

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 15, 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 February 15, 2001 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Keno Hawker

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Neal Beets
Barbara Jones

Vice Mayor Davidson excused Mayor Hawker from the meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the February 20, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

All the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was discussion among the members of the Council relative to various agenda items.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that agenda item 8a will be removed from the consent agenda.

2. Discuss and consider the selection of Zone 4 as the City's first Opportunity Zone.

Neighborhood Services Manager Wayne Balmer addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Balmer noted that staff addressed the Council in December 2000 regarding the proposed designation of six Opportunity Zones. Mr. Balmer explained that Opportunity Zones are geographical areas where the City would focus its resources to work with the residents in an effort to achieve significant improvements in both the appearance and quality of life within each designated zone. Mr. Balmer reported that since December, Neighborhood Outreach staff has met with residents of the six designated zones and said that staff's recommendation is that Opportunity Zone 4 in northwest Mesa be selected as the initial pilot Opportunity Zone (See Attachment). Mr. Balmer said that if approved by the Council, staff would work with residents of Opportunity Zone 4, in addition to seeking Council's input, to develop programs to improve the neighborhood. Mr. Balmer stated that Neighborhood Outreach Director Tanya Collins will provide further information regarding staff's proposal.

Ms. Collins informed the Council that staff is enthusiastic about the Opportunity Zones program and its potential positive impacts on the quality of life in a number of Mesa's mature neighborhoods. Ms. Collins reported that active neighbors in Zone 4 are also enthusiastic about the program and eager to begin making improvements. Ms. Collins stated that the Zone 4 neighborhood group has already completed significant foundational work necessary to create positive short and long-range plans for the neighborhood and to ensure that work within the zone can begin immediately. Ms. Collins further reported that staff also spoke with the principals of the three schools within the zone, Westwood High School, Carson Jr. High and Emerson Elementary, and commented that teachers and administrators at the schools are willing to provide a wealth of knowledge regarding the surrounding neighborhoods. Ms. Collins added that staff has contacted officials at Mesa Lutheran Hospital and Maricopa County (regarding Desert Vista Hospital) and discussed their upcoming revitalization plans.

Ms. Collins reported that staff is prepared to collaborate with businesses, religious communities, civic and charitable organizations and social service agencies which are located in or serve the residents of Zone 4. Ms. Collins said that staff will also partner with Mesa Community Action Network and Mesa United Way. Ms. Collins said that the success of the project will require the assistance of numerous City departments including, but not limited to, Solid Waste, Code Compliance, Mesa Police Department, Parks and Recreation, Redevelopment, Housing Services, Community Revitalization, Planning and Zoning and Transportation.

Ms. Collins introduced the four Neighborhood Outreach Coordinators who will work in the Opportunity Zones, Brent Stockwell, Crystal Prentice, Deanna Zamora and Debbie Driscoll to the members of the Council.

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked Ms. Collins for the presentation and expressed appreciation to the Coordinators for their role in assisting the neighborhoods and the community as a whole.

Councilmember Walters expressed appreciation to Ms. Collins and her staff for their work and voiced support for the program. Councilmember Walters stressed the importance of ensuring that the zones are small enough to embrace but large enough to provide a visual impact of success. Councilmember Walters said that she is impressed by the enthusiasm and resourcefulness of the Zone 4 neighborhood group. Councilmember Walters discussed the opportunity to partner with the Mesa Public Schools throughout the six Opportunity Zones with respect to school facilities that are used jointly by the Parks and Recreation Department. Councilmember Walters also commented on confusion that has arisen regarding Opportunity Zone numbers and Council District numbers and suggested that a possible solution would be to name the various zones rather than assigning them a number.

It was moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that staff's recommendations relative to the Opportunity Zones be approved.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh regarding timelines associated with working in the six zones, Ms. Collins advised that staff anticipated working in all six zones over the course of two years, although it is unknown how long staff will intensively work in each zone. Ms. Collins added that the Opportunity Zones project is a long-term project and the full scope of work to be accomplished remains unknown.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh regarding the potential impact the Opportunity Zones project will place on staff, Mr. Balmer advised that the full impact the project will have on staff and other resources is presently unknown. Mr. Balmer said that the project will be an evolutionary process for the City with respect to focusing on neighborhood improvements and noted that the pace of the project will be largely determined by the resources available from the numerous City departments involved in the project.

Councilmember Jaffa stated support for the project and for the first zone selected as the pilot zone. Councilmember Jaffa voiced the opinion that the project is important for community redevelopment, stability and sustainability.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa regarding funding of the project, Mr. Balmer advised that available funding is sufficient to intensively work in Zone 4 and to accomplish some improvement in the remaining five zones over the course of two years. Mr. Balmer added that the funds are not sufficient, however, to complete all six zones within two years. Mr. Balmer stated that staff is recommending that the City proceed with Zone 4 as a pilot program, to gauge the program's success and to determine which improvements provide the most significant positive impacts as a result of the resources invested. Mr. Balmer added that staff is not presently requesting the allocation of additional funds but will come back to the Council after the program has been tested.

Councilmember Jaffa strongly encouraged staff to further evaluate the need for additional funds for the project and respond to Council prior to Council's budget hearing in May.

Councilmember Pomeroy voiced support for the project.

Vice Mayor Davidson expressed reluctant support for the project and stated concerns relative to the fact that the Broadway corridor is not included in the project, the fact that costs associated with the project are presently unknown and the apparent strain the project will place on the resources of the Neighborhood Outreach Office and other City departments. Vice Mayor Davidson encouraged staff to seek Council's input if difficulties are encountered in balancing existing demands with new demands associated with the Opportunity Zones program.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Davidson, Ms. Collins clarified that the project will also collaborate with the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board in addition to other social agencies and boards.

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

3. Discuss and consider the selection of an artist for the Mesa Indoor Aquatic Center public art project.

It was moved by Councilmember Jaffa, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the proposal of Tom Bollinger be approved as the public art project for the Mesa Indoor Aquatic Center.

Arts and Cultural Director Gerry Gerber introduced staff and commended their efforts in this regard.

Museum and Cultural Advisory Board Chairman Maureen Stewart addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Ms. Stewart advised that a nationwide "Call to Artists," resulted in responses from 32 artists. Ms. Stewart added that an artist selection panel narrowed the list of candidates and unanimously recommended that the contract be awarded to Scottsdale artist and professional sculptor Tom Bollinger.

Ms. Stewart explained that the unique proposal submitted by Mr. Bollinger captures the spirit and essence of swimming, reflects a southwestern color palette and addresses the elemental themes of water and air. Ms. Stewart added that while the proposal is unique to the City of Mesa, similar designs were created for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

Tom Bollinger referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview of his "Skysculpture" proposal. Mr. Bollinger explained that the sculptural forms, comprised of zero porosity rip stop nylon, will be displayed 30 feet above the pools of the Aquatic Center. Mr. Bollinger indicated that the inflated forms will reflect the organic nature of the environment of the sky, may be deflated and utilized as banners, and illuminated for opening night ceremonies and special events.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy regarding the utilization of the proposed material in an aquatic facility with high humidity and chlorine, Mr. Bollinger clarified that the manufacturer of the material has conducted tests on the fabric and reported no adverse reactions to such elements. Mr. Bollinger added that the material has unlimited durability.

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked the artist selection panel and Mr. Bollinger for their efforts in this regard. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated the opinion that the sculpture will be dramatic and thought provoking and said that its large scale is appropriate for the space.

Councilmember Walters concurred with the comments of Councilmember Kavanaugh.

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

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked everyone for their input

4. Hear an update on issues related to the booking of City prisoners in County jail facilities.

Assistant Police Chief G.T. Fowler addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and reported that in the past week, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has closed its southeast valley jail facility. Chief Fowler advised that the closure will not substantially impact the Mesa Police Department with regard to the daily transport of approximately eight felony prisoners to the Madison Street Jail, but it will increase the booking time by approximately three to five hours per day. Chief Fowler noted that this increase will result in approximately \$70,000 in overtime annually. Chief Fowler informed the Council that the newly acquired jail van will enable the Department to transport a greater number of prisoners per trip and will also reduce the number of trips per day.

In response to questions from Councilmember Whalen regarding the feasibility of an east valley jail facility operated independently of Maricopa County, Chief Fowler explained that discussions have occurred among the east valley police chiefs regarding the benefit of housing misdemeanor prisoners. Chief Fowler emphasized, however, that the current jail facility closure impacts the transporting of felony prisoners. Chief Fowler added that due to its inability to arrange appropriate pickup schedules and because of increased transportation costs, the Sheriff's Department does not pick up felony prisoners from any valley police agencies.

Councilmember Whalen voiced the opinion that Maricopa County does not provide the City with many tax-funded services which Mesa is entitled to receive.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with the comments of Councilmember Whalen.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Avondale jail facility has also been closed; the fact that the Mesa Police Department, unlike Chandler and Gilbert, has a holding facility which can house prisoners for a period of time until they are transported to the County facility in Phoenix, and the fact that when a prisoner is taken into custody by the Sheriff's Department, the County is then obligated to facilitate all transportation requirements.

Councilmember Jaffa requested that City Manager Mike Hutchinson consider drafting a statement to be supported by other east valley City Councils, expressing concerns regarding unfunded costs that are borne by the various cities without the benefit of County assistance.

Vice Mayor Davidson expressed the opinion that the closure of the southeast valley jail facility is a prime example of the State and Maricopa County supplanting their taxes by burdening municipalities. Vice Mayor Davidson requested that this issue be forwarded to the Police Committee for more extensive evaluation and review.

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked Chief Fowler for his input.

5. Discuss and consider policy guidelines for use of CDBG/HOME funding.

Neighborhood Services Manager Wayne Balmer and Community Revitalization Administrator Kathleen "Kit" Savagian addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Balmer reported that staff is currently reviewing and evaluating the proposals received for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funding and Emergency Shelter Grant funding for fiscal year 2001/2002 and is seeking Council's approval to retain the *Policy Guidelines For Use of CDBG/HOME Funding* which were used during fiscal year 2000/2001.

Mr. Balmer discussed the process and timeline associated with the selection of projects to be funded and noted that due to insufficient funding, only 50% of the proposals submitted will be funded. Mr. Balmer stated that Ms. Savagian and her staff are responsible for meeting with the applicants, reviewing their proposals, and determining staff's final recommendation to the Council with respect to funding allocations.

Ms. Savagian reported that the first public hearing regarding the proposals has occurred and that staff is presently in the process of reevaluating certain proposals in preparation for presenting their final recommendations to Council. Ms. Savagian added that the process is difficult based on the limited amount of resources and the extensive needs of the community.

Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced support for retaining the Policy Guidelines used during fiscal year 2000/2001 and commended staff on their efforts to prioritize the various proposals.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh regarding the possibility of Mesa receiving an increased allocation of Federal grant funds, Mr. Balmer reported that the City received increased Federal funds this year compared to last year. Mr. Balmer voiced the opinion that the most significant factor affecting the future allocation of Federal funds is the fact that the allocation is determined in part on Census figures and noted that 1990 and 1995 Census figures are still being used. Mr. Balmer added that Mesa could see a significant increase after the new Census figures are released.

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that staff's recommendation relative to retaining the City's existing CDBG/HOME Funding Policy Guidelines for fiscal year 2001/2002 be approved.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa regarding the direct distribution of funds to private homeowners, Mr. Balmer stated that housing receives more than 50% of the available funds. Mr. Balmer added that staff attempts to avoid excessive bureaucracy by using existing agencies and noted that Mesa's administrative expenses are less than 50% of the amount allowed by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Balmer also reported that Mesa distributes in excess of \$1 million per year through the Housing Authority directly to low income, handicapped and elderly homeowners.

In response to questions from Vice Mayor Davidson regarding the addition of Lead Based Paint Inspection and Abatement to the CDBG Program, Ms. Savagian reported that this new item on the program is the result of a recent Federal regulation that substantially increases required assessment and testing for lead based paint. Ms. Savagian also reported that any excess funds budgeted for Lead Based Paint Assessment and Abatement may be used for other projects.

Vice Mayor Davidson declared that the motion carried unanimously by those present.

6. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Historic Preservation Committee Meeting held January 11, 2001.
- b. Police Committee Meeting held February 5, 2001.

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

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

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

Councilmember Whalen stated that he attended the final Arizona Public Service siting hearing regarding the placement of a power plant in the Town of Gilbert. Councilmember Whalen explained that the plant was approved by a 6-1 vote.

Councilmember Pomeroy reported on his recent attendance at the Gang Prevention Steering Committee meeting. Councilmember Pomeroy stated that the Committee has drafted new action items and also applied for funding from the Department of Labor.

Vice Mayor Davidson announced that the Council recently attended Mesa's Woman and Man of the Year for 2000 celebration in which Ms. Joanie Flatt and Mr. Marty Whalen were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the community. Vice Mayor Davidson encouraged the residents of Mesa to participate in community activism.

8. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Tuesday, February 20, 2001, TBA, Study Session

Tuesday, February 20, 2001, 5:45 p.m., Regular Council meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2001, 7:30 a.m., Study Session

Thursday, February 22, 2001, 9:00 a.m., Fire Committee meeting

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

Monday, March 5, 2001, 3:00 p.m., Transportation Committee meeting

Monday, March 5, 2001, TBA, Study Session

Monday, March 5, 2001, 5:45 p.m., Regular Council meeting

9. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

10. Items from citizens present.

Neal Yukolis, 130 West Main Street, spoke in opposition to agenda item 5a, "Amending the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the regulation of pawnshops, tattoo parlors and body piercing salons." Mr. Yukolis stated the opinion that pawnshops should be considered as a separate entity from tattoo parlors and body piercing salons.

Vice Mayor Davidson urged the Councilmembers to meet with Mr. Yukolis prior to the February 20, 2001 Regular Council meeting.

Bob Fabrizio, 221 West Main Street, expressed concerns relative to agenda item 5a and stated that the City Council should not be allowed to dictate how business owners should operate their establishments.

Mr. Cheeseman, a Mesa resident, also voiced opposition to agenda item 5a and emphasized the fact that the amendments to the ordinance will adversely affect honest and hardworking businessmen in the community.

11. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:12 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 15th day of February, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2001

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

pag/pjt