

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 4, 2002

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on March 4, 2002 at 8:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Pat Pomeroy

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Pomeroy from the meeting.

1. Hear an update and consider issues associated with the proposed site for the Multipurpose Facility.
 - a. Review status of discussions with potential financial partners.
 - b. Approve proposed City of Mesa Multipurpose Facility Financing Plan.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that tomorrow morning the Tourism and Sports Authority (TSA) will meet and added that they have narrowed the list down to two or three sites for the Multipurpose Facility. He said that it is his understanding that the TSA is not going to select a front runner tomorrow, they are just going to narrow down the sites and then over the next couple of weeks they will negotiate with the sites that are left in terms of the final agreement.

Mr. Hutchinson stated that last Thursday staff made a presentation to the TSA Board and, in response to the Chairman's request for additional information, staff put together some numbers in an effort to narrow the gap.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that staff will attend a 9 a.m. meeting with representatives of the Cardinals to discuss a variety of related issues, discussions that have taken place with the City of Tempe relative to possible land swaps and joint development efforts, efforts to close the funding gap, efforts to obtain a commitment for financial support from the Cardinals, and a current proposal that includes participation on the part of ASU.

Vice Mayor Davidson commented on the fact that Salt River Project, his employer, would be involved in the project if it comes to fruition and said that following discussions with the City Attorney relative to the fact that the proposal is one of regional significance and Mesa is not the only entity that will benefit from the project, he feels comfortable discussing and voting on this matter but wanted his remarks included in the meeting minutes.

Mayor Hawker provided a brief recap of events to date and anticipated meetings that will take place within the next two weeks. He asked for input from the members of the Council relative to the current proposal.

Councilmember Whalen said that he is comfortable with the proposal that has been submitted and said that he looks forward to continuing negotiations which result in the siting of the stadium at the Mesa/Tempe location.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with Councilmember Whalen's comments. He added that he believes a partnership with Tempe, in one manner or another, will take place and said that he also believes that the City will receive assistance from the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community. He added that the Hurley family has been waiting for many years for the right project to come along for their site and expressed the opinion that the timing is right for the stadium to be built at that location.

Councilmember Walters commented on the commitment that has been displayed by the members of the East Valley Partnership to come up with a proposal that is fair and will benefit the entire region. She agreed that the City of Mesa should continue to move forward on this issue and complimented staff on their hard work.

Mayor Hawker said that he supports working with Tempe, Scottsdale and the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and added that there is strength in unity. He said that he is opposed to proceeding with any type of land swap with the City of Tempe. He added, however, that he would be willing to pursue the land swap with ASU that has been discussed and stated the opinion that this proposal may benefit the City of Mesa.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in support of continuing discussions with Tempe and added that both municipalities have a history of working together. He added the opinion that an excellent opportunity exists to partner with Scottsdale, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and perhaps Maricopa County as well and said that he would like to support joint efforts with these groups.

Discussion ensued relative to a majority of the Council's decision to avoid future annexation and/or de-annexation discussions with Tempe, the possibility of a "land swap" with ASU, and the possibility of pursuing IGA's with the various entities.

Mayor Hawker called upon citizens in the audience to present their remarks.

Craig Berge addressed the Council and said he is representing himself and the East Valley Partnership. He said that the organization would like the Council to strongly consider the current opportunity that exists and not take anything off the table at this time. He stressed the importance of working with the TSA and convincing them that Mesa is willing to do whatever it takes to get the stadium built in our City.

Janie Thom said that she is constantly hearing from fellow citizens that they are opposed to the siting of a stadium in Mesa. She added that if an Arizona Cardinals' Football Stadium is located in Mesa, it should not be funded by taxpayer monies. She stated that if the Council decides to proceed with negotiations for a stadium in Mesa, they should make sure that all parking revenues, sales tax, game day ticket sales and a significant percentage of naming rights and other revenue sources go to the City rather than to the Cardinals. Ms. Thom commented that on May 19, 1999 and again on November 7, 2000, Mesa voters soundly rejected a Cardinals

Football Stadium. She noted that a strong possibility exists that the measure will be the subject of a referendum filed by citizens of Mesa and urged the Council to withdraw the current proposal for a Cardinal's Football Stadium in Mesa.

Ernie Johnson asked whether any plans are in place to construct a Dobson Road bridge over to the Indian community. He also questioned whether the Indian Community is interested in pursuing this matter further.

There were no other speakers wishing to present their remarks at this time. Mayor Hawker thanked the speakers for their comments.

Discussion ensued among the members of the Council relative to this issue.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Jaffa, to approve the current proposal as presented.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council Meeting adjourned at 8:47 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 Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 4th day of March 2002. 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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