

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 22, 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 October 22, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the October 22, 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 items 4e (2000/2001 Crack Sealing Project West), 4f (2000/2001 Crack Sealing Project East) and 4g (Greenfield Road Improvements, McDowell Road to Red Mountain Freeway).

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 8.1.b (Approving staff's proposal to pursue the concept of designating the City's district cooling facility as a utility enterprise and increasing the line size of the initial supply and return lines) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

2. Discuss and consider items related to the proposed updated General Plan.

Mayor Hawker stated that each Councilmember would have 10 minutes to comment and/or seek input from other Councilmembers on the proposed updated General Plan.

Mayor Hawker solicited input from the Councilmembers regarding a number of policy issues/questions.

Councilmember Kavanaugh objected to the series of questions and stated concerns regarding the agenda.

Councilmembers commented on the General Plan elements and stated numerous concerns and opinions relative to the Plan.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker regarding staff's policy concerns not addressed by the Councilmembers, Planning Director Frank Mizner requested additional Council input regarding infill and revitalization issues.

Discussion ensued regarding the Councilmembers' opinions relative to infill and revitalization issues.

3. Discuss and consider the process for documenting protests for Town Center Improvement District No. 228.

Mayor Hawker, Councilmember Jaffa and Councilmember Pomeroy declared potential conflicts of interest and refrained from discussion/participation in this agenda item.

Mayor Hawker yielded the gavel to Vice Mayor Davidson for action on this agenda item.

Paul McKee, Mesa Town Center Corporation President, and Tom Verploegen, Mesa Town Center Executive Director, addressed the Council regarding this agenda item. Mr. McKee stated that the Mesa Town Center recommends two administrative modifications designed to improve time management of staff and volunteers at Mesa Town Center.

Mr. McKee stated that the first proposed modification is for the City to follow the routine State of Arizona legal process for documenting protest input for the Town Center Improvement District No. 228 Continuation Hearing to be held in December 2001. He explained that the State process entails the City sending all assessment paying property owners in the improvement district a notice letter advising how, when and where they can protest the assessment. He further explained that the time-consuming City process involves conducting an opinion survey of owners.

Mr. McKee said that the second recommendation is that a five-year improvement district continuation process be established by the City for the future rather than the current practice of alternating three and five years. He noted that there are existing annual assessment hearings, which are discussed and considered by the Council, at which protests can be expressed. He also noted that requiring additional procedures and shorter time frames for review places undue emphasis on the process and is burdensome for the Town Center Corporation's staff.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that the two recommendations presented by representatives of the Mesa Town Center Corporation, be approved.

Vice Mayor Davidson and Councilmembers Kavanaugh, Walters and Whalen spoke in support of the recommendations.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Vice Mayor Davidson declared the motion carried unanimously by those voting.

With action on this agenda item complete, Vice Mayor Davidson yielded the gavel back to Mayor Hawker.

4. Hear an update on multi-use path improvements along canal banks.

Parks and Recreation Director Joe Holmwood and Parks Planning and Development Administrator William Way addressed the Council regarding this agenda item.

Mr. Holmwood reported that there are approximately 14.5 miles of canals within the City that have potential for improvement or are in the process of being improved, and that staff has identified funding sources available for improvement of 7.6 miles of canals.

Mr. Holmwood outlined the canal improvements that have occurred to date as well as those in progress, and noted that: 1) improvements along the Crosscut Canal from Center to Horne are complete; 2) improvements along the Crosscut/Consolidated Canals from Horne to 8th Street are currently under construction; 3) the 2.5 mile section of the Consolidated Canal from 8th Street to Lindsey is in the 60% design phase; and 4) the 1.5 mile section of the Consolidated Canal from Lindsay to Baseline is in the 30% design phase. He also noted that the 1.5 mile section of the South Canal from McKellips to McDowell is in the public input phase and that staff has had numerous meetings with residents in this area regarding issues relative to achieving compatibility of equestrian, bicycle and pedestrian types of uses.

Mr. Holmwood also commented on the bridge project over the Eastern Canal near Greenfield Park and the Western Canal bridge project near Palo Verde Park.

Discussion ensued regarding connecting Mesa's canal improvements to canal improvements within the Town of Gilbert.

Councilmember Jaffa voiced support for providing a village type concept and gathering areas in connection with canal path improvements.

Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced approval of the improvements made to date and spoke about the likelihood of receiving continued Federal funding assistance in this area. He also requested that staff evaluate the feasibility of canal improvements on the north side of the Superstition Freeway when considering future canal improvement projects.

Discussion ensued regarding traffic control measures utilized at the Crosscut/Consolidated Canal crossing on Brown Road, the potential future accessibility of the CAP canal, and the fact that utility access roads are being asphalted by utility companies.

Councilmember Pomeroy requested that staff assess citizen use of the completed multi-use paths prior to consideration of future canal improvement projects.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held October 9, 2001.
- b. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held October 11, 2001.
- c. Utility Committee meeting held October 8, 2001.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke about the success of the recent GAIN events and commended staff for their efforts in this regard. He stated that approximately 160 block parties were registered for the event.

Assistant Development Services Manager Jeff Martin and Williams Gateway AREA Manager Wayne Balmer commented on the status of NW 2000. Mr. Martin reported that a copy of the most recent joint community letter regarding the proposed Community Consensus Alternative was transmitted to FAA officials and that the original letter will be transmitted after it is signed by all of the communities. He added that it is unknown whether or not the Fort McDowell Indian Community will sign the letter.

Mayor Hawker summarized the positive results of the City's involvement in the NW 2000 study and stressed the importance of pursuing the relocation of the 4DME gate to further diminish flight paths over Mesa.

Mayor Hawker commented on his participation at a MAG meeting earlier that day and updated the Council regarding regional governance issues being considered by MAG.

Councilmember Walters discussed her recent attendance at numerous GAIN activities, the dedication ceremony at Quail Run Park and the Honeymoon Trail historic marker ceremony at Pioneer Park.

Vice Mayor Davidson commented on his attendance at the Arizona Rail Passenger Association meeting during September.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Councilmember Jaffa voiced concerns regarding the design process of the Red Mountain 202/Freeway and commented on time limits associated with the design phase.

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

Thursday, October 25, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session Cancelled

Thursday, November 1, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, November 5, 2001, TBA – Study Session

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

Thursday, November 8, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, November 15, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, November 19, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, November 19, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:05 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 22nd day of October 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

pjt