

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 28, 2001

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 28, 2001 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh

COUNCIL ABSENT

Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmembers Pomeroy, Walters and Whalen from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the July 2, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following items:

Mayor Hawker declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 4d (Falcon Field Airport Parallel Taxiway and Apron. City of Mesa Project No. 97-46.3) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

Vice Mayor Davidson declared potential conflicts of interest on agenda items 4g (One Year contract for commodity natural gas supply for City of Mesa gas customers) and 6e (Z01-28 Generally ½ mile west of Recker Road and ½ mile north of Thomas Road) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on these items.

Councilmember Jaffa declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 6a (Z01-14 The northwest corner of East McDowell Road and Ramada) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda items 6c and 6e will be removed from the consent agenda.

2. Discuss and consider Superstition Freeway (U.S. 60) architectural treatments and landscaping.

City Engineer Keith Nath addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and provided a brief update regarding the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) landscaping concept and proposed architectural treatments for the U.S. 60 from Price Road to Val Vista Drive. Mr. Nath also spoke regarding the City's previous efforts in this matter.

Mr. Nath reported that in May of 2001, ADOT awarded the contract to Granite/Sundt for the U.S. 60 design-build project. Mr. Nath explained that the Granite/Sundt proposal was selected due to the fact it was the lowest bid; the fact that the project is estimated to be completed in 26 months as opposed to the originally slated 36-months; the fact that the proposal contains a "wide open spaces" concept utilizing berms in the place of virtually all of the retaining walls; the fact that the excavated dirt from the west end of the project will be utilized for the construction of the berms on the eastern portion, and the fact that such design innovations will reduce the cost of the design-build project by an estimated \$50 million.

Mr. Nath stated that it is the recommendation of staff that the Council approve the landscaping concept and one of the proposed alternatives for architectural treatments. Mr. Nath added that it is also staff's recommendation that the City form an "enhancement team" to work in tandem with ADOT and the design-build group to explore options for public art enhancements at the entrance to the community.

Judy Mielke, a representative of Logan Simpson Design, displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and detailed ADOT's landscaping concept for the section of the U.S. 60 which passes through Mesa. Ms. Mielke commented that the landscape will reflect Mesa's heritage as an agricultural community and will include a predominance of trees located between the freeway interchanges to give the impression of crop rows. Ms. Mielke stated that in addition to the trees, the design will also incorporate evergreen foliage, flowers, colorful shrubs and accent plants. Ms. Mielke also discussed the implementation of a future multiuse path along the northern portion of the freeway right-of-way.

Rick Phillips, of Parsons Transportation Group, provided the Council with a graphic demonstration of two alternative architectural wall treatments currently proposed by Granite/Sundt.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Nath clarified that funding for the retaining wall artwork and the landscaping designs has been earmarked in the City's freeway enhancement fund and emphasized that Mesa will not be required to infuse additional monies into the project.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the landscaping project, ADOT's maintenance concerns along the U.S. 60, and the potential design of a future multiuse path.

Councilmember Kavanaugh emphasized that it is imperative that the public has a clear understanding that the proposal currently under discussion is not the same design-build project which originally received Council approval. Councilmember Kavanaugh noted that the proposed landscaping will assist Mesa relative to sound mitigation and air quality issues. Councilmember Kavanaugh urged the Council to direct staff to form an enhancement team to work with ADOT

and the design-build group to explore various options for public art at the entryway to the community.

Councilmember Jaffa voiced concerns regarding safety, welfare and liability issues relative to a multiuse path.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa, Councilmember Kavanaugh clarified that the monies which were originally earmarked by the Council for the previous design-build project reverted back to the freeway enhancement fund for future allocation as directed by the Council.

Mr. Nath spoke further regarding various options for community entryway enhancements.

Vice Mayor Davidson concurred with the comments of Councilmember Kavanaugh regarding the assemblage of an enhancement team and also challenged the group to broaden its definition of freeway enhancements to include collector/arterial streets and to explore options regarding the manner in which vehicles are funneled on and off the City's freeways.

Councilmember Jaffa spoke in support of the landscaping design and expressed an interest in pursuing the multiuse path.

Mayor Hawker stated that it is the consensus of the Council that staff proceed with the formation of an enhancement team to work in conjunction with ADOT and the design-build group to develop enhancement alternatives for the entryway into the community.

Mayor Hawker thanked everyone for the presentation.

3. Discuss and consider limiting the amount of information contained in Council and Council Committee Meeting minutes.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson explained that this agenda item was briefly discussed during a recent Budget Review Session and that staff requested that the matter be revisited by the Council at a future Study Session.

City Clerk Barbara Jones addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Ms. Jones noted that in recent years, the amount, length and overall content of the Council meetings has significantly increased which has resulted in excessive demands being placed on the City Clerk's limited staff to carry out such responsibilities. Ms. Jones explained that at the present time, staff follows an extensive minutes formatting process, including background information, a comprehensive discussion of the Councilmembers' comments/suggestions and remarks by staff and citizens. Ms. Jones requested input from the Council with regard to limiting the amount of information contained in the various Council minutes.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated the opinion that the Council, staff and the public have come to rely on the extensive Council minutes to chronicle the Councilmembers' opinions/votes relative to various issues. Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced concerns that if the minutes were significantly abbreviated, it would result in a lengthy and time consuming process by Council or staff to research specific matters.

Mayor Hawker concurred with the comments of Councilmember Kavanaugh and expressed support for the retention of an extensive minutes formatting process.

Vice Mayor Davidson voiced support for an abbreviated format and noted that conducting research on an issue would not be a burdensome task and could be accomplished by Council Assistant staff.

Councilmember Jaffa requested that staff provide input with regard to "paperless" technology and efficient information retrieval access.

Discussion ensued relative to the City Clerk's current Lotus Notes keyword indexing system, the potential for a Citywide indexing system, and the ability to transfer Council meeting broadcasts to CDs.

Mayor Hawker concurred with the opinion of Vice Mayor Davidson and suggested that the Council Assistants participate in future discussions regarding this matter.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that it is his recommendation that staff pursue additional research relative to this issue and report back to Council at a future meeting.

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

- a. Crime Prevention Advisory board meeting held June 20, 2001.
- b. Design Review board meeting held June 8, 2001.
- c. General Development Committee meeting held June 5, 2001.
- d. Transportation Committee meeting held May 7, 2001.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Davidson-Jaffa-Kavanaugh
ABSENT - Pomeroy-Walters-Whalen

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and voting.

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

Vice Mayor Davidson reported on his recent attendance at the graduation ceremony for participants in the Citizen Police Academy. Vice Mayor Davidson commended the volunteers for pursuing their interest in various aspects of law enforcement and public safety.

Vice Mayor Davidson also commented that he attended a meeting relative to the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan currently underway by the Maricopa County Flood Control District. City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised the Council that representatives of the County will make a presentation to the Council regarding this issue at the July 2, 2001 Study Session.

Councilmember Jaffa stated that he attended a meeting sponsored by ADOT regarding the future expansion of the Red Mountain Freeway between Recker Road and Power Road and its close proximity to currently existing homes.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, July 2, 2001, 3:30 p.m. – Police Committee Meeting

Monday, July 2, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, July 2, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, July 5, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session Cancelled

Thursday, July 12, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, July 16, 2001, 3:00 p.m. – General Development Committee Meeting

Monday, July 16, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, July 16, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

Bill Puffer, a resident of Mesa, addressed the Council relative to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposed modifications to the Environmental Assessment Northwest 2000 Plan. Mr. Puffer stressed the importance of ensuring that the flight paths of Sky Harbor Airport's eastbound departures be evenly distributed among East Valley cities. Mr. Puffer urged Mesa to form a partnership with other East Valley communities to conduct further negotiations with the FAA regarding this matter.

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 28th day of June 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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