



COUNCIL MINUTES

January 3, 2001

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council of the City of Tempe in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 3, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.

MESA COUNCIL
PRESENT

Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

MESA STAFF
PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Larry Woolf

TEMPE COUNCIL
PRESENT

Neil Giuliano
Len Cople
Ben Arredondo
Dennis Cahill
Barbara Carter
Hugh Hallman
Mark Mitchell

TEMPE STAFF
PRESENT

John Greco

MESA COUNCIL
ABSENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

1. Introduction of Mayors and Councilmembers.

Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves.

2. Discuss and consider the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal to the Tourism and Sports Authority Board.

Mayor Hawker announced the completion of the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal, which will be submitted to the Tourism and Sports Authority Board (TSA) for consideration. Mayor Hawker invited the Councilmembers to offer additional input or comments regarding this issue and advised that pending further suggestions or modifications, the proposal will be forwarded to the TSA by January 5, 2001.

Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano expressed appreciation to staff from both communities regarding their efforts to formulate a strong and competitive proposal.

Tempe Councilmember Hugh Hallman voiced support for the proposal and requested that staff provide him with a copy of the final financing plan.

In response to a request from Mayor Hawker, Mesa Finance Director Larry Woolf explained that the proposal's financing plan will not create a financial burden on the citizens of Mesa or Tempe and added neither city will be required to utilize their General Fund as a source of financing for the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site.

Mesa Councilmember Bill Jaffa stated the opinion that the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site will accommodate residential, commercial and industrial development.

Mesa Councilmember Claudia Walters concurred with the comments of the Councilmembers and thanked staff for their efforts in designing a high-quality and in-depth proposal. Councilmember Walters added that if the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site is not selected by the TSA, she would strongly encourage both Councils to pursue alternative economic development possibilities for this proposed location.

Mayor Hawker clarified for the viewing audience that in order to accommodate the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site, three holes of the existing Riverview Golf Course must be reconfigured to the west side of the facility to enable future hotel and commercial development to occur.

In response to a question from Mesa Councilmember Pat Pomeroy regarding the re-routing of an existing waterline adjacent to the proposed site, Mesa City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that the City of Phoenix has issued a letter outlining its willingness to assist the Mesa/Tempe partners in the relocation of the piping.

It was moved by Mesa Councilmember Pat Pomeroy, seconded by Mesa Vice Mayor Jim Davidson, that submission of the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal to the Tourism and Sports Authority be approved.

Mayor Hawker spoke in support of the motion and commented that revenue for the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site will be derived through the assessment of hotel and car rental taxes and emphasized that a financial burden will not be imposed on the residents of Mesa and Tempe.

(Mayor Hawker suggested that a separate motion/vote be made by each Council relative to the submission of the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal to the Tourism and Sports Authority Board and Mayor Giuliano concurred.)

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

NAYS - None

ABSENT - Kavanaugh

Mayor Hawker declared that the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Giuliano expressed appreciation for the Mesa/Tempe partnership and added that the proposal offers a wide range of redevelopment opportunities for both communities.

It was moved by Tempe Councilmember Dennis Cahill, seconded by Tempe Councilmember Mark Mitchell, that submission of the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal to the Tourism and Sports Authority be approved.

Councilmember Hallman commented that although he has not seen the commitment letters from the City of Phoenix, Arizona State University and the Maricopa County Animal Shelter, he has received assurances that firm commitments have been made, and pending review of the completed financing plan, he will support the motion. Councilmember Hallman reiterated that it is imperative that the Mesa/Tempe partnership continue to thrive for the benefit of their residents. Councilmember Hallman emphasized the importance of Tempe joining with Mesa in the development of the Williams Gateway Airport and also encouraged Mesa to assist Tempe regarding development of the Tempe Town Lake area and other venues.

Tempe Vice Mayor Len Cople commented that based on the assumption the TSA accepts the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal, that the entities listed in the proposal perform as specified, that no taxes be imposed on the residents of Mesa or Tempe to fund this project, the communities' General Funds not be impacted, and that funds previously designated for Capital Improvement Projects not be affected, he will vote in support of the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Vice Mayor Cople thanked staff for their dedication.

3. Presentation/discussion on Tempe's Priest/Washington Stadium Site.

Mayor Giuliano indicated that the City of Tempe has designated a site located at the southeast corner of Washington Street and Priest Drive to be offered as a separate Stadium Site Proposal to the Tourism and Sports Authority Board (TSA). Mayor Giuliano advised that if the Priest/Washington Stadium site is selected by the TSA, Tempe would readily welcome participation by other East Valley communities in the formation of a revenue-sharing district. Mayor Giuliano thanked his staff for their efforts relative to the completion of the proposal and introduced Tempe Development Services Director Dave Fackler.

Mr. Fackler referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview of this agenda item. Mr. Fackler explained that the 65-acre site will be serviced via the 202/Red Mountain Freeway, with primary access at the Priest Drive and the Center Parkway interchanges.

Mr. Fackler spoke regarding the proposed facility parking; onsite and offsite development capabilities, including hotel/office/residential; infrastructure challenges, including the Grand Canal which would travel through the middle of the stadium site and require the creation of bridges to permit pedestrian travel to and from the stadium, and the availability of water, sewer, storm sewer and telecommunications systems. Mr. Fackler added that the proposed light rail transit facilities adjacent to the site will offer an alternative mode of transportation to individuals in Phoenix and also to Mesa as the system extends further to the east.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Davidson relative to potential difficulties which may arise as a result of the Grand Canal's location on the stadium site, Mr. Fackler clarified that the primary challenges will include enhancement of the canal banks, including pedestrian paths, and also the rollout fill.

Additional discussion ensued concerning potential commuter rail development adjacent to the Priest/Washington Stadium site and the surrounding street infrastructure.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that although he supports the Joint Mesa/Tempe Multipurpose Stadium Site Proposal, the Priest/Washington Stadium Site Proposal is also an exciting project if it can be utilized in some manner to exert pressure on the Federal government to allocate commuter rail service funding or alternative transportation improvements in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Councilmember Walters commended Mr. Fackler for his presentation and emphasized the fact that the selection by the TSA of either the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site or the Priest/Washington Stadium site will greatly enhance economic development throughout the East Valley.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with Vice Mayor Davidson and Councilmember Walters' comments and acknowledged staff for their efforts in this matter.

Mayor Giuliano advised that the Tourism and Sports Authority Board will conduct a meeting on Saturday, January 6, 2001, 8:00 a.m., at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, 2401 East Camelback, Phoenix, to hear the formal stadium site proposal presentations.

Tempe Councilmember Ben Arredondo spoke in support of the Joint Mesa/Tempe Stadium site and the Priest/Washington Stadium site and also encouraged Mayor Hawker and Mayor Giuliano to establish a dialogue between both communities regarding the development of the Williams Gateway Airport.

Councilmember Hallman concurred with Councilmember Arredondo's comments and thanked staff for their efforts to complete both proposals in a timely manner.

Councilmember Whalen voiced support for the Priest/Washington Stadium site and encouraged staff to obtain letters of commitment from other East Valley cities regarding both of the stadium site proposals. Councilmember Whalen also expressed concerns relative to various projects such as the Mesa Homeless Shelter, the East Valley Detox Center, the Day Labor Task Force and stated that they constitute serious regional issues which should be addressed by both Mesa and Tempe.

Mayor Giuliano clarified that efforts are underway to seek the support of other East Valley communities regarding both stadium site proposals.

Tempe Councilmember Barbara Carter concurred with the comments of the Councilmembers and urged the citizens of all the East Valley communities to support both proposals. Councilmember Carter also thanked staff for their efforts.

Mayor Giuliano expressed appreciation to Mr. Fackler for his presentation.

Mayor Hawker advised that it is the consensus of both Councils to conduct a future Mesa/Tempe joint meeting to explore topics of mutual interest to both communities.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 3:52 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 Joint Meeting of the City Council of Mesa and the City Council of Tempe held on the 3rd day of January, 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

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