

COUNCIL MINUTES

April 13, 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 13, 2006 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

COUNCIL-ELECT PRESENT

Scott Somers

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the beginning of the meeting. He arrived at 7:31 a.m.

1. Review items on the agenda for the April 17, 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: 7e (Hawker); 9b (Hawker-Whalen); 9h (Whalen);
10h and i (Hawker-Rawles)

Items deleted from the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 9d, e, f and i

2. Discuss staff's summary of the March 29, 2006 budget meeting.

Financial Services Manager Bryan Raines stated that an updated list of potential budget reductions (see Attachment 1) was provided to the Council, and he noted that the adjustments reflect the March 29th Council discussion.

Mr. Raines reported that Assistant to the City Manager Jim Huling provided information that the Census Department has agreed to accept approximately 4,600 housing units identified by the City as being omitted in the earlier survey, which equates to an additional 9,000 to 10,000 residents and increases the City's total population figure to approximately 427,000. He added that a letter to the Census Department is being prepared that questions the figures utilized for the vacancy rates and for the number of persons per household.

In response to questions from Mayor Hawker, Budget Director Jamie Warner confirmed that the 2006-2007 budget adjustments reflect a population of 417,000, which represents an approximate 7.9 percent reduction in State-shared revenues. He stated that the net impact on the budget is estimated at \$6 million. Mr. Warner said he would prepare a report that identifies the impact of reduced State-shared revenues on a per person basis. He advised that sales tax receipts have been higher than anticipated, which may offset some of the reductions in State-shared revenues.

Mr. Raines clarified that sales tax receipts might offset the reduction in State-shared revenues for the 2006-2007 fiscal year only, and he explained that the impact of the census is a long-term issue.

City Manager Christopher Brady advised that increased sales tax dollars in one year could not be projected as a trend. He recommended that any increased sales tax receipts in future years be directed to one-time expenditures rather than recurring budget expenditures.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the State-shared revenues are less than the projection; and that many other cities have similar problems with the recent census figures.

Mayor Hawker stated that staff captured the essence of the Council's budget discussion, and he thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Consider and provide direction to staff regarding "Country Stores" as accessory uses in RV and manufactured home parks.

Zoning/Civil Hearing Administrator Gordon Sheffield advised that a complaint was filed with the City relative to on-going commercial activities in the Mesa Regal RV Resort. He described the "Country Stores" that typically occur once a week in recreational vehicle (RV) and manufactured home parks, and he noted that the City's policies do not specifically address these retail activities. Mr. Sheffield stated that the vendors conducting the retail activity hold licenses and collect sales taxes. He visited an event at the park and in a letter to the Mesa Regal RV Resort Activities Director dated January 23, 2006, he proposed some limitations and guidelines for the "Country Stores" events. Mr. Sheffield noted that the residents of the Mesa Regal RV Resort objected to the limitations and guidelines. He outlined the various alternatives listed in the Council Report, and he stated that staff is seeking Council direction relative to these activities.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City does not permit A-frame signs; and that the City is unable to control advertisements in newspapers.

Mayor Hawker called on a representative of the "Country Stores" to address the Council.

Don Ecott, 650 North Hawes Road, #5613, a "Country Stores" Coordinator, stated that many residents of the RV and manufactured home parks are unable to shop at other stores, and he noted that the weekly event also serves as a social occasion for the residents. He advised that all vendors are licensed and pay sales taxes, which generates revenue for the City of Mesa, and he stated that signage outside of the park was not necessary.

Councilmember Rawles expressed support for weekly "Country Store" events without outside signage and without restrictions on the location of the event within the park.

7 Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, April 17, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Monday, April 17, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 27, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 27, 2006, TBA – Finance Committee Meeting

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:23 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 13th 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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Attachment (1)