

COUNCIL MINUTES

October 9, 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 October 9, 2003 at 8:34 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

(Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Kavanaugh from the meeting.)

Mayor Hawker advised that after much public interest, an item relative to Site 24 (northwest corner of Main Street and Country Club Drive) will be placed on the October 27, 2003 Regular Council Meeting agenda.

1. Review items on the agenda for the October 13, 2003 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 5h, 5k (Hawker)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 9.1

Items added to the consent agenda: 10a

(Councilmember Walters left the meeting at 8:53 a.m.)

2. Discuss and consider issues related to the potential adjustment of the City's current Redevelopment Area boundaries.

Mayor Hawker declared a potential conflict of interest and said he would refrain from discussion/participation relative to this agenda item. He yielded the gavel to Councilmember Whalen for action on this agenda item.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson reported that the potential adjustment of the City's Redevelopment Area boundaries has been discussed periodically over the years. He advised that staff has distributed a report to the Council which provides a chronological overview of the issue. (See Attachment.) Mr. Hutchinson stated that if it were the desire of the Council to pursue modifying the existing boundaries of Mesa's Redevelopment Area, he would recommend the formation of either a Council committee or an ad hoc committee to conduct detailed research relative to this issue. He added that it would also be important to obtain input from the Downtown Development Committee, the Mesa Town Center Board and downtown business owners who could potentially be impacted by the adjustment of the Redevelopment Area boundaries.

Councilmember Whalen expressed support for Mr. Hutchinson's recommendation and said that he would hate to see the Council move in a "knee-jerk" fashion with regard to the adjustment of the City's Redevelopment Area boundaries until such time as an extensive study has been conducted by the Downtown Development Committee or a specifically created ad hoc committee. He requested input from his fellow Councilmembers relative to this issue.

Councilmember Jones concurred with Councilmember Whalen's opinions and added that although he would prefer to see the Redevelopment Area boundaries shrink, he is not prepared at this time to make such a decision until an ad hoc committee completes its research.

Councilmember Thom commented that the State Legislature may act on this issue in the upcoming Legislative session and questioned whether it would be prudent for the City to delay proceeding forward with Mr. Hutchinson's recommendation until a future time.

Councilmember Whalen stated that it was the consensus of the Council that staff proceed forward with the development of an ad hoc committee to address the potential adjustment of Mesa's Redevelopment Area boundaries.

Councilmember Whalen yielded the gavel back to Mayor Hawker.

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

The following members of the Council provided brief updates on various meetings/conferences they attended as follows:

Councilmember Thom Williams Gateway Airport 10th Anniversary Celebration

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, October 13, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, October 13, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, October 16, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 23, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, October 27, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, October 27, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, October 30, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, October 30, 2003, 9:30 a.m. – Fire Committee Meeting

Councilmember Whalen advised the Council of the following events:

Saturday, October 11, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Latino Town Hall at Mesa Community College

Wednesday, October 15, 2003, 9:00 a.m. – Groundbreaking Ceremony for Community Bridges

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:11 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 9th day of October 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK