

# COUNCIL MINUTES

April 5, 1996

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 April 5, 1996 at 7:33 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Willie Wong  
Jerry Boyd  
Pat Gilbert  
T. Farrell Jensen  
Dale Johnson  
Jim Stapley

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Joan Payne

## STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster  
Tanya Collins  
Linda Crocker  
Mike Hutchinson  
Lars Jarvie  
Barbara Jones  
Sharon Joyce  
Harry Kent  
Wayne Korinek  
Karen Kurtz  
Jeff Martin  
Frank Mizner  
Ruth Anne Norris  
John Oliver  
Ellen Pence  
Bryan Raines  
Andrea Rasizer  
Doug Tessororf  
Mindy White  
Ralph Wisz  
Others

## OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Brando  
Margie Frost  
Richard Manley  
Sue Ringle  
Others

Mayor Wong excused Councilmember Payne from the meeting.

1. Possible continuation of discussion concerning the implementation of Proposition 200 (No Smoking Citizen Initiative).

Mayor Wong advised that this item was discussed last evening at the April 4, 1996 Policy Session.

2. Further discussion and consideration concerning the proposed action plan for implementation of the Task Force on Homelessness recommendations. (Please bring your copy of the Task Force report dated January 30, 1996).

Special Programs Director Tanya Collins introduced Margie Frost, and Susan Ringler, Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, of the Task Force on Homelessness in Mesa, and Richard Manley from Mesa Community Action Network (MCAN).

Ms. Frost introduced individuals present in the audience involved with the Task Force.

Mr. Manley commented that in addition to education, a homeless shelter (and associated services) represents a key element of the recommendations of the Task Force. Mr. Manley noted the willingness of MCAN to conduct a feasibility study at no additional cost to the City pertaining to a homeless shelter.

In response to a question from Councilmember Gilbert, Mr. Manley stated that it would be the intent of MCAN to continue to seek advice and technical assistance throughout the feasibility study from members of the Task Force and staff.

Discussion ensued regarding potential siting of the homeless shelter within the East Valley, funding (construction and operational costs), and management of the shelter. Council spoke in favor of the feasibility study and strongly encouraged the development of fundraising partnerships and participation from surrounding communities.

In response to a question from Mayor Wong, Ms. Collins indicated that presentations would likely be made to City Councilmembers of surrounding communities as part of the feasibility study.

Councilmember Stapley referred to the proposed action plan/timeline for the implementation of the final recommendations of the Task Force and indicated that at this time he would favor Items 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Councilmember Stapley stated support for the feasibility study but reiterated the importance of participation by surrounding communities.

Ms. Frost responded to questions from Councilmember Johnson concerning financial assistance available to homeless persons, noting that homelessness in itself does not automatically qualify individuals for assistance. Councilmember Boyd commented regarding the lack of affordable housing throughout Valley communities.

Bill Brando, 61 South Macdonald, spoke concerning the importance of partnerships among cities and agencies. Mr. Brando suggested the formation of a committee to consider collecting contributions from tax-exempt institutions, with the institutions then drawing from such funds as they assume increased responsibility for the homelessness case load.

It was moved by Councilmember Gilbert, seconded by Councilmember Stapley, to endorse the proposal for a feasibility study as presented by the Mesa Community Action Network (MCAN). Councilmember Gilbert indicated that the feasibility study represents an initial step relative to Item 3 (potential homeless shelter) of the proposed action plan/timeline for implementation of the final recommendations of the Task Force.

A tabulation of votes showed the motion carried unanimously by those present.

It was moved by Councilmember Gilbert, seconded by Vice Mayor Jensen, to approve Item 2 of the proposed action plan/timeline. Councilmember Gilbert advised that this item would conceptually adopt modifications to the Council Use Permit process and direct staff to prepare an ordinance for Council consideration reflecting such modifications.

A tabulation of votes showed the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Discussion ensued concerning work opportunities for homeless individuals and liability issues.

It was moved by Councilmember Gilbert, seconded by Vice Mayor Jensen, to approve Item 1 of the proposed action plan/timeline, which would adopt the final report of the Task Force as a policy document and embrace the community philosophy on homelessness articulated on pages 2-4 of the final report.

Councilmember Stapley noted concern relative to portions of the final report and suggested that the word "community" be removed from Item 1 of the proposed action plan/timeline. Councilmember Gilbert expressed the opinion that the term "philosophy" implies further opportunity for discussion and that the motion endorses the efforts of the Task Force but does not necessarily indicate agreement with all aspects of the report.

Vice Mayor Jensen commented that approval of the motion represents acknowledgment of the final report as an approach perceived appropriate by the Task Force to address the homelessness issue. Vice Mayor Jensen noted the potential for change as a result of the feasibility study and the responsibility of Council to develop future modifications if necessary.

Councilmember Stapley reiterated his disagreement with aspects of the final report. Councilmember Stapley expressed the opinion that the feasibility study should be completed before additional decisions are made relative to the issue of homelessness.

Councilmember Gilbert spoke concerning the importance of responding to the efforts of volunteers and commented that individual implementation issues will be readdressed by Council as decisions become necessary.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Jensen, City Attorney Neal Beets stated the opinion that approval of the motion would adopt the final report as a general guide, providing a framework for future decision making.

A tabulation of votes showed the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Vice Mayor Jensen reported that numerous issues included in the action plan were initially scheduled to begin in March 1996. To ensure timely completion, it was moved by Vice Mayor Jensen, seconded by Councilmember Stapley, to approve Items 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 of the action plan/timeline to be implemented simultaneously with the feasibility study.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Wong-Boyd-Gilbert-Jensen-Stapley  
NAYS - Johnson  
ABSENT - Payne

Mayor Wong declared the motion carried by majority vote of those present.

Mayor Wong thanked the members of the Task Force and staff for their efforts.

Brief discussion ensued concerning the importance of communication, networking, and consistency among agencies in enforcing regulations.

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

There were no reports at this time on meetings and/or conferences attended.

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

There was no discussion of this item at this time.

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances (maximum of three speakers for five minutes per speaker).

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

6. Items from citizens present (maximum of three speakers for five minutes per speaker).

There were no items from citizens present at this time.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Gilbert, that the Study Session adjourn at 8:44 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

WILLIE WONG, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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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 5th day of April 1996. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 1996

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK