

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 26, 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 June 26, 2000 at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Don Ayers
Neal Beets
Gary Bradley
Mike Brennan
Bob DeLeon
G.T. Fowler
Pat Granillo
Joe Holmwood
Barbara Jones
Karen Kille
Wayne Korinek
Dorinda Larsen
Frank Mizner
Keith Nath
Joe Padilla
Ellen Pence
David Plumb
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Tom Remes
Regan Robbins
Fred Rosenfeld

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Sharon Seekins
Jenny Sheppard
Jan Strauss
Walter Switzer
Doug Tessendorf
Lois Underdah
Jamie Warner
Bill Way
Judy Wessel
Mindy White
Larry Wolf
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Betty Beard
Barrett Marson
Charlie Deaton
Jan Hibbard
Sean Lake
David Molina
Ralph Pew
Fred Rosenfeld
C.K. Sato

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 26, 2000 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed by Council and staff with no formal action taken.

2. Hear an update on Red Mountain Freeway construction; impact on local streets and possible architectural treatments for ADOT structures.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that Mesa is entering into a very busy segment of freeway construction in the northern portion of the City and said it is an appropriate time to update the Council on the various segments of the freeway, arterial streets, and architectural treatments.

City Engineer Keith Nath and Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin addressed the Council relative to this issue. Mr. Martin advised that staff is extremely excited about the upcoming construction on the Red Mountain Freeway and noted that staff has worked with ADOT on the preparation of an environmental impact study for the project over the past three years. Mr. Martin reported that approximately 8 miles of freeway will be built over the next 3 years and stated that the first project, from Country Club to Gilbert Road, will be finished in December 2001, and the second project from Gilbert Road to Higley Road will begin during the summer of 2001 and be finished in the Spring of 2003. Mr. Martin noted that both projects were accelerated by the City by at least one year as a result of implementing a variety of creative financing techniques.

Discussion ensued relative to funding techniques, project costs and the fact that a groundbreaking ceremony for the first segment of the construction has been scheduled for July 5th at 8:00 a.m..

Mr. Nath referred to overheads displayed in the Council Chambers and presented the Council with a brief overview of the projects that will be implemented in conjunction with the freeway construction. Mr. Nath informed the Council that it is staff's intention to complete the Gilbert Road improvements by the end of next summer and added that the first phase of the McDowell Road project will be completed by December 2001 to coincide with the freeway opening. Mr. Nath said that the second phase of the McDowell project will be completed by August 2002.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that staff is currently involved in the design and alignment phase of the project on Val Vista Drive from McKellips to the freeway, the fact that staff is in contact with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation relative to a portion of the road that is under the County's jurisdiction and soliciting the County's cooperation to partner with the City on completing this portion of the road, and additional projects on Greenfield and Thomas Roads and improvement projects on McDowell Road from Higley to Power and on McKellips Road that are also being done in anticipation of the completion of the freeway.

Leroy Brady, representing the Arizona Department of Transportation, presented a brief overview of the proposed architectural treatments/patterns/designs for the freeway construction project. Mr. Brady responded to questions from Councilmember Pomeroy relative to enhancements that the City of Scottsdale paid for along the 101 Freeway heading north and stated that the City paid for the added costs associated with the design and construction and, because of the varying colors, will pay for the maintenance of the wall. Mr. Brady reported that Scottsdale spent approximately \$5 million on this portion of the freeway plus maintenance costs.

Mayor Hawker requested that the City be allowed to select from a variety of design options.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated the opinion that the enhancements that are being offered have come a long way and noted that the voters approved \$4 million in funding to cover the cost of City-wide enhancements. Councilmember Kavanaugh agreed that the City should be provided options to review in an effort to possibly upgrade a number of signature interchanges.

In response to a request for input from Mayor Hawker on the best manner in which to proceed regarding the selection of enhancements, Mr. Martin expressed the opinion that staff should meet with ADOT to discuss the various options and added that staff might also meet with the members of the Transportation Advisory Board to solicit their input on this matter. Mr. Martin said that staff would then present their recommendations relative to options to the Council for their consideration.

Mayor Hawker stated the opinion that the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community did an excellent job in distinguishing their community entranceways.

Councilmember Walters spoke in support of enhanced landscaping and agreed that the input of the Transportation Advisory Board should be solicited. Councilmember Walters also suggested that members of the arts community be invited to provide input as well.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that the public arts staff and citizen advisory groups with experience in this area will be involved in the process.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa relative to depressing the entire freeway in an effort to mitigate noise, Mr. Martin stated that the freeway will be depressed in a number of areas but noted that the freeway encompasses 17 miles. Mr. Martin added that sound walls are being provided in many sections.

Mayor Hawker noted that the City of Chandler and Town of Gilbert have adopted ordinances requiring new developments that are built after a specific effective date to pay for the cost of adding sound walls to the projects. Mayor Hawker said that the costs are included as part of the project. Mayor Hawker spoke in support of pursuing this matter.

In response to a question from Councilmember Davidson, Mr. Martin noted that ADOT is doing a "warrant study" on Recker Road in an effort to determine whether an interchange is necessary at that location. Mr. Martin added that the results of the study are not yet known.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the freeway construction, design enhancements, the importance of blending the phases to accomplish a coordinated appearance, the landscaping and bidding schedule, and the importance of reviewing all of the enhancements and proposed costs prior to rendering a decision on this issue.

Councilmember Davidson spoke in support of the proposal and said that he supports what has been presented to date.

Mayor Hawker announced that a majority of the Council has indicated support for proceeding with the project as it is but have also expressed a desire to review various enhancement options and costs for possible future use.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff and Mr. Brady for their input.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Adjustment Board meeting held June 13.
- b. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held June 11.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

There were no meetings and/or conferences attended to report on at this time.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that no new meetings have been scheduled since the last update provided to the Council.

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

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:31 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 26th day of June, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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