

# COUNCIL MINUTES

October 7, 2004

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 October 7, 2004 at 7:30 a.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  
Barbara Jones  
Debbie Spinner

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the beginning of the meeting. He arrived at 7:37 a.m.

### 1. Hear a presentation from Warren Meehan of the FAA regarding air traffic issues.

Williams Gateway Regional Economic Activity Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer advised that future Council decisions would address air traffic related issues. He stated that Warren Meehan of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was present to make a brief presentation and answer questions. Mr. Balmer advised that as the FAA Hub Manager for Arizona, Mr. Meehan is responsible for facilities throughout the State.

Mr. Meehan addressed the Council and explained that he is responsible for 15 air traffic facilities in the State of Arizona, which includes approximately 450 air traffic controllers. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office), which provided information related to Valley air traffic and Williams Gateway Airport. Mr. Meehan advised that Sky Harbor Airport is the 5<sup>th</sup> busiest in the United States, and that a total of 2.8 million landings and takeoffs are facilitated annually at Valley airports. He presented information related to the following topics:

- A new system called Performance Data Analysis and Reporting System (PDAR), which enables the historical tracking and archiving of flights in and out of each of the Valley airports. Several slides were displayed that depicted traffic patterns.
- The technical problems and details related to aircraft departing from and landing at Williams Gateway Airport.

- “RNAV,” the Area Navigation technology that is in the process of being developed, which is capable of controlling the aircraft for the pilot while the pilot monitors the activity, and RNAV procedures.
- Improvements being implemented at the Deer Valley and Goodyear airports as part of the Valley’s preparation for the 2008 Super Bowl, and to address the needs of additional corporate hangars that are presently under construction at Deer Valley.
- New procedures and instrumentation that would support the effort to develop Williams Gateway into a good commuter airport.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Meehan for the presentation.

2. Hear an update, discuss and consider the status of loans, technical assistance and Mesa Grande activities provided by NEDCO.

Community Revitalization Director Kit Kelly provided background information on the City’s relationship with the Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO). She stated that the City allocates Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars for two NEDCO activities:

- A program that provides funding and assistance for business loans and NEDCO operations.
- A program to provide business planning and support to the Mesa Grande Neighborhood.

Ms. Kelly advised that NEDCO representatives were present to provide an update as requested by the Council.

Tena Morgan, President of the NEDCO Board of Directors, displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk’s Office) and reported that NEDCO was recently awarded \$199,5000 by the U. S. Treasury Department’s Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to enable NEDCO to provide businesses with financial assistance. She explained that \$149,500 of the amount would be matched to their capital pool, and that \$50,000 would be utilized for the purchase of technical equipment and software systems in order to improve the agency’s operation.

Karen LaFrance, Executive Director of NEDCO, continued the PowerPoint presentation and explained that the organization offers a business friendly program that encourages private sector investment in areas of the community targeted for revitalization. She added that NEDCO is able to provide financing to new, profitable businesses that typically are unable to qualify for bank loans. Ms. LaFrance reported that NEDCO’s goals including raising capital, encouraging private sector job creation, and encouraging private sector initiatives that will assist in stabilizing neighborhoods. She stated that 66 businesses received business planning assistance and that nine businesses received loans through NEDCO, which leveraged over \$300,000 in private sector investment and created or retained 52 jobs. Ms. LaFrance advised that the next two speakers would describe examples of community economic initiatives implemented by organized community groups.

Carmen Guerrero, representing the Comité de Familias en Acción, reported that the organized neighborhood group consists of approximately 160 low-income families who reside in a deteriorating mobile home park. She advised that a partnership has been formed with Boeing, and that the group is presently working to develop partnerships with Habitat for Humanity and Chicanos Por La Casa to address housing improvements. Ms. Guerrero stated that the group has established two micro businesses, one that produces tortillas and the other supplies floral arrangements for large events. She added that plans are also underway to develop an after-school program for children.

Dave Richins, representing the Mesa Grande Community Alliance, reported that one of the six areas being addressed by their group is the "Business and Industrial Corridors." He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) that summarized the results of surveys and interviews conducted in the area relative to West Mesa's image, the condition of the area compared to five years ago, the future expectations of existing businesses, the number of vacant lots, and the types of existing businesses. Mr. Richins advised that an analysis of the survey responses resulted in a number of proposed private sector strategies for revitalizing West Mesa, and he noted that the Mesa Grande Community Alliance would move forward to address these issues. He added that partnerships with the business community would be solicited in order to assist in that effort.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that many of NEDCO's reports have not been filed on time; and that the funds requested by the agency for technology improvements would enable the timely filing of reports.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Ms. Morgan clarified that \$1 million is the amount of capital that NEDCO has access to under the "new market tax credit" through a partnership with the Community Reinvestment Fund based in Minneapolis. She added that these types of loans must meet very specific criteria.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that a high level of accountability is required for federally funded programs; and that Congressional staff members have questioned the purposes for which Mesa's CDBG funds are allocated.

Responding to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Richins advised that NEDCO partnered with the Mesa Grande Community Alliance by serving as a fiduciary agent for CDBG funding. He stated that Ms. LaFrance also provided excellent technical assistance in formulating the 2002 "Focused Future Plan." Mr. Richins reported that the plan was funded by a \$10,000 grant from Arizona Public Service (APS), which was received as a result of Ms. LaFrance's contacts in the APS organization. He added that NEDCO was instrumental in facilitating the charrettes regarding development of the Hurley property.

Councilmember Jones stated that his service on the NEDCO Board has been a learning experience, and he acknowledged the efforts of the Board and NEDCO staff members. He expressed the opinion that although some progress has been made, improved reporting procedures should be implemented and recognizable progress should be achieved in order to obtain Council support for future CDBG fund allocations.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff and the NEDCO representatives for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held September 14, 2004.
- b. Fire Committee held September 20, 2004.
- c. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held September 9, 2004.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

- Vice Mayor Walters: Child Crisis Center Volunteer Recognition Event.
- Councilmember Whalen: International Downtown Association Meeting in Vancouver, B.C.
- Mayor Hawker: ASU East Master Plan Presentation.
- Councilmember Jones: Meeting with Mayor's Youth Committee.
- Councilmember Griswold: Las Sendas Business Owners' Meeting.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

- Thursday, October 14, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session
- Monday, October 18, 2004, 3:00 p.m. – Finance Committee
- Monday, October 18, 2004, TBA – Study Session
- Monday, October 18, 2004, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting
- Thursday, October 21, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session
- Monday, October 25, 2004, 4:00 p.m. – Police Committee
- Thursday, October 28, 2004, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session
- Thursday, October 28, 2004 – Following Study Session – Council Planning Session

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:29 a.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 October 2004. 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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