

# COUNCIL MINUTES

November 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 November 15, 2001 at 8:00 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones

### 1. Review items on the agenda for the November 19, 2001 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:

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 6b (Granting an Underground Power Easement to Salt River Project at the Public Safety Training Facility located at 3260 North 40<sup>th</sup> Street) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation on this item.

### 2. Hear a presentation on the MAG Elderly Mobility Initiative.

Councilmember Walters, Chairman of the Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) Elderly Mobility Stakeholder Working Group, and Suzanne Quigley, the former MAG Elderly Mobility Coordinator, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Councilmember Walters reported that in the past 15 months, the Working Group has conducted public forums in Mesa, Sun Cities and Phoenix to solicit input from a variety of focus groups to address the issue of elderly mobility in Maricopa County.

Ms. Quigley displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and briefly discussed a variety of statistics including the fact that the elderly mobility issue will be a long-term process with the aging "baby boom" generation; the fact that by 2025, Arizona will be one of 26 states with more than 20% of its population over the age of 80; the fact that the greatest concentration of senior citizens will reside in Sun City retirement areas, Mesa and the central core of Phoenix; the fact that senior citizen drivers are a greater threat to themselves than to other drivers; the fact that left turns and rights-of-way become very problematic for seniors, and the fact that senior citizens

tend to limit freeway driving, limit trips to obtain basic necessities, and eventually cease driving altogether and rely on family and friends for alternative modes of transportation.

Ms. Quigley advised the Council that through the leadership efforts of Councilmember Walters, the Working Group has solicited input from municipalities, agency providers, caregivers, "baby boomers," senior citizens, religious and educational groups, which has resulted in 25 draft recommendations that were recently approved by the MAG Regional Council. She stated that the central themes include improvements to infrastructure (larger street signs, brighter signage, enhanced lighting, benches at bus stops); land use strategies (placement of services in closer proximity to senior communities); alternative transportation options, and greater focus on driver competency earlier in the aging process (free assessments for seniors and a public awareness campaign).

Ms. Quigley said that the Working Group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis, and that \$800,000 in Federal funding has been requested to establish an Elderly Mobility Implementation Program to support the specific recommendations.

Councilmember Walters emphasized the fact that many of the Working Group's proposed recommendations should first be implemented on a local level. She also voiced appreciation to the Council for the opportunity to present this important issue.

Ms. Quigley advised that on March 25-27, 2002, the Elderly Mobility Working Group will host a national conference on aging and mobility at the La Posada Resort.

Mayor Hawker thanked Councilmember Walters for her efforts in this regard.

Vice Mayor Davidson urged developers to design more pedestrian-oriented communities in the future to accommodate Arizona's increasing aging population.

3. Discuss and consider approving \$40,000 to fund a portion of the cost for developing a master plan for the Santan Regional Park in the Southeast Valley.

Mayor Hawker provided the Council with brief historical background on this agenda item and explained that residents in the Southeast Valley have requested that Maricopa County provide improvements for the development of Santan Regional Park. He explained that prior to funding improvements to the park, it will be necessary to conduct a master plan for park development. Mayor Hawker stated that the County has made a commitment to fund \$150,000 of the estimated \$300,000 cost for the master plan and that Chandler, Gilbert, Queen Creek and Mesa will also participate in the plan's funding. He noted that the City's portion will be \$40,000.

Mayor Hawker voiced support for staff's recommendation and stated the opinion that the Santan Regional Park will be a great amenity for the Southeast Valley.

Councilmember Jaffa stated that although he is disappointed that the County will not fund the entire cost of the master plan, he will support this agenda item.

Vice Mayor Davidson commented that he is in support of staff's recommendation and emphasized the fact that the Santan Regional Park will be only the second County park in the

Southeast Valley. He also noted that the master plan will assist Mesa in gaining control over land that is currently open for illegal dumping.

Councilmember Kavanaugh concurred with Vice Mayor Davidson's comments and stated that Mesa's participation in a regional partnership is essential for the effective coordination of the master plan.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Jaffa, that \$40,000 to fund a portion of the cost for developing a master plan for the Santan Regional Park in the Southeast Valley be approved.

Councilmember Walters spoke in support of the motion.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Assistant Development Services Manager Jeff Martin clarified that it is the intent of the Southeast Valley cities to form a committee to assist the County in the oversight of the master plan.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that although the timing for this funding request is not particularly good due to the City's budget shortfall, he will support the motion. He added that it is important that Mesa participate in regional partnerships for the betterment of the entire Southeast Valley.

Councilmember Whalen concurred with Councilmember Pomeroy's comments.

Carried unanimously.

4. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Audrey M. Burfiend

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Ben Vaterlaus

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held October 11, 2001.
- b. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held October 16, 2001.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Vice Mayor Davidson announced that students from Red Mountain High School will compete in a Salt River Project (SRP) sponsored "solar splash" competition in which participants will construct a solar-powered boat.

Councilmember Kavanaugh reported that he and Councilmember Whalen recently attended the first neighborhood meeting of the Mesa Police Department's Falcon District Commanders. He explained that the gathering addressed a variety of topics including neighborhood crime, traffic accidents and drug-related issues.

Mayor Hawker commented that he recently attended a series of board retreats for the Williams Gateway Airport Authority (WGA), the Regional Public Transit Authority (RPTA) and Mesa Business Speaks.

Councilmember Whalen commented on his attendance at a fundraiser for Prehab of Arizona, which was hosted by State Senator Brenda Burns. He also said he attended events for Save the Family and Art In Motion.

Councilmember Whalen advised the Council that as a result of his participation on the Arizona Public Service (APS) power plant line siting committee, he has become aware of the fact that with an increased number of power plants coming into Arizona, there are ongoing environmental concerns regarding the use of the State's groundwater. He explained that many environmental groups are now advocating the implementation of dry cooling, which would drastically change the cost of power. Councilmember Whalen added that he will continue to update the Council regarding this important issue.

Councilmember Jaffa commented that he also attended the board retreat at WGA and stated that a major topic of discussion was the integration of growth at Arizona State University-East (ASU-East) with WGA.

Councilmember Walters reported on her recent attendance at the East Valley Men's Center and Mesa CAN (Community Action Network) event to recognize the efforts and hard work of their community volunteers. She voiced appreciation to all of the community service volunteers who unselfishly devote their time to make Mesa a better community in which to live.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, November 19, 2001, 3:00 p.m. – Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, November 19, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, November 19, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, November 22, 2001, Study Session Cancelled

Thursday, November 29, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, November 29, 2001, 9:30 a.m. – General Development Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 2001, 4:00 p.m. – Fire Committee Meeting

Monday, December 3, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, December 3, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, December 6, 2001, Study Session Cancelled

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:49 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

---

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK