

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 2, 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 June 2, 2005 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
Debbie Spinner

Councilmember Whalen participated in the meeting through the use of teleconferencing equipment.

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 6, 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: 8n, 8p, 8q, 8r (Hawker); 9e (Jones); 9e (Whalen)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8m and 10m

2. Hear an update on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project and provide direction regarding funding for embedded track for the line section in Mesa.

Assistant Development Services Manager Jeff Martin and John Farry, Director of Public Relations for Valley Metro Rail (VMR), addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Farry displayed a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted a series of significant events that have occurred over the last year regarding the Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project. He reported that in January 2005, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) awarded the Full Funding Grant Agreement for \$587 million to the Project. Mr. Farry explained that to date, the Project has awarded \$455 million in contracts for the construction of the LRT and said that it is within the budget established in the Full Funding Grant Agreement. He also

provided a timetable of the award of a number of contracts, including Line Section 5, which will come into Mesa.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Community Outreach Coordinators have been designated for Line Sections 1-5 by VMR to address the concerns of the residents and businesses during the construction process; that in addition, the VMR established Community Advisory Boards for each Line Section to evaluate the contractor's performance and ensure that the contractor minimizes the impact of construction in the community; the fact that the VMR has established funding for awards to be made when the contractor goes above and beyond what is required in the contract itself; and various construction education ads.

Mr. Martin introduced Transportation Planning Administrator Kevin Wallace and Planner II Scott Langford who were prepared to respond to any questions the Council may have regarding this item.

Mr. Martin continued with staff's presentation and stated, among other things, that in May of 2004 when the Council was provided an update of the LRT Project, Mesa's projected share of expenditures was estimated at \$28.6 million. He commented that subsequently, due to the passage of Proposition 400 (which included \$164 million for regional facilities for the Project), the City's projected costs have now been reduced to \$17.8 million. Mr. Martin stated that in addition, the City received \$1.86 million from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) monies.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that Mesa has several non-project expenditures (i.e., below the line costs) including the E-Streets fiber optics and transit center at Main Street and Sycamore; that the transit center is considered a local project and would receive 80% of its funding from regional and 20% from local sources; that the City's funding for the project is derived from the General Fund; and a timeline of project activities in Mesa including land acquisition and coordination with the local business owners/residents regarding right-of-way acquisition and construction issues.

Mr. Martin further explained that since last May, the FTA has ruled that embedded track is an eligible expense for Federal funding. He commented that the agency has encouraged that the LRT Project include this type of track as a project expenditure and stated that Phoenix and Tempe are considering funding the embedded track with their remaining reserves at the conclusion of the project. Mr. Martin added that City staff conducted a survey of Mesa business owners along the future rail corridor and said that 86% preferred the embedded track to the ballasted track.

Mr. Martin indicated that in bidding the construction contract for Line Section 5, VMR received a bid alternate to include embedded track in Mesa for \$2,017,323 and stated that the City would fund the full amount if no project reserves were available. He stressed the fact that even with embedded track, the Project's overall cost to City would be \$8 million less than originally estimated. Mr. Martin requested input from the Council regarding this item and noted that last May, the Council chose the ballasted track design for the one-mile segment into Mesa. He said that if they remain with that decision, it could create image/consistency issues with the other 19 miles using the embedded track.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson commented that staff is seeking direction from the Council relative to whether they wish to have ballasted track incorporated into the Project's design or if they prefer the previously selected ballasted track. He explained that if the Council supports the embedded track, this item would be placed on the June 6, 2005 Regular Council Meeting agenda with a resolution so that the matter could be formally acted upon at that time.

An extensive discussion ensued among the Council regarding this matter and Mayor Hawker advised that Vice Mayor Walters, Councilmembers Whalen and Jones and himself are in support of the embedded track design and that Councilmembers Griswold, Rawles and Thom are opposed to it. He requested that the item be placed on the June 6, 2005 Regular Council Meeting agenda for further discussion and consideration.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held May 10, 2005.
- b. Downtown Development Committee held April 21, 2005.
- c. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held May 5, 2005.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Griswold ADOT Meeting; Falcon Field Airport Director Applicants Event; Superstition Springs Honda Dealership Grand Opening; Mesa Police Department K-9 dog presentation.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, June 6, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 6, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Special Study Session

Thursday, June 9, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, June 16, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 20, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 20, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Hutchinson further advised that on Saturday, June 4, 2005, at 7:00 a.m., the new Hawes Loop Trail dedication ceremony would take place.

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:21 a.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 2nd day of June 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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