

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 11, 2000

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 11, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Councilmember-Elect
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Lisa Andrews
Ed Archibald
Kathy Barrett
Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Jamie Brennen
Pat Granillo
Lowell Hamilton
Karen Kille
Rich Lorig
Wayne Korinek
Karen Kurtz
Joe Padilla
Ellen Pence
Dave Plumb

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Jenny Sheppard
Walter Switzer
Larry Talley
Carla Wagner
Jamie Warner
Kim West
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Barrett Marson
Kathy Tolman
Mike Whalen

1. Utilities Department.

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb addressed the members of the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Plumb stated that a minor reduction in the Electric program is the result of transferring capital improvements to the Electric Bond Reserve Program 9200. Mr. Plumb indicated that a 37% increase in the Gas program is a result of the increased cost for natural gas purchases offset with higher gas revenues, a reduced contract builder rebate program and new equipment replacement for crews and equipment replacement.

Mr. Plumb reported that a slight increase in the budget level for the Water program is principally due to an escalation in water purchases and treatment costs necessitated by increased demand, a rise in water system engineering studies and an upsurge in the water meter replacement program in the City of Mesa. Mr. Plumb said that decreases in the Wastewater program are attributed to a reduction in debt service and operating costs.

Mr. Plumb outlined anticipated capital expenditures and highlighted components of each of the divisions within the Utilities Department. Mr. Plumb noted the addition of eight full-time employees within the Utilities Department, including four Water Treatment Plant Operators, one Receptionist, one Gas Line Inspector, one Leak Search Technician and one Utilities Accounting Coordinator. Mr. Plumb added that the total proposed budget for the Utilities Department is \$93 million, with anticipated revenues of \$157 million and a gross margin of approximately \$64 million.

Mr. Plumb remarked that in an effort to streamline operations, the Utilities Department is focusing on three initiatives, including modifications in budgeting; endeavoring to increase departmental efficiency; and conducting an internal analysis of optimum staffing of wastewater treatment plants.

Discussion ensued relative to fluoridation, utility rate bundling; water conservation and water reclamation programs, and the utilization of outside contractors to render services for the Utilities Department, including the installation of natural gas lines.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Plumb for his presentation.

2. City Attorney.

City Attorney Neal Beets introduced staff present at the meeting and described the functions and responsibilities of the City Attorney's Office. Mr. Beets advised that as a result of an employee survey, two separate Responsibility Centers were created; RC 122, which encompasses the City Attorney, and RC 124, which represents the City Prosecutor. Mr. Beets stated that the proposed budget for FY 2000/01 reflects the addition of an Assistant City Attorney, a Legal Secretary and an Office Aide. Mr. Beets added that the proposed budget is anticipated to decrease by 12%.

Mr. Beets noted that the City Attorney is requesting a reduction of \$1 million in the City's Liability Loss Fund, which are monies utilized to pay valid claims against the City, outside defense costs, settlement costs and other ancillary costs associated with trial litigation. Mr. Beets commented that this is due to the generous contributions of the Council in previous years and the outcome of keeping more cases/issues in-house.

Discussion ensued relative to the expanded roles of the Department's paralegals and legal secretaries with regard to trial preparation, the administration of diversion programs; outside legal services; the utilization of third-party mediators; DUI prosecution rates, and efforts to increase victim rights advocacy.

Councilmember Pomeroy commended Mr. Beets for his professionalism.

Mr. Beets responded to further questions from the Councilmembers regarding the City's Liability Loss Fund.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Beets for his presentation.

3. Break.

At 10:30 a.m. Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

(Vice Mayor Giles excused Mayor Brown and Councilmember Hawker from the remainder of the Budget Review Hearing.)

4. City Court.

Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer introduced staff present at the meeting and described the primary functions and responsibilities of the City Court. Judge Switzer highlighted the activities affecting the City Court, including substantial increases in jury trials, caseloads, the number of motions filed and telephone services.

Judge Switzer presented an organizational chart for the City Court and provided statistical data pertaining to the distribution of funds; the new court user fee, which has increased from \$10 to \$20; the default fee, which is a \$50 fee imposed on individuals if previous fines have not been paid; Court interpreter caseloads, and Court security traffic counts.

Judge Switzer noted that the proposed budget for FY 2000/01 is \$5,488,139, a 21.81% increase from the previous year. Judge Switzer said that the funds for Public Defender Services were transferred from the Community Services Program to the Court Program. Judge Switzer stated that the addition of four Court Supervisors and one Interpreter Supervisor position are requested. Judge Switzer added he anticipates an increase in the Photo Safety Program due to the passage of the new ordinance by the Council.

Discussion ensued relative to surcharges imposed on Photo Radar tickets; process server fees; Teen Court; diversion programs, and community service options for individuals unable to pay fines.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Giles, Judge Switzer emphasized that with the addition of Public Defender Services under the Court Program, the City Court does not play a supervisory role relative to that department.

Vice Mayor Giles thanked Judge Switzer for his presentation.

5. General Services Department.

General Services Manager Rich Lorig distributed an organizational chart of the General Services Department and introduced staff members present at the hearing.

Mr. Lorig provided an overview of the proposed General Services, Fleet Support Services and Materials & Supply programs. Mr. Lorig noted that the General Services Department provides internal services and that budget adjustments are based on the needs of user departments.

Mr. Lorig indicated that requested capital for the Communications program includes the 800 MHz Trunked Radio System Infrastructure and Fire Microwave Project and Fire Station 16 Microwave.

Information Services Director Karen Kille responded to questions regarding a proposed customer information system that would allow residents to access City services on-line.

Vice Mayor Giles expressed appreciation to Mr. Lorig and his staff for their presentation.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Session adjourned at 12:07 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 Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 11th day of May, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK