



OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 27, 2007

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 September 27, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Tom Rawles
Scott Somers
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

Kyle Jones

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Linda Crocker

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Jones from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the October 1, 2007 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: 4k (Whalen)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 7c and f

Items added to the consent agenda: None

2. Hear a presentation and discuss Planned Community Districts. (See Item 5b on October 1, 2007 Council meeting agenda).

Zoning/Civil Hearing Administrator Gordon Sheffield noted that the Council recently received an extensive presentation on the intent of a Planned Community District. He stated that the direction provided by Council was implemented, and he advised that staff continues to negotiate with the party that is anticipated to be the first applicant. Mr. Sheffield reported that the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board unanimously approved the proposal with a minor change that clarifies the method of calculating a certain area and that the proposal is acceptable to the applicant. He added that the related modifications to Title 9 have also been prepared. Mr. Sheffield said that unless the Council has further concerns, the ordinance would be prepared for introduction at the October 1, 2007 Council meeting.

Mayor Hawker noted that the Council had no further questions, and he stated that the item would be considered at the Regular Council meeting on October 1, 2007.

3. Hear an update and discuss the Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative.

Acting Neighborhood Services Director Ray Villa introduced Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Susan Frabotta, who was present to provide an update on the Building Strong Neighborhoods Initiative.

Ms. Frabotta displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and advised that the goal of the program is to preserve and strengthen neighborhoods by providing residents and businesses with education, training and access to existing resources that address neighborhood issues. She stated that staff implemented a neighborhood program in each of the six Council districts. Ms. Frabotta outlined the activities and the projects completed in each neighborhood (see Attachment 1). She summarized that the successes of the program include:

- 1,275 households were engaged.
- 338 tons of debris were removed.
- 42 team meetings were held.
- New cooperative partnerships were created.
- Special neighborhood projects were implemented.
- Neighbors were brought together.

Ms. Frabotta reported that efforts would continue to address many issues, such as alley abandonments, speed humps, training of homeowner associations, block watches, and special projects that beautify and improve the neighborhoods. She stated that the program is planned to address one neighborhood in each Council District during 2007-2008.

Mr. Villa summarized the presentation by thanking the other City departments, nonprofit organizations and businesses for their support and participation in this effort.

City Manager Christopher Brady complimented the Neighborhood Services Department for their leadership in a program that has made a difference in the community. He noted that nonprofit organizations have expressed an interest in and support for this program, and he said that another entity that may be included in the future is the school district.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whalen regarding overgrowth in alleys in his district, Mr. Brady said that staff would investigate and provide him with information.

Vice Mayor Walters commended staff for their efforts.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Walters, Ms. Frabotta advised that staff would arrange for recycling containers to be included in the plans for future programs.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

4. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on pool projects and priorities.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Director Rhett Evans introduced Parks Development and Strategic Planner Andrea Moore and Recreation Supervisor Darla Armfield, who oversees the City's aquatic programs. Mr. Evans displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a

copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) to provide an update on the status of planned swimming pool renovation projects. He noted that in June of 2005, the Council approved utilizing the Indoor Aquatics Center Quality of Life Funds totaling \$25.1 million for smaller aquatic projects, such as renovating the Carson pool. He added that in September of 2006, the Council directed staff to proceed with the design of the Kino and Rhodes pools. Mr. Evans advised that the preliminary cost estimates are \$8.2 million for Kino and \$5.9 million for Rhodes. He said that the age of a pool was not an accurate indicator of condition because the breakdown of materials in some of the newer pools was greater than in older pools. He stated that other factors to consider in prioritizing pool renovations were compliance with revised code requirements at the national and County levels and meeting the changing user needs for the Parks Department and the City's partner, Mesa Public Schools.

Ms. Armfield continued the presentation and advised that the Kino pool was a premier competition site until being disqualified approximately eight years ago because of deteriorating conditions. She stated that the goal is to return Kino to competition status, and she outlined the features planned to accomplish that goal and to provide the community with a multiple use facility. Ms. Armfield noted that as requested by the Council, additional areas of shade were incorporated into the design. She added that because Kino is a year-round facility, enclosed bathrooms are being included.

Mr. Evans advised that the design also provided for additional parking.

In response to a comment from Councilmember Whalen, Ms. Armfield stated that staff could consider utilizing a solar system to heat the pool, but she added that current plans include reusing two existing boilers in an effort to control costs.

Mr. Evans continued the presentation by outlining the following factors that influence renovation priorities:

- Preferred service area/geographic locations for strategic placement of pools.
- Overall deterioration of the existing facility.
- Input from Mesa Public Schools regarding educational and competitive uses.
- Opportunity to meet customer needs.

Ms. Moore advised that staff made an effort to determine different levels of service for individual pools. She reported that the Carson, Stapley, Shepherd and Brimhall pools were renovated to include amenities, and she stated that staff's recommendation is to renovate Rhodes and Taylor Junior High pools in the same manner.

Mr. Evans said that adding amenities to the Rhodes and Taylor pools could have the same positive effect on attendance as was experienced at the Carson pool (see Attachment 2, "Three Year History of Municipal Pool Open Swim Attendance"). He outlined the various amenities that are being researched, some of which are a water slide, splash pad, flow rider and a fast current/lazy river. Mr. Evans outlined the priorities and cost estimates for the renovations (see Attachment 3) and noted that the cost for the top three priorities totals \$20,250,000.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Somers, Mr. Evans noted that a future pool for southeast Mesa is included at a cost of \$8,750,000. He reported that discussions regarding pools are ongoing with Mesa Public Schools (MPS). Mr. Evans noted that the MPS

Athletic Department Director Dr. Steve Hogan has been active with various groups in southeast Mesa in an effort to raise funds for a pool in that area, but that a specific location has not yet been identified.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Walters regarding the possibility of constructing a pool in southeast Mesa rather than renovating the Taylor pool, Mr. Evans advised that staff's recommendation is that the City attempt to maintain the existing facilities before initiating new construction.

Vice Mayor Walters stated the opinion that a significant increase in the number of families with children in southeast Mesa warranted the construction of a pool in that area, which should be a higher priority than renovating the Taylor pool.

In response to a request from Councilmember Rawles, Mr. Evans stated that staff would provide to the Council the available history regarding pool attendance.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Rawles, Ms. Armfield advised that in the summer, backstroke competitions are held at the Taylor pool. She added that the Rhodes pool is utilized for practices, but the pool cannot be utilized for competitions because it is a 25-meter facility.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the proposed amenities at the Rhodes and Taylor pools are estimated to cost approximately \$2 million; and that staff is attempting to maximize the benefit to the community at each pool.

Councilmember Rawles stated the opinion that families in southeast Mesa are more likely to have their own pool or access to a pool through a homeowners' association than do the residents of west Mesa.

Vice Mayor Walters noted that prioritization of the pools must also address the needs of the schools. She invited Dr. Hogan to address the Council regarding these issues.

Dr. Hogan advised that every junior high school in Mesa, except Smith, has a swim unit in the fall and in the spring. He stated that high school swim teams practice between August and November, but others utilize the pools during the entire year. He added that the swim teams require access to a year-round facility in order to be competitive.

Vice Mayor Walters expressed concern that the proposed renovations would not provide service to southeastern Mesa.

Councilmember Somers stated the opinion that new growth in southeast Mesa, an area without pools, would be paying to renovate pools in older sections of west Mesa. He said that although a family may have a pool, the children would participate in swimming lessons and competitive events at a City pool. Councilmember Somers also noted the challenge of addressing school districts that overlap in other municipalities, and he added that southeast Mesa has fewer public parks and fire stations.

Deputy City Manager Bryan Raines noted that the Council's discussion suggested that the consensus was to move forward with the Kino and Rhodes pools and to discuss with MPS the possible construction of a pool in southeast Mesa rather than renovating the Taylor pool. He

added that a pool in southeast Mesa would be planned to replicate the Kino facility in order to facilitate competitive events, and he noted that the project would be more costly than the Taylor renovations.

Vice Mayor Walters noted that the City should continue to discuss these issues with MPS, and she expressed support for moving forward with the Kino and Rhodes pools, which were identified as priorities number 1 and number 2.

Mayor Hawker suggested that the City's efforts with regard to pools be concentrated on two or three geographically dispersed pools with amenities that serve large areas of the community. He noted that some of the cost estimates for renovations are similar to the costs for new construction.

City Manager Chris Brady said that staff could consider a regional approach to the City pools. He noted that the status of existing pools would be reviewed each year regarding their continued viability.

Mayor Hawker noted that the utilization of the pools by Mesa Public Schools is an important factor to consider.

Councilmember Rawles stated that MPS may have to contribute additional capital, and he concurred with the suggestion offered by Vice Mayor Walters to move forward with the Kino and Rhodes renovations and that staff be directed to investigate the possibility of constructing a pool in southeast Mesa.

Councilmember Whalen suggested that the City consider selling the property at 1st Avenue and Macdonald Street, which had been identified as the site for an aquatic center, and directing the sale proceeds to fund swimming pools.

Vice Mayor Walters proposed that a new model for locating swimming pools could be to construct them in proximity to high schools rather than junior high schools, and she suggested that this should be a topic of discussion with MPS.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Mr. Brady advised that although there are presently no imminent safety or health issues at the pools, these issues are likely to develop in the near future.

It was moved by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Vice Mayor Walters, that staff be directed to move forward with the Kino pool renovations and continue to study the other pool projects.

Councilmember Rawles noted that the regional pool approach could provide service when the smaller pools are no longer useable, and he suggested that the renovation of the Rhodes pool also move forward so that the southwest area of Mesa continues to be served.

Vice Mayor Walters concurred that the Rhodes pool should be included, and she withdrew her second to the motion.

Councilmember Whalen explained that he excluded Rhodes from the motion because Councilmember Rawles had requested that staff provide data on the costs and past usage. He

offered to include Rhodes, and noting that Councilmember Rawles concurred, Councilmember Whalen withdrew his motion.

It was moved by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Vice Mayor Walters, that staff be directed to move forward with the Kino and Rhodes pool renovations and that staff continue to study the other pool projects.

In response to a question from Assistant City Manager Debbi Dollar, Councilmember Whalen clarified that his motion for the Rhodes pool renovations included amenities.

Mr. Evans advised that staff does require clarification regarding the type of amenities that are to be included in the renovation projects.

Vice Mayor Walters noted that her participation in a discussion of the type of amenities could pose a potential conflict of interest.

Mayor Hawker suggested, and the Council concurred, that the Council consider the motion to include a general package of amenities, and that the Council address specific aspects of the amenities at a future meeting

Mayor Hawker called for the vote.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Hawker-Rawles-Somers-Walters-Whalen
NAYS – None
ABSENT – Jones

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mr. Raines recommended that staff prepare detailed information regarding the costs and types of amenities for Council consideration at a future meeting.

Councilmember Rawles stated the opinion that a splash pad for children three and under was an essential amenity.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

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

Councilmember Somers:	Grand Opening of The Cheesecake Factory. Parkwood Ranch Homeowners' Association meeting. Regional Public Transportation Authority Board meeting.
Vice Mayor Walters:	Arizona Division of Emergency Management seminar.
Councilmember Whalen:	Speaker at Queen Creek High School regarding his Vietnam military experience.
Mayor Hawker:	Maricopa Association of Governments Regional meeting.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Mayor Hawker noted that District 5 Councilmember Griswold has resigned to become a candidate for Mayor. He requested that staff place an item on the October 1st Study Session agenda for a Council discussion of the procedures to be followed to select an interim replacement. Mayor Hawker noted that individuals seeking the position are required to have a two-year residency in District 5.

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

Monday, October 1, 2007, 4:30 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, October 1, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, October 11, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

7. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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 27th day of September 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

baa

Attachments (3)