

## COUNCIL MINUTES

March 7, 2005

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 March 7, 2005 at 4:21 p.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Rex Griswold  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

### COUNCIL ABSENT

None

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the beginning of the meeting. He arrived at 4:23 p.m.

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 7, 2005 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: 9n (Walters)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 9a

Items added to the consent agenda: 4c

Items removed from the agenda: None

2. Hear a presentation, discuss and consider the proposed funding recommendations for FY 2005-2006 CDBG/HOME/ADDI/ESG programs.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner addressed Councilmember Whalen's concern regarding a potential conflict of interest by advising that he was able to participate in broad policy discussions of the subject programs, and that a potential conflict of interest would exist when the Council considers specific allocations to agencies with which he has a business relationship.

Councilmember Whalen noted for the record that he has business relationships with PREHAB of Arizona and the Child Crisis Center of the East Valley.

Community Revitalization Director Kit Kelly utilized a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) to provide an overview of the 2005-2006 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), the American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI) and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. She noted that the total amount of Federal program dollars the City is projected to receive in the next year is slightly less than the previous year.

Community Revitalization Specialist Justin Lisonbee advised that CDBG funding is designed to benefit low and moderate-income residents by preventing or eliminating slums or blight and to address other urgent community development needs. He outlined the types of activities that are eligible for CDBG funds, such as the acquisition and rehabilitation of property, public facilities and improvements, public services, homebuyer assistance, code enforcement and economic development. Mr. Lisonbee highlighted several accomplishments of CDBG funding in the past fiscal year: two streetlight upgrade projects, assistance to 96 households in the form of rehabilitation programs, the purchase of land for a future park, and construction projects at the Marc Center and the Community Bridges' Center for Hope.

Community Revitalization Specialist Lisa Hembree reported that the HOME program addresses affordable housing issues for low-income households. She advised that Maricopa County is the lead agency for a HOME consortium in which the City of Mesa participates along with other Valley communities. Ms. Hembree noted that eligible activities under this program include acquisition, reconstruction, new construction, rehabilitation, and rental assistance. Ms. Hembree stated that projects funded by the HOME program were facilitated by ARM of Save the Family, Community Services of Arizona, Habitat for Humanity, and Housing for Mesa.

Ms. Hembree advised that ADDI is a relatively new program that provides assistance to first-time homebuyers with down payment and closing costs. She reported that the Housing and Human Services Board recommended allocation of ESG funds to MesaCAN for the East Valley Men's Center, the Autumn House domestic violence shelter, and the La Mesita family shelter.

Ms. Kelly reviewed the application process and noted that the second public hearing is scheduled for tonight's Regular Council meeting. She added that the 30-day public comment period began March 2nd and extends through April 1, 2005, and that final Council approval of projects and allocations is scheduled for the April 4, 2005 Regular Council meeting. Ms. Kelly advised that the Council would have an opportunity to cast separate votes on the funding allocations. She noted that the public could obtain additional information by visiting the City's website or by calling the Community Revitalization Office. Ms. Kelly noted that the materials provided to the Council include the applications, staff's funding recommendations, the Council report and background information.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the well-organized manner in which the Council's materials are presented.

Responding to Mayor Hawker's concern that the City would be the entity that determined who would receive ADDI funds, Ms. Kelly advised that staff is attempting to contract with an agency to administer the program. She noted that the City of Mesa and many other communities in the HOME consortium are experiencing difficulty in establishing the program.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Discuss and consider adopting the City of Mesa flag design.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence addressed the Council relative to the City of Mesa flag designed by Mary Jane Crider, the winner of the *East Valley Tribune's* Great Mesa Flag Contest. Ms. Pence advised that a review of the design by the North American Vexillological Society resulted in minor adjustments to the border of the flag.

Ms. Pence noted that previous Council discussions suggested that the proposed flag be more compatible with the colors of the City of Mesa logo. She explained that in the interim, the blue and gold flag on display was fabricated at no cost to the City and donated by The Flag Center in Redding, California. Ms. Pence advised that the only expense to be incurred by the City would be approximately \$125 for an 8-foot pole with a top ornament and tassel, and that staff recommends approval of the design as presented.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Walters, seconded by Councilmember Griswold, that the City of Mesa flag design be approved.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that one flag would be sufficient; that the flag would be placed in the upper Council Chambers; and that the City would process the necessary legal documents to obtain the design rights from the artist.

Vice Mayor Walters offered an amendment to the motion, accepted by Councilmember Griswold as the second to the motion, that Council's approval of the City of Mesa flag design be subject to obtaining the legal consent of the artist.

Mayor Hawker called for the vote.

Carried unanimously.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation, and he also thanked Ms. Crider for contributing the design.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Finance Committee meetings held October 18, 2004 and February 22, 2005.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Hawker:	Meeting with the Fort McDowell Indian Community Tribal Chairman
Vice Mayor Walters:	Participated in Mesa's Miniature Parade
Councilmember Thom:	Guest reader at Canyon Rim Elementary School Groundbreaking for Imagine Charter Schools

Councilmember Griswold: Meeting regarding the Commons at McDowell & Greenfield

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, March 17, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, March 21, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, March 21, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, March 31, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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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 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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