

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 1, 2003

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 May 1, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 5, 2003 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:

The following conflicts of interest were declared: Mayor Hawker, Item 5g

The following items were placed on the consent agenda: None

The following items were removed from the consent agenda: None

2. Hear a report and consider issues associated with all-mail ballot elections.

City Clerk Barbara Jones addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Ms. Jones referred to the Council Report and stated that the information presented is for Council review and is not a staff recommendation.

Ms. Jones noted that the benefits associated with an all-mail ballot election are greater voter participation and satisfaction, as well as keeping voter registration rolls current, whereas the foremost disadvantage would be an increase in the overall cost of the election.

Discussion ensued relative to the difficulty in locating facilities willing to serve as polling places, the increasing number of voters choosing to vote by mail, and the costs an all-mail ballot would likely entail.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Thom, Ms. Jones stated that voters would still go to the polls for other jurisdictional elections even if the City were to conduct all-mail ballot elections. She agreed that in order to avoid voter confusion this should be addressed at the state level.

Ms. Jones recommended that staff be provided with sufficient time to conduct an outreach program to educate the public if Council considers moving forward with an all-mail ballot election.

3. Hear an update on the City's E-Community Incentives.

Economic Development Director Richard Mulligan referred the Council to the tables in the Council Report and stated that the report has been separated into three categories: e-infrastructure, e-government, and e-partnerships; with each providing a brief synopsis of accomplishments, planned projects, and challenges that have been encountered in their implementation. (See Attachment 1.)

E-Streets and Licensing Director Dan Brewer reported on the progress of e-infrastructure. Mr. Brewer advised that in anticipation of the private sector's needs, the City has begun to construct and sell broadband infrastructure such as the East Mesa Conduit Loop, which presently connects the two airports in East Mesa, along with the Superstition Springs Employment Center. He added that in downtown Mesa, the City leases 45,000 feet of conduit and 2,000 poles to cable television and telephone companies.

Information Technology Services Leader Diane Gardner addressed the Council relative to e-government and the need to have the services and information ready to deliver when the infrastructure is in place.

Mr. Mulligan provided a brief update as to the progress of the partnerships between the City, community, educational institutions, and business sector.

Discussion ensued relative to the difficulty in obtaining information about the private sector's service provider infrastructure because of the competitive nature of their business; wireless versus wired technology and the need to implement both; and available on-line services.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for their update.

4. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

5. Items from citizens present.

Dan Gutenkauf, 1847 E. Apache Blvd. #41, Tempe, AZ, representative for Citizens for a Fair Vote Count, addressed the Council and expressed his opposition to mail-in voting.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:40 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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 1st day of May 2003. 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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attachment