

# COUNCIL MINUTES

July 12, 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 July 12, 2004 at 4:45 p.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the July 12, 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: None

Items added to the consent agenda: 6.3

Items removed from the consent agenda: 4g, 6f

2. Discuss and provide direction concerning a recommendation that revenue generated from income from cell tower locations in City parks be earmarked for parks and recreation related operations and maintenance activities.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the Council recently authorized a process to allow the installation of cellular towers in Mesa City parks. He advised that information provided to the Council identified current cell tower locations on City-owned property, and he reported that these sites generate annual income of approximately \$350,000 to the City's General Fund. Mr. Hutchinson explained that the Parks and Recreation Board is recommending that funds generated by future towers in City parks be designated for Parks and Recreation programs or facilities.

Robin White, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Board for the past three years, stated that the Parks' bond that was recently passed addressed only land acquisition, and she advised that Mesa has not opened a new park in the past two years. She expressed the opinion that Parks are "short changed" due to the fact that many citizens believe that park facilities do not provide an essential service. Ms. White requested that the Council consider the Board's proposal that funds generated by cell towers located in City parks be designated to the Parks and Recreation budget rather than the General Fund.

Councilmember Griswold indicated his support for cell tower revenue generated by other City sites being directed to the General Fund, but he concurred with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board due to the fact that a cellular tower impacts the park's useable space.

Councilmember Walters noted that a Parks and Recreation income fund for this item could have the unintended effect of reducing future budget allocations from the General Fund.

Councilmember Thom expressed support for the Board's recommendation, and she noted that three parks in her district were improved utilizing Quality of Life funds. She stated that cell tower revenue would be a valid substitute for the Quality of Life funds that will not be available in the future.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that other City departments with cell tower sites may request a share of the revenue; that maintaining a separate record of an individual department's cell tower income would be difficult from an accounting standpoint; and that funds could be directed to a limited revenue account for Parks' capital improvements.

It was moved by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, that a restricted cell tower revenue account be established for the purpose of park capital improvements.

Councilmember Walters expressed concern that the proposal is theoretical, and that the revenue would be designated for only capital projects. She suggested that for the present time revenues be set aside and accounted for separately.

Councilmember Whalen amended the motion to stipulate that the Parks' cell tower revenue would be placed in a restricted account, and that at a future meeting the Council would allocate the funds for Parks and Recreation Department improvements.

In response to a request from Councilmember Rawles, Councilmember Whalen clarified that the motion is to place the Parks' cell tower revenue in a restricted Parks and Recreation account for allocation by the Council at a future date.

Councilmember Griswold concurred with the amendment and seconded the motion.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Griswold-Jones-Thom-Walters-Whalen  
NAYS - Rawles

Mayor Hawker declared the amended motion carried by a majority vote.



Monday, August 16, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:22 p.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 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 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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