



COUNCIL MINUTES

August 1, 2000

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 August 1, 2000 at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Neal Beets
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Davidson and Councilmember Jaffa from the meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the August 1, 2000 Regular Council meeting.

All the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken.

2. Discuss and consider participating in the "Strong Cities Make a Strong State" marketing campaign.

Assistants to the City Manager Jeff Martin and Ellen Pence addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Martin stated that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, approximately a year and a half ago, developed a public awareness campaign called "*Strong Cities Make a Strong State.*" Mr. Martin said that the goals of the program are to establish grassroots support by raising public awareness of the essential services cities and towns provide to their citizens every day, and to improve the general understanding of municipal functions and the funding mechanisms that make city services possible.

Mr. Martin commented that although the Council and City staff may be familiar with state shared revenues, for example, a large portion of the population in Mesa is not aware of what the revenues are and their importance to the City. Mr. Martin spoke in support of providing the citizens of Mesa with the knowledge necessary to make good decisions and said that educating the citizens on the various services, functions and funding mechanisms will positively impact the community as a whole.

Ms. Pence informed the Council that staff is recommending that the City of Mesa participate in this campaign, which is going to be a State-wide undertaking, and added that the League has provided Arizona cities and towns with the necessary materials. Ms. Pence pointed out that staff has identified in the Council Report various areas that they believe should be focused on and discussed marketing efforts and media outreach that will occur in order to get the message across to as broad a segment of the

community as possible. Ms. Pence added that staff is working with counterparts in other cities and towns in an effort to solicit from the media free advertising space over the next few months.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in support of approving staff's recommendations and said that he supports providing the citizens of Mesa with as much information as possible.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that staff's recommendation that the City participate in the "*Strong Cities Make A Strong State*" marketing campaign, be approved.

Councilmember Pomeroy thanked staff for bringing this proposal forward and stressed the importance of educating citizens on the services that are provided by the City.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Discuss and consider League resolutions.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin and Government Relations Assistant Kevin Adam addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Martin informed the Council that every year at this time, the League of Arizona Cities and Towns asks the various cities and towns to provide resolutions for the League's Municipal Policy Statement. Mr. Martin explained that the League's Municipal Policy Statement and legislative program are formed through the adoption of resolutions at the League's Annual Conference and noted that the deadline to submit proposed resolutions is August 4th. Mr. Martin added that the League Resolutions Committee will meet on August 25th to tentatively adopt the proposed resolutions and added that final adoption will take place at the Annual Conference starting on September 27, 2000.

Mr. Martin informed the Council that staff has developed seven proposed resolutions (See Attachment 1) and provided a brief overview of the proposals which included:

- 1) *Urge the Legislature to improve the ability of municipalities to address neighborhood problems associated with Group Homes;*
- 2) *Urge the Legislature to restore 100% of the revenue generated by the flight property tax into the State Aviation Fund;*
- 3) *Urge the Legislature to adopt a statewide public safety radio communications signal strength building standard;*
- 4) *Urge the Legislature not to decrease the current funding levels of the State Lottery dedicated to the Heritage Fund;*
- 5) *Urge the Legislature to amend State election statutes to require the availability of publicity pamphlets at the start of early voting;*
- 6) *Urge the Governor, Legislature, the Arizona Military Airport Preservation Committee, the Governor's Military Task Force, and local governments to maintain and develop policies that preserve the mission viability of Arizona's military installations and support compatible land uses in their vicinity, and*

- 7) *Urge the indexing of fuel taxes for inflation to maintain a level of funding to meet ongoing regional transportation needs.*

Councilmembers Kavanaugh and Pomeroy spoke in support of staff's recommendations.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that staff's recommendations relative to proposed League resolutions, be approved.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Hear and consider a recommendation concerning Mesa Drive and University intersection improvements as recommended by the General Development Committee.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that this is the beginning of the public process for the improvements. Mr. Hutchinson said that if so directed by the Council, the recommendations of the General Development Committee will be presented to other citizen boards and added that public hearings will also be held prior to once again presenting this to the Council for final consideration.

Public Works Manager Jack Friedline stated that the General Development Committee recommended Alignment Option #1, (See Attachment 2) and discussed staff's intent to expend effort to ensure that the improvements are coordinated with the construction of the Mesa Verde project.

Councilmember Walters, who serves as Chairman of the General Development Committee, stated that the Committee had several lengthy discussions relative to the proposed intersection improvements and noted that it was the Committee's recommendation that staff develop a new "modified option," which differs from the original staff proposal and from Option 1. Councilmember Walters said that Option 1 included a number of "takes" in order to accommodate the revised plan and said that it was the consensus of the Committee that businesses should not be lost as a result of the project. Councilmember Walters added that the Committee also recognized the importance of creating a quality statement as you enter the Town Center area and noted that this site is one of the entrances to the City. Councilmember Walters also commented on the Committee's desire to ensure that the plan remains pedestrian friendly for citizens crossing the street and includes bus-bay pullouts at that location.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Councilmember Walters stated the opinion that the "modified" proposal developed by staff addresses the concerns that were previously raised.

City Engineer Keith Nath and Supervising Engineer Ross Renner provided the Council with a brief overview of the modified proposal and Option No. 2 and discussed efforts expended by staff to respond to the various concerns previously raised by the Council.

Discussion ensued relative to increasing/maintaining existing landscaping, developing bus pullouts, additional through lanes, the fact that this project will be coordinated in conjunction with the Mesa Verde project, and staff's efforts to develop a proposal that will meet the increasing needs of the City.

Councilmember Whalen stated the opinion that staff has done an excellent job in developing an appropriate compromise proposal and stressed the importance of moving forward on this project.

It was moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that staff's revised alignment for Mesa Drive and University Drive intersection improvements, known as Modified Option 1, be forwarded to the Transportation Advisory Board and the Downtown Development Committee for their

consideration and input and that staff move forward with the public hearing portion of the improvement process.

Councilmember Pomeroy clarified that the proposal is not being approved at this time and that staff is only receiving direction to forward the proposal to the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Downtown Development Committee for their review and consideration and being asked to proceed with the public hearing portion of the process.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Deleted.

6. Hear an update on the Multi-Purpose Stadium Facility.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and stated that a proposed timeline has been developed for the multipurpose facility and the City's participation in that process. Mr. Martin said that misinformation had surfaced that the City would have to decide whether to participate in the project by August 24th, when the publicity pamphlets must be submitted for printing, and clarified that this is not the case and the City has much more time to study this proposal before responding.

Mr. Martin noted that staff anticipates that in late August the Economic Study that Ernst & Young is in the processing of preparing will be reviewed and finalized and added that in early September a report would be submitted to the Council, possibly at a joint meeting with the Tempe City Council, containing the study findings. Mr. Martin also informed the Council that in mid-September, assuming that the Council decides to proceed with this proposal, efforts would be initiated to develop an agreement with the City of Tempe relative to a joint site for the facility and discussions would also begin with the Tourism and Sports Authority Board to develop an agreement for a potential stadium site. Mr. Martin advised that staff anticipates that agreements with Tempe and the Tourism and Sports Authority Board would be finalized in October and said that the actual election on funding for the Multipurpose Facility will be on November 7, 2000. Mr. Martin said that should the Council decide to proceed with the proposal after reviewing the findings of Ernst & Young, at that time staff will also seek Council direction relative to developing a public input process on participation in the multipurpose facility.

Mayor Hawker commented that it is his understanding that both entities are waiting for receipt of the Ernst & Young study to be released, which will outline the proposal's economic impacts on both the City of Tempe and the City of Mesa, and will address issues such as infrastructure improvements and parking facility costs. Mayor Hawker also stressed the importance of ensuring that the voters have that same information when they cast their votes on this issue at the November 7, 2000 election. Mayor Hawker also encouraged staff to schedule public forums both in Mesa and Tempe to allow an opportunity for citizen concerns to be raised and addressed.

Discussion ensued relative to the proposed public hearings and the appropriate time to schedule the hearings, and Mayor Hawker recommended that public hearings be held in Mesa and Tempe in conjunction with the development of a joint agreement with Tempe. Mayor Hawker also suggested that at least one public forum be held in early September for the citizens of Mesa during which staff would present a one-hour information session and then open the hearing up for comments from the citizens and responses from Council/staff. Mayor Hawker questioned whether the hearings should be televised and suggested that they be held in either the Council Chambers or Rendezvous Center. Mayor Hawker added

that a number of the Boardmembers should be invited to attend, such as Rock Arnett who is representing the Mesa area, to provide them an opportunity to discuss this issue.

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

Mayor Hawker stated that due to time constraints, this item will be continued to a future study session.

8. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Wednesday, August 2, 2000, 8:00 a.m. - Council Briefing/Information Session, Media Relations Training

Monday, August 28, 2000, 5:45 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

9. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

Mayor Hawker stated that there were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Attachments (2)

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 1st day of August, 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

City Council Report

Date: July 28, 2000
To: City Council
Through: Mike Hutchinson
From: Kevin Adam
Jeff Martin
Subject: Recommendations for League Resolutions
Citywide

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide the City Council with staff recommendations for proposed resolutions for the League of Arizona Cities & Towns' Municipal Policy Statement.

Background

The League's Municipal Policy Statement and legislative program are formed through the adoption of resolutions at the League Annual Conference. This year's deadline to submit proposed resolutions is August 4th. The League Resolutions Committee will meet on August 25th to tentatively adopt the proposed resolutions. Final adoption will take place at the League Annual Conference starting on September 27th.

Discussion

The following proposals are recommended for submittal by the City:

- 1) *Urge the Legislature to improve the ability of municipalities to address neighborhood problems associated with Group Homes.*

The resolution requires compliance with local laws, such as resident caps and spacing requirements, for all State group home contracts. The resolution also requires greater disclosure of group home information to impacted cities and grants cities the opportunity to provide comments on group homes prior to their license renewals.

Mesa cosponsored a resolution last year in support of greater oversight of group homes. Legislation was passed toughening State standards and oversight responsibilities but failed to grant cities with additional authority to protect the safety and welfare of group home neighbors. Mesa is cosponsoring this resolution with Glendale.

- 2) *Urge the Legislature to restore 100% of the revenue generated by the flight property tax into the State Aviation Fund.*

In 1997, the Legislature began diverting 50% of the flight property tax away from the State Aviation Fund to the State General Fund. This diversion has resulted in a loss of approximately \$7.5 million per year for airport safety, security, and capacity projects. The loss of revenue impacts both Williams Gateway and Falcon Field airports. This resolution will also be cosponsored with Glendale.

- 3) *Urge the Legislature to adopt a statewide public safety radio communications signal strength building standard.*

The resolution would require that all new buildings be constructed to permit the adequate transmission of radio signals for emergency services, including police, firefighters, and paramedics. The resolution was submitted by the Fire Department.

- 4) *Urge the Legislature not to decrease the current funding levels of the State Lottery dedicated to the Heritage Fund.*

Current State law requires that a certain portion of revenue raised from the State Lottery be dedicated to the State Heritage Fund. Revenue from the fund is used for a variety of open space preservation purposes including the development of State and local trails and parks. Since the inception of the Heritage Fund, passed by the voters in 1991, there have been several legislative efforts to eliminate or diminish the program. The resolution would demonstrate League support for the Heritage Fund and discourage efforts to eliminate it. The resolution was submitted by the Community Services Department.

- 5) *Urge the Legislature to amend State election statutes to require the availability of publicity pamphlets at the start of early voting.*

Current State law negates the feasibility of distributing publicity pamphlets prior to the commencement of early voting. As a result, many of the public opting to use early voting do not have access to the summaries and arguments for and against the items on the ballot. As early voting is becoming increasingly popular, the public would benefit from the availability of publicity pamphlets at the start of early voting

- 6) *Urge the Governor, Legislature, the Arizona Military Airport Preservation Committee, the Governor's Military Task Force, and local governments to maintain and develop policies that preserve the mission viability of Arizona's military installations and support compatible land uses in their vicinity.*

Due to the potential for additional rounds of base closures, the State and various communities continue to take measures to further protect the mission viability of Arizona's military installations. By cosponsoring this resolution, Mesa is providing support to other cities including Glendale, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, and Sierra Vista.

- 7) *Urges the indexing of fuel taxes for inflation to maintain a level of funding to meet ongoing regional transportation needs.*

Traffic congestion and air quality challenges will increase without the development of adequate transportation infrastructure in the region. New infrastructure is required to meet current demands and to address future needs associated with the rapid growth of the region. Developing adequate transportation infrastructure is dependent on the availability of adequate transportation funding. Indexing current fuel taxes for inflation will insure that the effectiveness of the existing tax base is not diminished over time by the increased costs of transportation infrastructure caused by inflation.

Alternatives

The City Council may direct changes or deletions to the staff recommendations and also direct the inclusion of additional proposals. The City must submit proposed resolutions by August 4th to be considered at the August 25th League Resolutions Committee meeting.

Kevin Adam
Government Relations Assistant

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: July 20, 2000
To: General Development Committee
Through: Mike Hutchinson
From: Jack Friedline
Subject: Mesa Drive and University Drive Intersection Improvements
City of Mesa Project No. 98-69
Council District No. 1 and No. 4

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Committee on Staff's Alignment Option No. 1 and Option No. 2 for improving the Mesa Drive and University Drive intersection.

Staff is seeking direction on which alignment the Committee recommends for presentation to the Transportation Advisory Board and scheduling of a public meeting.

Background

On July 6, 2000, Staff presented their Preferred Alignment to the Committee. The Preferred Alignment recommended widening Mesa Drive and University Drive to three (3) through lanes in each direction with right turn lanes and dual left turn lanes at the intersection. Members of the Committee expressed concern with the aesthetics of the widening and the impacts on existing landscaping. The report presented to the Committee on July 6 is attached. The anticipated construction completion for the Preferred Alignment is September 2002. (See Exhibit "A", attached.)

In order to address the Committee's concerns, Staff has prepared two options to the Preferred Alignment. Each option reduces the impacts to the intersection and the existing landscaping.

Discussion

The University Drive and Mesa Drive intersection is currently experiencing congestion problems during the peak hours. As the traffic volumes continue to increase, the intersection will not be able to effectively handle the increased volumes without improvements. In addition, the proposed Mesa Verde development will generate more congestion and delays and contribute to the deterioration of the intersection's level of service. The two options propose improvements to mitigate congestion and delays while enhancing the aesthetics of the intersection are as follows.

OPTION NO. 1

This option proposes to widen University Drive to provide six (6) through lanes (3 in each direction) with a painted median and dual left turn lanes at the intersection, and proposes to widen Mesa Drive to two (2) through lanes to each direction with dual left turn lanes at the intersection. Staff also proposes a northbound right turn lane onto eastbound University Drive, bus pullouts at all four legs of the intersection and dedicated right turn lanes at Mesa Verde's four (4) entrances. The proposed project also includes curb and gutter, sidewalk, landscaping, streetlights, traffic signals and relocation of 12kv and 69kv electric lines owned and operated by the City of Mesa.

Option No. 1 is generally centered four (4) feet north of the section line on University Drive and is generally centered 12-feet west of the section line south of University Drive, and tapers back to the section line north of University Drive.

This option does reduce traffic congestion and delays, but to a lesser degree when compared to Staff's Preferred Alignment. The anticipated construction completion for Option No. 1 is July 2002. (See Exhibit "B", attached.)

OPTION NO. 2

This option proposes to install four (4) dedicated right turn lanes directly into the Mesa Verde development along both University Drive and Mesa Drive and five (5) bus pullouts, one west of Hibbert and the remainder at the four corners of the intersection. The proposed project also includes curb and gutter, sidewalk, landscaping, streetlights, traffic signals and relocation of 12kv electric lines owned and operated by the City of Mesa.

This option proposes minimal improvements to alleviate delays at bus stops and facilitating the flow of traffic into the proposed Mesa Verde development. These improvements minimize the effect on the existing landscaping at the Mesa Drive and University Drive intersection, and will enhance the landscaping adjacent to the proposed improvements.

The anticipated construction completion for Option No. 2 is July 2001. (See Exhibit "C", attached.)

Alternative

No Improvement

This alternative is not recommended since it will result in more traffic congestion and delays due to the projected increase in traffic volumes and due to the proposed development of the Mesa Verde project.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost of Staff's Preferred Alignment is \$4,905,000, which includes approximately \$1,788,000 for right-of-way acquisitions. This alignment includes the acquisition of 7-feet of right-of-way behind back of new sidewalk for utility relocations and landscaping.

The estimated cost of Alignment Option No. 1 is \$6,450,000, which includes \$3,600,000 for right-of-way acquisitions. This alignment includes the acquisition of 15-feet of right-of-way behind back of new sidewalk for utility relocations and enhanced landscaping. The higher real estate acquisition costs are a result of several total property acquisitions required for the 15-foot landscape strip. Staff recommends reducing landscaping at various locations to reduce the acquisition costs.

The estimated cost of Alignment Option No. 2 is \$800,000, which includes approximately \$100,000 for right-of-way acquisition.

Concurrence

The Utility Department, Police Department and Fire Department concur with Staff's Preferred Alignment.

Peter Knudson, Assistant City Engineer

Keith Nath, Division Director

Jack Friedline, Department Manager

Mike Hutchinson, City Manager

EXHIBIT "A"
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Preliminary Project Schedule

**Mesa Drive and University Drive
Intersection Widening
Project No. 98-69**

<u>TASK</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>
General Development Committee (GDC)	July 2000
Downtown Development Committee (DDC)	August 2000
Select Preferred Alignment	
TAB Meeting 1	August 2000
Public Meeting	October 2000
TAB Meeting 2	December 2000
60% Plans	January 2001
Prepare Legal Descriptions	March 2001
Utility Relocation Design	April 2001
90% Plans	April 2001
100% Plans	October 2001
R/W Acquisition (8 months)	November 2001
Advertise/Bid/Award	January 2002
Utility Relocations (3 months)	February 2002
Start Construction	March 2002
Complete Construction (6 months)	September 2002

EXHIBIT "B"

OPTION 1 - MODIFIED IMPROVEMENTS
Preliminary Project Schedule

**Mesa Drive and University Drive
Intersection Widening
Project No. 98-69**

<u>TASK</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>
General Development Committee (GDC)	July 2000
Downtown Development Committee (DDC)	August 2000
Select Preferred Alignment	
TAB Meeting #1	August 2000
Public Meeting	October 2000
TAB Meeting #2	December 2000
60% Plans	January 2001
Prepare Legal Descriptions	March 2001
Utility Relocation Design	April 2001
90% Plans	April 2001
100% Plans	October 2001
R/W Acquisition (7 months)	October 2001
Advertise/Bid/Award	January 2002
Utility Relocations (3 months)	January 2002
Start Construction	February 2002
Complete Construction (5 months)	July 2002

EXHIBIT "C"

OPTION 2 - RIGHT TURNS & BUS BAYS
Preliminary Project Schedule

**Mesa Drive and University Drive
Intersection Widening
Project No. 98-69**

<u>TASK</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATE</u>
General Development Committee (GDC)	July 2000
Downtown Development Committee (DDC)	August 2000
Select Preferred Alignment	
TAB Meeting #1	August 2000
Public Meeting	October 2000
TAB Meeting #2	December 2000
Prepare Legal Descriptions	September 2000
60% Plans	September 2000
Utility Relocation Design	November 2000
90% Plans	November 2000
R/W Acquisition (4 months)	January 2001
100% Plans	January 2001
Utility Relocations (3 months)	April 2001
Advertise/Bid/Award	April 2001
Start Construction	May 2001
Complete Construction (2 months)	July 2001