

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 29, 1999

The Transportation Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the City Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 29, 1999 at 10:14 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Keno Hawker, Chairman
John Giles
Pat Pomeroy

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Cindy Barris
Jack Friedline
Mike Hutchinson
Ron Krosting
Keith Nath
Jeff Martin
Ellen Pence
Tom Remes
Alan Sanderson

OTHERS PRESENT

Roc Arnett
Craig Cardon
Joanie Flatt
Leo Mahoney
George Wallace
Others

1. Discuss and consider a recommendation to extend the transit service operations contract from June 30, 1999 through August 15, 1999 and review the mileage rate requested by Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. for the proposed extension.

City Traffic Engineer Alan Sanderson filling in for Transit Administrator Jim Wright explained the need for a recommendation to extend the transit service operations contract. Mr. Sanderson explained that we are in the final year of a five-year contract. Mr. Sanderson stated that a contract extension was needed to carry the current contractor through and give the new contractor time for a smooth transition from the existing contract to the new contract.

Mr. Sanderson stated that the existing five-year contract had rates that were low compared to the neighboring cities. Mr. Sanderson stated that our current contractor has trouble recruiting and maintaining drivers because of the low wages.

Mr. Sanderson explained that staff began working on locating a site for the maintenance facility after passage of the sales tax program. Mr. Sanderson stated that due to the problem of identifying an appropriate site for the maintenance and operations facility; they will proceed with soliciting a new contract. Mr. Sanderson stated that the City will continue to provide maintenance at the EMSC, and the contractor will be required to provide its own operations facility through the term of the contract, which will expire June 2002.

Mr. Sanderson stated that staff prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) to solicit services under a new contract. Mr. Sanderson stated the proposed contract will be offered to the City Council for approval.

Discussion ensued as to the one-year extension from the Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Sanderson stated that since the facility is not going to be ready, they would have to continue as it is. Mr. Sanderson further commented that the contractor will operate the busses, and the City maintenance will continue to do City maintenance out of the East Mesa Service Center. Mr. Sanderson stated that they wouldn't make the switch until they had the facility that the contractor could move into and could consolidate operations in one place.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hawker, Mr. Sanderson explained that the FTA has limits of five years and that is why they had to get special permission to extend beyond five years. Mr. Sanderson stated that if they are not ready in three years they could see additional extensions beyond that. Mr. Sanderson stated that this extension is only for a month and a half.

Committeemember Hawker commented that the format of the new contract should contain all that effects the operations and that the person bidding should know that they may have to operate and get their units from another location.

Committeemember Hawker expressed concern that they would have year-after-year renewals with Laidlaw. Mr. Sanderson commented that, with the new contractor, if the facility isn't ready in three years—they might be looking at renewals.

Committeemember Hawker stated that he didn't have any problem with this extension as presented, but that with the possibilities of further extensions he would like to find a site and build it.

Committeemember Giles commented that locating a site is problematic in that if you put it next to a residential neighborhood, you are going to have complaints. Committeemember Giles stated that by exercising the option of continuing to use contractor service for maintenance of our busses, the City avoids those types of problems.

Committeemember Luster commented that the same situation might arise with the contractor when they tried to locate a site. Committeemember Hawker stated that these sites should be discussed in open discussion at a later date.

Mr. Sanderson stated that one of the issues when having the contractor supply the maintenance facility is you are paying for the contractor to lease, bill, modify and operate that facility over a five-year period. Mr. Sanderson further stated that at the end of that contract, if you change contractors, you are paying for the next contractor to acquire a maintenance facility. Mr. Sanderson stated that, in contrast, the City could build it once and change contractors without having to pay for the contractor to acquire a maintenance facility every five years.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles, Mr. Sanderson stated that there were two other service centers. Mr. Sanderson further stated that he thought that over time the City of Mesa would need the Mesa Service Center for other City vehicles.

Committeemember Hawker requested that operational issues such as having one entity responsible for the entire transit operation (instead of having one entity solely responsible for running the busses and a maintenance organization responsible to the City at large, with different priorities) be brought out and discussed at a later date.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to extend the transit service operations contract from June 30,1999 to August 15, 1999 as requested by Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc.

Carried unanimously.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Transportation Committee adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 29th day of April 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK