

# COUNCIL MINUTES

September 30, 2004

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 September 30, 2004 at 7:30 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Rex Griswold

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Griswold from the entire meeting.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the October 4, 2004 Regular Council meeting.

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

Conflicts of interest declared: 3f (Whalen); 6b (Walters)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 5a, 6h, 7a and 8.

2. Discuss and provide direction concerning proceeding with the establishment of an Enterprise Zone Commission, designating the boundaries for the Mesa Enterprise Zone, designating the Economic Development Director as Zone Administrator, and authorizing the Office of Economic Development to submit an Enterprise Zone application to the Arizona Department of Commerce.

Mayor Hawker declared a potential conflict of interest and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this agenda item. He yielded the gavel to Vice Mayor Walters for action on this agenda item.

Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan, Economic Development Analyst Micah Miranda, and Patty Guthrie, a representative of the Arizona Department of Commerce, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Mulligan reported that the impetus for the Mesa Enterprise Zone proposal related back to the Mesa Economic Development Strategy Master Plan, which called for an aggressive effort to increase the jobs-per-capita ratio in the community. He explained that in 1999, staff considered the possibility of establishing a Mesa Enterprise Zone and determined that none of the State requirements were satisfied. Mr. Mulligan noted that subsequent to the release of the 2000 Decennial Census, staff once again examined the feasibility of establishing an Enterprise Zone program and said that the requirements were satisfied at that time.

Mr. Miranda displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview of various components of the Arizona Enterprise Zone program. He stated, among other things, that the primary goal of the program is to improve the economies of specific areas within the State by enhancing opportunities for private investments; that the requirements include that the poverty rate in the area be 150% of the Statewide rate reported in the most recent U.S. Decennial Census and that the zone include at least a quarter square mile with a population of at least 1,000 persons; that Mesa qualified for the program due to its poverty rate of 21.05%; that qualified businesses are eligible to apply for new job tax credits and property tax reclassification; and that if a Mesa Enterprise Zone is established, the City Council would serve as the Zone Commission and, among its duties, would appoint a Zone Administrator who is responsible for the marketing and promotion of the zone, and the outreach/education of potential zone users.

Mr. Miranda further highlighted various benefits of an enterprise zone such as encouraging business location/expansion within the zone and job creation to promote the local economy. He stated that the zone designation assists an area in becoming more desirable for new development and allows Mesa to become competitive with those communities that offer enterprise zone benefits.

Mr. Miranda concluded his presentation by explaining that the next steps in the process consist of the Enterprise Zone Commission (the Council) selecting a Chair and Vice Chair from its members; appointing the City's Economic Development Director to serve as Zone Administrator; adopting a resolution establishing a Mesa Enterprise Zone; holding a public hearing on October 4, 2004 during the City Council meeting; and instructing staff to submit an application to the Arizona Department of Commerce by October 31, 2004.

Councilmember Whalen requested that staff conduct research regarding the possibility of extending the enterprise zone boundary to assist businesses that could benefit from such an expansion.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Walters, Mr. Mulligan clarified that if the Council wished to postpone consideration of the resolution on October 4<sup>th</sup>, they could still conduct the public hearing that evening and delay their vote until the October 18<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Walters thanked staff for the presentation.

With action on this item being completed, Vice Mayor Walters yielded the gavel back to Mayor Hawker.

3. Hear a presentation from Code Compliance regarding programs and service levels.

Code Compliance Director Bill Petrie and Management Assistant Lisa Karpowicz addressed the Council and provided a brief update of the Code Compliance Division and its duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Petrie displayed a PowerPoint presentation and stated, among other things, that the primary objective of Code Compliance is to make the City a more attractive community; that the Division enforces the public nuisances, property maintenance and neighborhood preservation, zoning, sign, smoking and rental registration ordinances; that Code Compliance endeavors to be proactive and work with Mesa residents as much as possible; that during calendar year 2003, Code Compliance officers conducted 53,519 inspections and identified 26,254 code violations, of which 94% were resolved without any further action beyond written notification; and that the responsibilities of the Division's 15 Code Compliance officers are divided into geographic areas, with ten staff members assigned west of Gilbert Road.

Mr. Petrie further outlined Code Compliance's general enforcement procedures, response priorities, community involvement, and its current goals.

Vice Mayor Walters stated that she has received many positive comments from constituents regarding the manner in which Mr. Petrie and his staff address Code compliance. She expressed appreciation for their efforts and hard work in that regard.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held August 12, 2004.
- b. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held August 25, 2004.

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

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Hawker requested that City Attorney Debbie Spinner research whether it is legally necessary for the Council to acknowledge the receipt of minutes of boards and committees or if this item could be eliminated from future Study Session agendas.

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

Councilmember Whalen	Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Breakfast
Councilmember Thom	United Parcel Service Grand Opening
Vice Mayor Walters	Mesa Association of Hispanic Citizens Event; GAIN kickoff
Mayor Hawker	Washington, D.C. meeting with Senators John Kyle and John McCain

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, October 4, 2004, TBA – Study Session

Monday, October 4, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, October 7, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, October 14, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, October 18, 2004, TBA – Study Session

Monday, October 18, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2004, 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 9:00 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, 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 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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