



## COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2009

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 March 19, 2009 at 7:31 a.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Scott Smith  
Kyle Jones  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
Dave Richins

### COUNCIL ABSENT

Alex Finter  
Dina Higgins  
Scott Somers

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Linda Crocker

Mayor Smith excused Councilmembers Finter, Higgins and Somers from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 23, 2009 Regular Council meeting.

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

Conflicts of interest: None

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on Streets Program budget issues, including capital improvement program.

Transportation Department Director Dan Cleavenger, Deputy Transportation Director Lenny Hulme and Traffic Engineer and Acting Deputy Transportation Director Alan Sanderson addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Cleavenger displayed a PowerPoint presentation (A copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and reported that the Transportation Department's Streets Program, which has a proposed operations budget for FY 09/10 of \$57.2 million, is comprised of five service areas. He explained that those work groups include Street Maintenance, Traffic Operations, Environmental Quality, Traffic Engineering and Transportation Administration.

Mr. Cleavenger stated that with regard to Street Maintenance, staff maintains over 3,356 land miles of asphalt throughout the City (i.e., streets, alleys and parking lots), 247 acres of landscaping and 2.25 miles of shared use paths. He noted that the City recently completed the largest overlay/reconstruction program (135 lane miles) in Mesa's history at a cost of \$13.5 million. Mr. Cleavenger also displayed a map entitled "Seal Coat Forecast 2009/2010" and highlighted those areas of the community that are scheduled for pavement treatment (i.e., fog seal, crack seal).

Mr. Cleavenger provided a brief overview of the various services (i.e., contracted services, commodities, applied overhead, equipment, personal services) included in the FY 09/10 Street Maintenance proposed budget, which totals \$22,625,000. He said that Street Maintenance is the Transportation Department's largest service area, representing 40% of the Streets Program budget.

Mr. Cleavenger reported that Traffic Operations maintains over 59,000 signs, 1,400 miles of street striping and 38,000 streetlights. He said that the FY 09/10 Traffic Operations Service proposed budget is \$8,202,000, or 14% of the Streets Program budget.

Mr. Cleavenger also remarked that the Environmental Quality work group treats 76 miles of street shoulders for dust abatement, maintains 386 storm drains and 9,353 catch basins, and is also responsible for sweeping residential and arterial streets. He indicated that the FY 09/10 Environmental Quality Service proposed budget is \$3,653,000, representing 6% of the Streets Program budget.

Mr. Cleavenger further commented that the Traffic Engineering service area has six primary functions which consist of the following: traffic studies; installation of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and traffic signals; plan review; traffic safety education; interagency coordination on transportation issues; and temporary traffic control (oversight of barricading, construction activities and special events). He stated that the FY 09/10 Traffic Engineering Service proposed budget totals \$8,264,000, which is approximately 14% of the Streets Program budget.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that funding for the tentative FY 09/10 Streets Program budget is derived from a dedicated transportation sales tax approved by Mesa voters in 2006 (\$25,212,000) and Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) monies (\$32,018,000); that the 2008 forecast for HURF revenue, as compared to the 2007 forecast, demonstrates a cumulative loss over seven years of \$82.1 million; that a similar forecast of local sales tax revenue reflects a cumulative loss over seven years of \$6.3 million; and that the three major components of the Tentative FY 09/10 Streets Program budget consist of operations (\$42.7 million), debt service (\$12.4 million) and capital (\$2.1 million).

Mr. Cleavenger continued with his presentation and provided a brief overview of the Streets Program capital improvement projects which include General Obligation (G.O.) Bond projects approved by Mesa voters in the November 4, 2008 Special Election (\$29.5 million); the installation and upgrade of traffic signals (\$663,183.00); and the replacement of rusted poles and streetlights (\$354,477.00), for a total of \$30.5 million.

Further discussion ensued relative to the funding sources for Mesa's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) projects (Proposition 400 monies and the City's bond package); and that because of the current downturn in the economy, the availability of regional funding, and the City's ability to

save money with regard to the contracted price of various commodities (i.e., asphalt, concrete), it is appropriate for Mesa to move forward with the proposed RTP projects.

Mr. Cleavenger offered a brief overview of a number of the proposed CIP projects, including the net estimated cost of the respective projects. (Note: A complete listing of the projects is contained in the PowerPoint presentation.)

Additional discussion ensued relative to staff's efforts to identify street projects that might qualify for stimulus monies through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; various street improvement commitments between Mesa and the surrounding communities; and the potential future sustainability of LED streetlights.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for the presentation.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the capital improvement program for the Police Department.

City Engineer Beth Huning introduced Assistant Police Chief Mike Dvorak and Police Commander Bill Peters, who were prepared to address the Council relative to this agenda item.

Ms. Huning displayed a PowerPoint presentation (A copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and reported that beginning at the March 23, 2009 Regular Council meeting and continuing over the next two years, staff will present a number of contracts for Council approval related to various capital improvement projects for the Police Department. She explained that a majority of the bond projects were approved by Mesa voters in the November 4, 2008 Special Election.

Ms. Huning reviewed the project for the construction of a new 1,200 square foot Police evidence freezer, which is included on the March 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Council meeting agenda for Council consideration. She stated that although \$600,000.00 was budgeted for the project, it is staff's recommendation that the low bidder be awarded the contract for a total of \$457,600.00. She highlighted a map depicting the location of the Police Department's existing and proposed storage freezers.

Chief Dvorak informed the Council that the Police Department currently has three evidence freezers and said that the construction of the new freezer would assist the organization in complying with a new State law that took effect in January of this year. He explained that the law requires that biological evidence for homicides and felony sex crimes be retained for a period of 55 years or until the felon's sentence is completed. Chief Dvorak added that the Department's evidence freezers are at maximum capacity and said the additional space would assist in that regard.

Chief Dvorak commented that the proposed improvements to the Police range include replacing a 25 year old trailer classroom with a 3,000 to 4,000 square foot classroom building with storage and also installing a portable shade for the pistol range. He noted that \$1,028,210 was approved for the project in the 2008 Bond Authorization.

Ms. Huning further reported that with regard to the proposed security improvements at the Center Against Family Violence (CAFV), staff is currently involved in the design phase of the

project. She indicated that \$384,000.00 in funding is available through the 2008 Bond Authorization and added that the project includes secure fencing and building access for client safety.

Ms. Huning noted that the proposed improvements to the Public Safety Training Facility are a joint project with Police and Fire. She explained that the structure was originally constructed in 1986 and stated that the City has made additions to the structure over time. Ms. Huning added that \$3,750,000 in funding is available for the project through the 2008 Bond Authorization. Chief Dvorak further commented that the facility, which is designed to address the basic training and in-service training needs of Police and Fire personnel, would include additional classrooms, a locker room, a defensive tactics room and a job specific strength training room.

Chief Dvorak noted that with respect to the replacement of the Dobson Police Station, \$15 million in funding was approved in the 2008 Bond Authorization. He explained that the original facility, which was constructed in 1980 and designed for 65 to 70 personnel, now houses more than 140 staff members. Chief Dvorak briefly highlighted the criteria with regard to site acquisition for the proposed 20,000 to 30,000 square foot building including, but not limited to, the following: a location in the Dobson service area that would provide access to two roadways; 24/7 front desk community access; visibility to the community; contribute to revitalization of the surrounding area; and provide adequate secured parking. He also reviewed a series of proposed functions for the new Police Station such as redundant dispatch capability, interview rooms, helipad capabilities, bays for forensic processing of vehicles, and rooms for processing DUI suspects.

City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that staff is considering various options with regard to site acquisition for the new Police Station. He stated that such options include possibly rehabbing an existing facility, rebuilding a site in a retail center or developing a vacant tract of land. Mr. Brady advised that there are potentially four sites that staff would bring back to Council for their input and direction.

Mayor Smith commented that with the current downturn in the real estate market, now would be an appropriate time for the City to move forward with the replacement of the Dobson Police Station. He stated that he could envision "many opportunities" as it relates to the site acquisition options cited by Mr. Brady. Mayor Smith also noted that although Mesa voters approved \$15 million in bonding capacity for the project, they also "expect" the City to be prudent in the manner with which those funds are expended.

Ms. Huning provided a brief timeline with regard to the proposed design/construction of the above-referenced CIP projects and also the acquisition of a site for the replacement of the Dobson Police Station. She indicated that construction of the evidence freezer is scheduled to begin on August 1, 2009; that the range improvements, CAFV security improvements and the Public Safety Training Facility improvements are currently in the design phase; that construction of the CAFV Security improvements will commence on December 1, 2009, followed by the Public Safety facility on May 1, 2010 and the range improvements on July 1, 2010. Ms. Huning added that with respect to the Dobson Police Station replacement, staff is currently in the property acquisition phase and added that construction of the facility is scheduled to begin on September 1, 2011.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

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

Vice Mayor Jones: National League of Cities Conference; Meetings with  
Congressmen Harry Mitchell and Jeff Flake  
Councilmember Richins: Broadway Recreation Center Celebration  
Councilmember Kavanaugh: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Board Meetings  
Mayor Smith: Governor Napolitano's Annual Breakfast

Vice Mayor Jones announced that he is hosting a food drive for the United Food Bank and stated that food boxes would be located in the lobby of the Mesa City Plaza between March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 23, 2009, 3:30 p.m. – Public Safety Committee Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2009, 4:45 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, March 23, 2009, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 26, 2009, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, March 26, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – Audit & Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, March 28, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – District 3 Pancake Breakfast, Fire Station 204

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

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SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LINDA CROCKER, 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 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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