

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 27, 2006

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 April 27, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Tom Rawles
Janie Thom
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

Kyle Jones
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL-ELECT PRESENT

Scott Somers

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Walters and Councilmember Jones from the meeting.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 1, 2006 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: 6h, 6i (Hawker); 8b (Hawker), (Rawles)

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8g

2. Hear an update on freeway construction in Mesa.

Transportation Director Jeff Kramer displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview of this agenda item. (The complete PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.) He reported that a major portion of the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) urban freeway construction program is currently underway in the East Valley, with five out of seven projects located in Mesa. Mr. Kramer stated that the projects represent 30 miles of freeway, at a cost of approximately \$650 million in construction contracts.

Mr. Kramer highlighted various aspects of the following freeway construction projects:

Santan Freeway (South Loop 202):

- The remaining 12 miles of the project are under construction and expected to open in June 2006.
- Construction segments include Elliot Road to Power Road in Mesa, and Power Road to Gilbert Road in Gilbert.
- City staff is coordinating with the Town of Gilbert in preparation for the freeway opening celebration.
- Completion of this portion of the Santan Freeway will significantly enhance access to Williams Gateway Airport.

Red Mountain Freeway (North Loop 202):

- This project, which consists of 8 miles, is under construction from Power Road to US 60.
- The Power Road to University Drive segment represents the largest single contract ever awarded by ADOT, at a cost of \$200 million. Construction is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2008.
- Completion of the University Drive to Southern Avenue segment is scheduled for Spring 2007.
- The SuperRedTan Interchange (US 60/Loop 202) includes work on US 60 from Power Road to Crismon, as well as on the Loop 202 from Southern Avenue to Baseline Road. The anticipated completion date is Fall 2006.

Superstition Freeway (US 60):

- The Gilbert Road to Power Road segment is expected to open in Spring 2007.
- The Higley Road Interchange, scheduled to open in Summer 2007, will improve Higley Road at US 60.

Discussion ensued relative to the use of reclaimed water and potable water to irrigate the landscaping along various sections of the Red Mountain Freeway; and the potential construction of a future interchange at Lindsay Road.

3. Hear and discuss a proposal from Pulice Construction to close McKellips Road to accommodate construction of the Red Mountain Freeway.

Mr. Kramer reported that Pulice Construction is currently under contract with ADOT to construct the Red Mountain Freeway from Power Road to University Drive and from University Drive to US 60. He explained that this agenda item addresses the Power to University segment, which would impact McDowell, McKellips and Brown Roads. Mr. Kramer stated that Pulice informed staff that the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal work zone on the three roads is a confined space for construction activities and said that staff anticipates a minimum of 20 overnight and weekend closures on each of the arterials. He added that construction on the three roads would occur simultaneously for a period of 12 to 14 months.

Mr. Kramer commented that in an effort to address the above-referenced concerns, Pulice has proposed that McKellips Road be closed for seven and a half months between Terripin and 77th Place. He noted that such a closure would minimize construction interaction between the motoring public and construction crews, increase Pulice's efficiency and safety, and not only decrease construction costs, but also the time within which the project would be completed. Mr. Kramer added that if the closure of McKellips Road was successful, Pulice requested that the Council consider similar closures of Brown and McDowell Roads in the future.

Mr. Kramer displayed an aerial photograph depicting the area of the proposed road closure.

Mr. Kramer highlighted the following impacts/benefits of Pulice Construction's proposal:

- Motorists would become aware of the seven and a half-month road closure and find alternative routes.
- Pulice would pay a roadway rental fee of \$25,000 per month for the duration of the closure. City staff would assess a penalty if construction exceeded the seven and a half month time period.
- Pulice would install permanent traffic signal improvements and monitoring equipment for the City.
- The City would have the authority to review all traffic control plans in advance of the closure to approve or deny the proposals.
- The City has included a revocation authority for the closure of McKellips Road. If the proposal is implemented and staff determines that the project is not being executed satisfactorily, they would have the ability to request that ADOT and Pulice reopen McKellips Road and implement detours.
- McDowell and Brown Roads would experience greater congestion. There would also be increased traffic on the collector streets and north/south routes.
- Mesa would provide approximately \$35,000 in traffic signal equipment to be provided to Pulice for installation, and an estimated \$3,000 in City labor time to provide equipment programming and integration.

Mr. Kramer concluded his presentation by stating that if the Council approves the concept of closing McKellips Road, staff would develop an agreement with Pulice Construction; continue coordination of a number of issues with the Police and Fire Departments, Blandford Homes, and Maricopa County Transportation and Flood Control; that on May 11, 2006, ADOT and Pulice would conduct a public meeting at Salk Elementary School to solicit input from citizens regarding the road closure; and that in May, staff would present the Council with a proposed agreement and also the results of the public information meeting. He added that representatives of ADOT and Pulice are present in the audience to respond to any questions or concerns that the Council may have regarding this item.

Mayor Hawker declared a potential conflict of interest and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this agenda item. He yielded the gavel to Councilmember Whalen for action on this agenda item.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that staff recently spoke with representatives of Blandford Homes, who indicated that the proposed road closure project would be completed and McKellips Road reopened before the company would commence work on its nearby residential development; that the road improvements to Ellsworth and McKellips Roads are being driven as a result of Blandford's project and the developer's offsite improvements; the development of a

future storm drain project on McDowell Road (between Hawes and Sossaman) to be constructed by Maricopa County Transportation and Flood Control; and the possibility that the County may accelerate the scheduling of the project to coincide with the potential closure of McDowell Road.

Councilmember Whalen stated that it was the consensus of the Council that staff proceed with the recommendations as previously outlined by Mr. Kramer.

With action on this agenda item being completed, Councilmember Whalen yielded the gavel back to Mayor Hawker.

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

Councilmember Whalen:	Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council Meeting.
Mayor Hawker:	Arizona Congressional Delegation meeting in Washington, D.C.
Councilmember Griswold:	Meeting with pilots regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) proposed airspace redesign; neighborhood meeting regarding various freeway issues.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 27, 2006, 6:00 p.m. – Meet and Greet for Police Chief Candidates

Monday, May 1, 2006, 3:00 p.m. – Finance Committee

Monday, May 1, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 1, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, May 11, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6 Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:20 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 27th day of April 2006. 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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