



COUNCIL MINUTES

October 9, 2001

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council of Apache Junction at the Hilton Phoenix East/Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Avenue, on October 9, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

MESA COUNCIL PRESENT	MESA STAFF PRESENT	APACHE JUNCTION COUNCIL PRESENT	APACHE JUNCTION STAFF PRESENT
Mayor Keno Hawker Jim Davidson Bill Jaffa Dennis Kavanaugh Claudia Walters Mike Whalen	Mike Hutchinson Kevin Adam Wayne Balmer Barbara Jones Frank Mizner Tom Remes Julie Rice Paul Wenbert	Mayor Douglas Coleman Rick Dietz Joe Durbala R. E. Eck, Jr. Brian Milkey Anne Marie Surra Carol Urich	Curtis Shook Kathy Connelly George Hoffman Bryant Powell Joel Stern Dean Svoboda Shari Watson
MESA COUNCIL ABSENT			

Pat Pomeroy

(Items on the agenda were discussed out of order but for purposes of clarity they will remain as listed on the agenda).

1. Welcome, Introductions and Discussion of Individual Areas of Interest.

At the request of Mayor Hawker, the Mayors and Councilmembers introduced themselves, provided a brief synopsis of their personal interests and outlined their most compelling Council-related issues, which included transportation, education, public safety, quality of life, telecommunication, technology, zoning, big box retail, redevelopment and economic issues.

2. Synopsis of Community Activities by Respective Mayors.

Mayor Hawker stated that Councilmembers in Districts 4, 5 and 6 will be elected at Mesa's upcoming March 2002 Primary election. Mayor Hawker said that this election completes the transition from an at large form of government to a fully implemented district system. Mayor Hawker pointed out the fact that

Districts 5 and 6 contain boundaries directly adjacent to Apache Junction and consequently the Councilmembers elected in those districts will interact with the Apache Junction City Council relative to issues such as Williams Gateway Airport and the Desert Uplands Area.

Mayor Hawker stated that the City of Mesa is currently examining aviation related issues at three airports, Northwest 2000 Plan flight paths at Sky Harbor Airport, Falcon Field Airport's airspace and Williams Gateway Airport.

Mayor Hawker noted that the Council is currently working on zoning issues surrounding Williams Gateway Airport and the General Motors property and commented that the focus for these areas is to establish an employment center for the southeast valley.

Mayor Hawker said that an additional issue that has been the subject of extensive Council discussions is the establishment of a day labor center in Mesa.

Apache Junction Mayor Coleman thanked Mayor Hawker for the opportunity to acquaint those in attendance with the community of Apache Junction. Mayor Coleman stated that Apache Junction is comprised of two counties, Maricopa and Pinal and noted that only a small portion of Apache Junction is located within Maricopa County, with approximately 130 voters. He added that Apache Junction is the largest City in Pinal County with 31,814 residents. Mayor Coleman stated that he concurs with Mayor Hawker's comment that Apache Junction's future growth is south of the Superstition Freeway and stressed the importance of thorough planning in this area.

Mayor Coleman outlined the City's Capital Facilities Plan, which includes nine capital projects, and stated that since the establishment of a fund to support the projects over six years ago, the City has saved approximately \$6 million. Mayor Coleman pointed out that Apache Junction operates with a \$41 million dollar annual budget.

Mayor Coleman announced various projects that Apache Junction is currently in the process of developing, including a community park containing amenities such as a skateboarding area, a swimming pool with slides, a library expansion and the construction of a multi-generational facility.

Mayor Coleman distributed brochures regarding Apache Junction's first sporting event (Lost Dutchman Marathon) and stated that the course encompasses a scenic 26.2 miles.

3. Update of MAG/CAAG Regional Transportation Study.

Mayor Hawker discussed a recent Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) presentation that clearly identified future growth areas. Mayor Hawker stated the opinion that the City of Apache Junction will be under pressure to provide additional housing units to meet anticipated demands. Mayor Hawker indicated that based on this information and given the fact that Apache Junction is not a participating member of MAG, a proposal was presented to MAG to conduct a regional transportation study that will not end at county lines. Mayor Hawker stated that a request for proposals has been initiated for a comprehensive study that reviews major freeway corridors, potential population, land issues and freeway alignments.

Mayor Coleman commented on the benefits that will be derived from the San Tan freeway and stated the opinion that the freeway could provide enhanced benefits if a connection between the San Tan and the US 60, possibly at Idaho Road, is developed.

Mayor Hawker stressed the importance of coordinating efforts in the planning areas as they relate to transportation issues, including flight paths that may significantly impact both Mesa and Apache Junction.

4. Discuss updates to Mesa and Apache Junction General Plans.

Planning Director Frank Mizner provided background information relative to Mesa's General Plan, which was adopted in 1996, and stated that the language in the Growing Smarter legislation presented significant challenges associated with updating the plan. Mr. Mizner commented that Mesa has been in the process of updating its General Plan for the past year-and-a-half and is also simultaneously involved in updating the City's transportation, parks and recreation and economic development plans. Mr. Mizner discussed the challenges associated with this process and specifically outlined the complexities associated with General Motors land issues. Mr. Mizner stated that the City Council currently plans to adopt the final plan in January of 2002 for placement on the ballot of the City's May 2002 General election.

Apache Junction Director of Development Services Dean Svoboda stated that Apache Junction's General Plan, adopted in 1999 by the Council, was a good plan that targeted many of the issues discussed at this meeting and contains many of the elements required by the legislation. Mr. Svoboda said that as the Director of Development Services, he has been asked to conduct an audit of the existing plan in an effort to identify future modifications. Mr. Svoboda stated that the current plan lacks the public participation process, a number of elements and other legislative directives and therefore the City's current General Plan will not be re-adopted or ratified by the electorate before the end of this year.

5. Discuss representation on MAG from outside Maricopa County.

Government Relations Assistant Kevin Adam stated that MAG has created a MAG Governance Task Force to review such issues as MAG's roles and responsibilities, the geographic extent of the region and membership and voting mechanisms. Mr. Adam pointed out that Mayor Hawker serves on the Task Force and Mayor Coleman, Pinal County Board of Supervisor Sandy Smith and the Mayor of Casa Grande serve on the Advisory Committee reporting to the Task Force.

Mayor Coleman emphasized the importance of becoming a voting member of MAG and stated that this issue should not be a contentious one in view of the fact that MAG is in the process of planning transportation and air quality issues that will ultimately impact Apache Junction. Mayor Coleman stated that MAG has agreed to permit representation by Apache Junction as an associate member but pointed out that this type of "limited membership" does not provide voting rights. Mayor Coleman reiterated the importance of Apache Junction having a voting voice in MAG, particularly when issues involving air quality and transportation are being discussed.

6. Update on Williams Gateway planning area and general FAA issues of interest.

Project Manager of Williams Gateway Area Wayne Balmer said that he will be making an extensive presentation regarding issues surrounding Williams Gateway Airport at Apache Junction's Study Session on the 15th of this month and therefore he will save his remarks regarding that issue until the meeting.

Mr. Balmer provided background information regarding the closing of Williams Air Force Base in 1993, and noted that since its closing, \$100 million have been spent in capital improvements. Mr. Balmer pointed out that Williams Gateway Airport has more linear feet of runway than Sky Harbor Airport and has approximately 1,000 acres available for development.

Mr. Balmer indicated that aviation issues will be discussed at the aforementioned Study Session including aircraft overflights that will affect Apache Junction and other areas to the east. Mr. Balmer referred to a map that outlines the Northwest 2000 Plan and depicts Alternative 2 and Alternative 3, which are flights paths proposed to and from Sky Harbor Airport. Mr. Balmer commented on the negative impacts that would occur as a result of Alternative 3 and pointed out on the map the Community Consensus Alternative Plan, the City of Mesa's proposal for an alternative route. Mr. Balmer stated that the flight paths in Mesa's alternative plan follow the Salt River channel and added that the alternative plan, which has been forwarded to the FAA, was the result of coordinated efforts between Mesa, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and the Indian Community. Mr. Balmer said that a response from the FAA is expected next week and commented briefly on concerns that already have been expressed by the FAA relative to the Community Consensus Alternative.

Mr. Balmer stated that additional issues that will be addressed with the FAA include merging the flight patterns from Williams Gateway and Sky Harbor Airports along with flight paths from Falcon Field and Chandler Airports.

Mayor Hawker thanked the Mayor, Council and staff of Apache Junction for their attendance and participation at the meeting. Mayor Coleman thanked Mayor Hawker and the members of the Mesa City Council for providing them an opportunity to provide input at this meeting.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 8:05 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 Apache Junction held on the 9th day of October 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK