

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 16, 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 January 16, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Kyle Jones

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Jones from the meeting.

1. Hear a presentation, discuss and consider issues associated with the Palo Verde to Pinal West Project (PV-PW) and the Pinal West to Southwest Valley/Build Out Browning (PW-SEV/BOB) Project which are composed of new 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines that will serve Pinal and Maricopa Counties.

Councilmember Whalen declared a potential conflict of interest and refrained from discussion/participation in this agenda item.

Dan Hawkins, a representative of Salt River Project, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. He reported that as a result of the Central Arizona Transmission System (CATS) Study, new power transmission capacity is planned for central Arizona. Mr. Hawkins advised that the purpose of the study is to analyze system reliability, capacity and increasing demand for energy delivery in Arizona, as well as to plan for additional required transmission lines.

Mr. Hawkins provided a brief overview of the Palo Verde to Pinal West Project (PV-PW) and the Pinal West to Southeast Valley/Build Out Browning (PW-SEV/BOB) Project. He also displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and outlined the locations of the various 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines that will serve both Maricopa and Pinal Counties. Mr. Hawkins commented that the project involves transporting power from the area near the Palo Verde Generating Station to two new substations, one in west Pinal County (PW) and the other located in northern Pinal County (SEV); that the existing Browning to Silver King 500 kV line will be looped into the northern Pinal substation; and that a new double circuit 230 kV line will be sited from the new SEV substation to a new 230 kV substation and on to the Browning substation in east Mesa.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that SRP has conducted an extensive public process relative to the CAT Study, including a series of Open Houses (Phase 1); that the input received during Phase 1 has been integrated into Phase II of the planning process, the identification of opportunities, sensitive areas and avoidance areas; that Phase II has identified possible routes, areas of special consideration and avoidance areas; that SRP has established a database intended to be used by the siting team to identify potential routes and alternatives, and that the results of the siting and public process will be presented to a Siting Committee this spring.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh commended SRP for their efforts and hard work with regard to conducting such an extensive public process. He suggested that because Mesa is a large landowner in Pinal County, it would be in the City's best interest to have representation on the Siting Committee and noted that the possible location of the transmission lines outside Mesa's corporate limits could potentially affect City-owned property.

Further discussion ensued relative to future residential and commercial development in southeast Mesa and the associated demand for energy delivery, and the efforts of SRP to minimize the environmental impact of electromagnetic fields generated by the transmission lines.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Hawkins for the informative presentation.

2. Discuss and consider the use of a two-envelope system with the new Customer Information System.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson recommended that when the new Customer Information System (CIS) becomes operational, the City replace the current Send and Return Envelope System with a Two-Envelope System for the City's utility billing process. He commented that although the Send and Return Envelope System is less costly and environmentally friendly, the Two-Envelope System is more "customer friendly."

Mayor Hawker expressed support for the Two-Envelope System, but encouraged staff to continue to pursue cost-cutting measures relative to this issue.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Mr. Hutchinson clarified that the implementation of the Two-Envelope System will result in an estimated \$16,000 increase in postage per year.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh voiced support for staff's recommendation.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that use of a Two-Envelope System with the implementation of the new Customer Information System, be approved.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Hear a presentation and consider proceeding with a joint study with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) on the effects of population and housing growth in Pinal County on Mesa's General Plan for Southeast Mesa.

Williams Gateway Area of Regional Economic Activity Project Manager Wayne Balmer and Jack Tomasek, Regional Development Division Manager at the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Balmer displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and provided statistical data relative to the burgeoning population in southeast Mesa and northern Pinal County. He reported that as a result of a nearly completed study conducted by MAG and the Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG), MAG has acquired significant data on projected land use in those areas; that MAG has procured a new software system (REMI software) in an effort to analyze the data; that it is the recommendation of staff that the City enter into an agreement with MAG to conduct an analysis of two significant issues which may affect the City of Mesa in the future (See Attachment); that a team composed of City and MAG staff will be established to complete the project; that a Pinal County representative will be invited to participate in the process, and that the results of the study will be presented to the Council sometime in July.

Mayor Hawker commented that with regard to several large master planned communities, such as Anthem, there have been instances in which the developers have not addressed the issue of transportation corridors to accommodate the needs of the local residents. He stated that it is imperative that Mesa's land use planning and transportation planning needs are coordinated to ensure that a similar occurrence does not take place in southeast Mesa, northern Pinal County and the Johnson Ranch area.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whalen, Mr. Tomasek assured the Council that representatives from a number of public agencies, as well as individuals from the various municipalities in Pinal County, will participate in the study.

Councilmember Walters expressed support for the proposal and commended Mayor Hawker for his efforts and hard work relative to this issue.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh voiced support for the study and stated that the inclusion of multiple jurisdictions and agencies in the process is a logical approach due to the fact that citizens will crisscross boundaries from where they live, work, shop and attend school.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the City of Mesa proceed with a joint study with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) on the effects of population and housing growth in Pinal County on Mesa's General Plan for southeast Mesa.

Councilmember Griswold expressed support for the motion and stressed the importance of creating jobs at Williams Gateway Airport to enable individuals to live, work, and play within a shorter commuting distance.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that with the exception of staff time, there will be no costs assessed to the City for the study, and the capabilities of the REMI software.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and thanked everyone for the informative presentation.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held December 3, 2002.
- b. General Development Advisory Board meeting held January 6, 2003.
- c. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held December 12, 2002.

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

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. 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:

Mayor Hawker	Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Transportation Policy Committee Meeting
Councilmember Griswold	Meeting at Arizona State University

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence reported on a series of scheduled events in celebration of Martin Luther King Day as follows:

Saturday, January 18, 2003, 6:30 p.m. – “A Night of Tribute” at Dobson High School

Sunday, January 19, 2003, 6:00 p.m. – Private reception for keynote speaker Myrlie Evers-Williams.

Monday, January 20, 2003, 8:00 a.m. – Celebration Breakfast

Monday, January 20, 2003, 11:00 a.m. – MLK Parade

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

Thursday, January 23, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, January 23, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, January 25, 2003, Dedication of Fire Station No. 202

Monday, January 27, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, January 27, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 29, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Joint Meeting with Mesa Unified Schools

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

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:55 a.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 16th day of January 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK