

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 10, 2001

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 September 10, 2001 at 4:45 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 10, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following items:

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 7b (Granting an Irrigation Easement to Salt River Project along McKellips Road) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Mayor Hawker, Councilmember Jaffa and Councilmember Pomeroy declared potential conflicts of interest on agenda item 8b (Amending various sections of the Mesa City Code relating to the downtown sign ordinance as recommended by the Downtown Development Committee and the General Development Committee) and said they would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Councilmember Whalen declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda items 9a (Z01-35 South of the southwest corner of Baseline Road and Vineyard Avenue) and 10a ("VINEYARD PLAZA", - (Council District 3) – The 2100 block of South Vineyard) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda items 7a, 7d, 9b, 9c and 9f will be added to the consent agenda.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item 8.1 will be removed from the consent agenda.

During the Council's discussion regarding agenda item 9i (Z01-45 The northwest corner of Meridian Road and Pecos Road), Councilmember Jaffa requested that the minutes reflect that he voiced ongoing concerns regarding the issue of retention basins in industrial developments.

2. Discuss and consider issues associated with the FAA Northwest 2000 Plan.

Williams Gateway Regional Economic Activity Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer addressed the Council regarding this agenda item and referred to three letters transmitted earlier that day to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (Attachments 1-3). Mr. Balmer reported that the first letter (Attachment 1) is a joint letter from the communities of Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Scottsdale, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Mesa (Five Communities) to the FAA stating support of the Community Consensus Alternative (CCA) in response to the FAA Northwest 2000 Plan. Mr. Balmer referred to a map depicting the CCA that was displayed in the Council Chambers and noted that the map was attached to the first letter.

Mr. Balmer stated that the second letter transmitted to the FAA (Attachment 2) is a longer, more technical letter in support of the CCA from the City of Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Mr. Balmer reported that the third letter transmitted to the FAA (Attachment 3) from the City of Mesa addresses specific concerns of the City including the 4DME Gate, the need to preserve open airspace around Falcon Field Airport and Williams Gateway Airport, and the importance of conducting a public comment process in connection with the future review of flight patterns in the southern hemisphere of the Sky Harbor Airport service area. Mr. Balmer stated that other East Valley communities have also submitted separate letters.

Mayor Hawker commented on the scenario of events and reasoning associated with the submission of three letters to the FAA. Mayor Hawker reported that the Five Communities were recently granted a 14-day extension to the public comment period to evaluate and address concerns recently raised by the FAA regarding possible conflict between the CCA and the Sector 38/D-Backs Star arrival route. Mayor Hawker directed staff to arrange a meeting with local FAA officials regarding this issue. Mayor Hawker voiced appreciation to the FAA for their cooperation and to Senator John McCain for his assistance.

Councilmember Walters thanked Mr. Balmer and Mayor Hawker for their ongoing efforts in this matter.

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

Mayor Hawker reported that he spent Labor Day weekend in Mesa's Sister City, Guaymas, Mexico, meeting with the city's new Mayor, Bernardino Cruz Rivas. Mayor Hawker said that he was impressed with Mayor Rivas and the ability of Guaymas to maximize its limited resources. Mayor Hawker advised that there was discussion of future business interaction between the two cities involving Williams Gateway Airport and said that representatives from Guaymas will participate in the East Valley Partnership meeting on October 30, 2001. He also noted that Governor Hull has been invited to attend the meeting.

Councilmember Walters commented on her attendance at a recent local event, which honored the parents of City Council Assistant Andrea Esquer for their leadership in the Hispanic community. Councilmember Walters also reported that she attended the recent East Valley Partnership meeting and spoke about a discussion she had with the Sky Harbor Airport Director. Councilmember Walters stressed the importance of Mesa being actively involved in all discussions regarding the future expansion of Sky Harbor Airport.

Vice Mayor Davidson reported that he also attended the recent event honoring Ms. Esquer's parents and that Diversity Officer Mary Berumen was also honored at the event for her service to the community.

Councilmember Jaffa commented on his attendance at the recent East Valley Partnership dinner and a discussion he had with the Sky Harbor Airport Director. Councilmember Jaffa also reported on his participation in the Arizona Federation of the Blind convention hosted by Mesa at the Arizona Golf Resort.

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, September 13, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, September 17, 2001, 7:00 a.m. – Special Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 18, 2001, TBA – Special Council Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, September 24, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, September 24, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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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 10th day of September 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Attachments
pjt