fighters' Association for their input.

2. Hear a presentation by Queen Creek Planning Director John Kross on the proposed residential development in Pinal County.

Planning Director Frank Mizner introduced John Kross, Planning Director for the Town of Queen Creek, to the members of the Council. Mr. Kross commented on a recent newspaper article that reported Pinal County's approval of 54,000 homes near Queen Creek. Mr. Kross noted the significant amount of interest in developing in and around the community that has been generated since the Town's incorporation in 1989. Mr. Kross advised that the Town's population has grown from 1,500 to 4,500 residents since its incorporation and reported that within the next twenty years, the planning area will grow from 4,500 citizens to 76,000.

Discussion ensued relative to potential impacts on Mesa, density levels, a list of 14 projects that will be located within ten miles of Queen Creek's planning area and will impact the town, efforts initiated by the Town of Queen Creek to identify geographic corridors where public services would be provided in accordance with the adoption of a general development tier system, ordinances that have been adopted relative to establishing specific levels of service standards for streets, water, wastewater and schools, concerns regarding the Town's ability to provide and maintain services particularly in the areas of public safety and streets, the importance of coordinating new development with new infrastructure, Williams Gateway Airport, environmental issues and the adoption of a hillside preservation ordinance, freeway construction, overall development impacts, potential traffic and the importance of ensuring long-term planned growth and development.

Mr. Mizner commented on the negative impacts of such significant development and said that many of the homes will be subject to overflight noise from Williams Gateway Airport and traffic congestion. Mr. Mizner informed the Council that staff is preparing a draft ordinance that would express to the Pinal County Commissioners some of the City's concerns that have been raised.

Mr. Mizner reiterated that although the development is not within the City of Mesa's limits, there may be some significant overflow impacts on the City of Mesa

Councilmember Hawker recommended that the City work closely with State Legislators and County officials relative to this matter and the importance of protecting the "ILS approach."

Mayor Brown recommended that rather than draft an ordinance solely from the City of Mesa, staff should contact the Town of Gilbert and City of Chandler and determine whether they would like to join with Mesa regarding this matter.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the MAGMA Gas System, the fact that coordinated efforts will benefit everyone concerned, the importance of evaluating new projects and planning infrastructure for those developments, sustainable growth, and a recommendation from Councilmember Hawker that discussions occur with the various communities relative to exploring continuing annexation efforts into Pinal County.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Kross and staff for their presentation.

3. Hear a presentation regarding MEGACORP activities by Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan.

Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and distributed materials regarding MEGACORP'S mission statement, an overview of services and resources, organizational structure, major activities of the organization including business expansion and retention, business recruitment, international trade, and the organization's relationship with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council.

Mr. Mulligan discussed potential future economic development activities for the City of Mesa at the Fiesta Quadrant, Mesa Town Center and Falcon Field airport and noted that several major employers are located in key areas of the City. Mr. Mulligan also commented on freeway expansion and the positive impacts of this activity.

Mr. Mulligan informed the Council that MEGACORP intends to propose that a more detailed focus be placed on the important economic development areas in Mesa and added that an updated Mesa sites directory is currently underway.

Councilmember Davidson commended Gary Smith, Chairman of the Economic Development Advisory Board, for his efforts and said that the Board serves as a valuable resource and should be called upon to provide clearer directions regarding various issues, such as big box development in Mesa.

Mayor Brown stated that the City of Mesa is fortunate to have Mr. Smith serving as Chairman of the Economic Development Advisory Board.

Additional discussion ensued relative to GPEC, MEGACORP's intention to present a detailed report to the Council on the City's interaction with GPEC in the near future, and on-going efforts to improve MEGACORP'S operations and enhance economic development in the City of Mesa.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Mulligan for their input.

4. Further discussion and consideration concerning membership in the Valley Forward Association.

Councilmember Davidson spoke in support of the City of Mesa becoming a member of the Valley Forward Association and serving in a leadership role in that organization.

In response to a question from Mayor Brown relative to the selection of a representative from Mesa to serve as a member of that Association, Councilmember Davidson recommended that Mayor Brown and/or a Councilmember be appointed to serve in that position.

It was moved by Councilmember Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the City of Mesa become a member in the Valley Forward Association at the \$2,000 level.

Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Brown advised that there were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, February 15, 2000, 4:00 p.m. – Police Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2000, 7:30 a.m. – Council Study Session

Tuesday, February 22, 2000, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances. (Maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present. (Maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Tour of the Mesa Southwest Museum.

The Council and staff participated in a tour of the Mesa Southwest Museum.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

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WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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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 10<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2000

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK