



## COUNCIL MINUTES

April 23, 2009

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 23, 2009 at 7:32 a.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Scott Smith  
Alex Finter  
Dina Higgins  
Kyle Jones  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
Dave Richins  
Scott Somers

### COUNCIL ABSENT

None

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Linda Crocker

1. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on the proposed funding recommendations for the:

a. FY 2009-2010 CDBG/HOME/ADDI/ESG Programs

Neighborhood Services Director Ray Villa introduced Housing and Revitalization Director Carolyn Olson and Housing Specialist Lisa Wilson, who were prepared to address the Council.

Ms. Olson displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and provided a brief overview of the FY 09/10 Federal Entitlement allocations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program (\$3,383,197), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) (\$1,251,948) and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) (\$151,133). She also highlighted the eligible activities for each of the programs. (See Pages 5, 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Olson, in addition, reviewed the proposed funding recommendations for various non-profit agencies and City departments. (See Pages 8 through 12 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Olson advised that the public comment period relative to the funding recommendations began April 5, 2009 and ends May 6<sup>th</sup>. She also noted that at the May 4, 2009 Regular Council meeting, a public hearing would be conducted relative to those recommendations. Ms. Olson added that at the May 7, 2009 Special Council meeting, the Council would adopt resolutions to approve the 2009 projects/allocations, the 2009/10 Annual Plan and the Consolidated Plan for 2009/10.

b. Recovery Act of 2009 CDBG and Homelessness Prevention Funds

Ms. Olson further reported that the City of Mesa will receive \$918,932 in Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. She explained that although the monies were allocated to Mesa, the City must still submit an application and amend its FY 08/09 Annual Plan in order to receive the funds. Ms. Olson also stated that the monies would enable the City to create suitable living environments for low and moderate-income individuals. She added that staff recommends that A New Leaf be allocated the funds in order to make a series of renovations at the East Valley Men's Center.

Ms. Olson remarked that the City of Mesa was also allocated \$1,405,094 in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) funds under the Recovery Act. She commented that similar to the above-referenced allocation, the City must submit an application and amend its FY 08/09 Annual Plan in order to receive the funds. She also highlighted the eligible activities/participants and program requirements for funding under the program (See Pages 20 and 21 of Attachment 1) and the distribution of funding. (See Page 22 of Attachment 1)

c. FY 2009-2010 Human Services Funds

Ms. Wilson offered an overview of the Human Services funding process, which includes funding recommendations not only from staff but also from the Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB). She reported that in FY 08/09, there was a total of \$839,278 in funding resources available (i.e., General Fund and A Better Community (ABC) Utility Donation program), but noted that for FY 09/10, the recommended allocations of \$587,495 are based on a 30% reduction of General Funds. Ms. Wilson also spoke regarding the Community Safety Support Investment Model, which is the basis for the HSAB's funding recommendations.

Ms. Wilson highlighted the various agencies currently funded through the use of Human Services funding (i.e., Central Arizona Shelter Services, A New Leaf, Child Crisis Center) and reviewed staff and the HSAB's respective funding recommendations. (See Pages 34 through 38 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Olson further reported that of the \$242,699 available in unallocated CDBG funds, no more than \$96,421 may be allocated for public service activities. She offered the following funding alternatives for Council consideration: 1.) Reallocate \$242,699 in CDBG funds to the current applicant pool; or 2.) Open an additional CDBG Request for Proposals (RFP) to allow organizations to apply for the unallocated monies. Ms. Olson added that staff would offer technical assistance to organizations that wish to apply and outline the kind of activities that would be eligible to receive such funding.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that he would prefer Option 2 and suggested that the City permit any of the eligible organizations to provide the Council with additional options for consideration. He also disagreed with the 30% reduction in Human Services funding and said he hoped that the Council would consider, at the very least, level funding from the previous fiscal year.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that \$242,699 in unallocated CDBG funding is available due to the fact that a significant portion of Mesa's Housing Rehabilitation Program would be funded through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that except for the unallocated CDBG funding, staff recommends moving forward with the proposed allocations. He stated that pending Council direction, staff would reopen the RFP process to allow organizations to apply for the unallocated funds and perhaps focus on programs that meet many of the same criteria that the City is funding under Human Services (i.e., Life Safety programs).

Councilmember Somers expressed support for Option 2 which, in his opinion, would provide the greatest level of flexibility. He also commented that there are a number of organizations that did not apply for CDBG funding, but should have the opportunity to do so. Councilmember Somers added that the area of job retention/creation is not well represented and should also be a focus of CDBG funding.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Ms. Olson clarified that if the City opened an additional RFP process, it would take approximately 90 days to complete.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that staff has various time deadlines with regard to the RFP process; that staff is seeking Council direction today with regard to their priorities for the funding allocations; and the possibility of funding additional Code Compliance Officers if they worked in CDBG-eligible Census tracts.

Mayor Smith commented that he would prefer to consider the unallocated CDBG funding in the context of the City's overall budget. He also concurred with Councilmembers Somers and Kavanaugh that Option 2 would provide Mesa greater flexibility as it relates to funding alternatives.

Councilmember Richins voiced concern that Mesa is spending over \$1 million to administer various Federal entitlement programs which, in his opinion, is "government inefficiency at its finest." He also suggested that certain unfunded CDBG projects, such as the Save the Family application to rehab 52 housing units, be funded prior to opening up the RFP process.

Mayor Smith stated that there was Council concurrence that staff proceed with Option 2. He also requested that staff come back in a few weeks to respond to the questions posed by the Council this morning.

2. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on budget issues including, but not limited to:

a. Fire Department (continued from 4/20/09)

Fire Chief Harry Beck displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) and reported that over the next 18 months, the Fire Department must reduce its budget by \$7.5 million. He explained that staff created 10 action plans and is primarily focused on implementing the Transitional Response Vehicle (TRV) Program. Chief Beck stated that the plans are integrated and interdependent and noted that if staff fails to successfully implement any one of the items, it could jeopardize the success of the TRV Program as a whole.

Chief Beck indicated that a major portion of the Fire Department's budget reduction has been in overtime. He noted that one method by which this was accomplished was the implementation of battalion-level training as opposed to department training. Chief Beck stated that such efforts have saved the Fire Department more than \$200,000 in overtime. He added that the Fire Department utilizes video conferencing to ensure that training for the various crews is consistent and compatible.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Higgins, Chief Beck clarified that the Fire Department has utilized computer-based training for some time and particularly for recertification processes that are dependent upon classroom time. He assured the Council that staff explores every technological opportunity available to enhance training capabilities.

Councilmember Somers stated that with regard to certain aspects of classroom-based training, he would encourage the Fire Department to consider Internet-based and I-Pod-based learning systems that could be supported by testing and competency-based instruction.

Discussion ensued relative to Fire & Life Safety Education classes, 911 access education, Emergency Medical Service prevention, and the Connector Program.

Chief Beck highlighted various Fire bond projects and their current status. (See Page 7 of Attachment 2)

Councilmember Richins encouraged staff to couple revitalization needs in west Mesa with the selection of future fire station sites.

Assistant Fire Chief Jim Bloomer reported that for a number of years, the Fire Department has received funding through various Homeland Security grants (i.e., Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, Metropolitan Medical Response System) and stated that in addition, staff is pursuing a series of Primary Fire Service Grant opportunities (i.e., SAFER Act Grant, Fire Act Grant and Fire Prevention Grants). He added that staff is also seeking Federal Stimulus grant opportunities relative to fire station construction/remodeling, the replacement of eliminated sworn positions, and the electronic exchange of health information.

Chief Beck further advised that the City of Mesa has entered into a partnership with Gilbert, Queen Creek and Apache Junction to pursue a Regional Ambulance/Emergency Medical Service contract. He said that such an undertaking would provide seamless ambulance service not only today, but also in the future.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented that he would prefer that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Ambulance Service be presented to the Public Safety Committee for review prior to staff making a final recommendation.

Councilmember Finter requested that staff research those businesses (i.e., group homes, assisted living facilities) that routinely call the Police and Fire Departments to perform certain functions (i.e., assisting residents who have fallen out of bed) that should more appropriately be handled by their own personnel. He expressed concern that such calls impact the delivery of public safety services in the community.

Chief Beck acknowledged Councilmember Finter's concerns and stated that staff is reviewing various options in this regard.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

(Mayor Smith declared a brief recess at 9:00 a.m. The Study Session resumed at 9:06 a.m.)

b. Police Department

Police Chief George Gascón introduced Assistant Police Chief John Meza, Assistant Police Chief Mike Dvorak and Police Fiscal Administrator Lisa Quedens, who were prepared to address the Council relative to this item.

Chief Gascón displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 3**) and briefly highlighted the FY 08/09 and FY 09/10 Police Department budget reductions. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3) He stated that the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport would reimburse \$334,540 for Police Department personnel costs and said those monies would be used to fund the officers' overtime when testifying in Court.

Chief Meza provided an extensive overview of various changes to Patrol deployment in the first quarter of this fiscal year, including the decentralization of the Traffic Unit and the Special Enforcement Team (SET) and the utilization of the Streets Crime Units (SCU) and Gang Units for street coverage during peak hours or peak times of activity.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Police Department currently has 770 sworn officers; that Mesa could possibly gain 25 officers if it receives funding through the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant Program; a review of Mesa's Part One Crimes (See Page 3 of Attachment 3); and the Citizen Observer Program, which is a web-based notification tool for law enforcement.

Councilmember Finter requested that the Police Department obtain feedback from its patrol officers relative to the manner in which they have been impacted by the reallocation of resources and their ability to deliver services to the community.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Jones, Chief Meza explained that the Street Crime Units at each Police district could serve as Community Action Officers if the need arose.

Assistant Chief Dvorak provided a brief historical overview of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) 287(g) training program. (See Page 4 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Chief Gascón clarified that the March 16, 2009 287(g) training class was cancelled by the Federal government so that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) could reevaluate the program. He stated that it was very likely that when the 287(g) program is once again implemented, it would be different from the program that currently exists.

Chief Dvorak offered a short synopsis of the Civilian Investigator Specialist (CIS) Pilot Program, which is designed to use civilian employees who would serve as first responders to property crimes or certain kind of crimes where a suspect is not on scene. He stated that the individuals

would be cross trained to serve not only as the first responder, but also to perform forensic work at the crime scene.

Chief Dvorak also briefly updated the status of the Municipal Security Program and various 2008 Bond Projects. (See Page 6 of Attachment 3)

Councilmember Richins stated that relative to site acquisition for the replacement of the Dobson Police Station, he would urge staff to revitalize an existing structure if it is more cost effective as opposed to constructing a new facility.

Chief Gascón cautioned that the refurbishing and future maintenance costs of an existing structure can often be extensive.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that he would prefer the construction of a new facility for the Dobson Police Station replacement so that it could be designed correctly not only for community access, but also to accommodate the needs of the Police Department. He also suggested that it would be a good opportunity to use the newly adopted Fiesta District Guidelines to demonstrate how the City would build a new building in the area and set a good standard for private investment to follow.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the presentation.

c. Utility Rates

Mr. Brady stated that in the interest of time, he would provide a brief overview of this agenda item. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 4**) and highlighted the Enterprise Operations Financial Summaries, which are the principles that have been adopted either in written policy by the Council or at an operations level regarding how staff views Mesa's four utilities (Electric, Gas, Water and Wastewater) and the manner in which they would be financially managed. Mr. Brady noted that the proposed rate adjustments for FY 09/10 have been presented to the Audit & Finance Committee for their recommendations.

Mr. Brady advised that the PowerPoint presentation includes a section for each of the utilities. He said that there was no proposed rate adjustment for electric. Mr. Brady referenced the gas utility (Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 4) and reviewed graphs entitled "Gas Infrastructure and Capital Expenditures" and "Gas Debt Service vs. Fund Balance." He explained that with regard to the capital expenditures, staff has identified over the next six years those amounts related to growth and the replacement of aging infrastructure. Mr. Brady offered a similar analysis for water (Pages 7 and 8 of Attachment 4) and wastewater (Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 4).

Discussion ensued relative to Mesa's fund balance and the forecasted capital needs for the utility enterprises between FY 09/10 and FY 14/15.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Brady for the presentation.

3. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Smith recommended the following appointments to boards and committees:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Terry Benelli – Term Expires June 30, 2011

HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

Heather Kay – Term Expires June 30, 2009

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Craig Cuillard – Term Expires June 30, 2011

Denise Heap – Term Expires June 30, 2010

HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

LaDawanna Hudson – Term Expires June 30, 2011

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Teresa D'Asaro – Term Expires June 30, 2010

MUSEUM AND CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Kit Filbrey – Term Expires June 30, 2009

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Matthew Shaffer – Term Expires June 30, 2009

Milt Fort – Term Expires June 30, 2009

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Somers, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

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

Vice Mayor Jones reported that the Mesa Sister Cities Association has been selected to receive the "Innovation: Sustainable Development" Award for a city with a population of 100,000 to 500,000. He stated that Mesa would be recognized at the Annual Sister Cities Conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Councilmember Higgins: Arizona Town Hall

Mayor Smith: Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Councilmember Somers: Recycle Bank Event at Kerr Elementary School

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – Falcon Field Airport Open House

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, May 4, 2009, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 4, 2009, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Brady also announced that the City of Mesa's Fleet West Repair Facility received the Automotive Service Excellence "Blue Seal of Excellence" Award.

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Jones, seconded by Councilmember Somers, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 10:13 a.m. and enter into an Executive Session

Carried unanimously.

- a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (3)) Discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the City's position regarding contracts that are the subject of negotiations, in pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation. (A. R. S. §38-431.03A(4))

1. Meet and Confer Process

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Executive Session adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

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SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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LINDA CROCKER, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2009. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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(attachments – 4)