

# COUNCIL MINUTES

April 18, 2002

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 18, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Davidson from the beginning of the meeting.)

### 1. Discuss and consider the Historic Preservation Plan.

Redevelopment Director Greg Marek addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and introduced City staff, Debbie Abele, a consultant for the City, and Jim Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer.

Victor Linhoff, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee, provided an overview of the Historic Preservation Program. He explained that in 1994, the City Council adopted Mesa's first Historic Preservation Plan, but that the Plan has since become outdated; that in conjunction with Mesa's General Plan update, the Historic Preservation Office undertook the task of revising the Plan; that the new Plan, which is the result of considerable citizen input, is consistent with the State Historic Preservation Plan, summarizes information with regard to Mesa's historic resources, and also estimates the growth of the historic resource population over the next 35 years. Mr. Linhoff added that the development of the Plan, through the support and involvement of Mesa residents and its adoption by the Council, will assure that the City complies with its responsibility relative to historic preservation issues as it manages the community's long-term growth and development.

Ms. Abele outlined the essential provisions contained in the updated Historic Preservation Plan.

Mr. Garrison discussed the coordination of efforts between the City and the State Historic Preservation Office which culminated in the new Plan. He also thanked Mesa residents for identifying the potential significance of five historical districts within the City.

Mr. Linhoff stressed that although the Historic Preservation Plan will have no direct fiscal impact on the City, it does provide for specific recommendations and policy directives that the Historic Preservation Committee and staff will use to develop a work program which will necessitate budgeted City funds.

Discussion ensued relative to the criteria established by the National Historic Register for a home to be designated as historic; the potential that the recent acquisition by the City of a post office that was constructed in 1936 could qualify as a local historic landmark, and that residential property values have increased in Mesa's historic neighborhoods.

It was moved by Councilmember Whalen, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the revised Historic Preservation Plan, be approved.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present voting.

Mayor Hawker and the Council voiced appreciation to everyone involved in the development of the new Historic Preservation Plan.

2. Hear a status report, discuss and consider the process to update Mesa's Design Guidelines.

Planning Director Frank Mizner addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and provided a brief status report on the process to update Mesa's Design Guidelines sections of the Zoning Ordinance (Chapters 14 and 15). He explained that on February 28, 2002, staff made a presentation to the Council regarding the updated materials, that the Council voted to postpone consideration of the Guidelines and directed staff to meet a second time with the development community; that on March 8, 2002, a follow-up meeting was held in which staff and the development community ultimately arrived at a mutual agreement on a variety of issues relative to the Guidelines.

Mr. Mizner briefly outlined two alternatives for Council consideration: Alternative 1. Proceed with consideration of the ordinance as originally introduced on January 28, 2002. (Both staff and the development community have agreed on several improvements to this document which have not yet been incorporated.) and Alternative 2. Direct staff to revise the document and reschedule the introduction of the ordinance and the public hearing. (Introduction of the ordinance could take place May 6, 2002, with the public hearing conducted on May 20, 2002.) He stated that it is the recommendation of staff to proceed with Alternative 2.

Mr. Mizner acknowledged the efforts of the development community during the ongoing Design Guidelines update process.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the recommendation of staff to proceed with Alternative 2 (Direct staff to revise the document and reschedule the introduction of the ordinance and public hearing), be approved.

Councilmembers Pomeroy, Jaffa and Walters expressed support for the motion.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Mr. Mizner clarified that it is the intent of staff to work with the development community to ensure that all modifications to the Design Guidelines which were discussed at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be incorporated into the document. He also stated that if any of the Councilmembers have any concerns whatsoever regarding the proposed document, he would appreciate being apprised of such concerns prior to the May 6, 2002 Regular Council meeting.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that although the updated Design Guidelines are not as stringent as those of other Valley communities, they have been designed to "raise the bar" of development within the City; the fact that the Guidelines modifications will increase the cost of development in Mesa, and the fact that the Guidelines have been endorsed by the Design Review Board and the Planning and Zoning (P & Z) Board.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present voting.

3. Hear a presentation on the City of Mesa 5-Year Information Technology Master Plan and E-Government Strategic Plan.

E-Streets and Licensing Director Dan Brewer, Information Services Director Karen Kille and Senior Project and Services Leader Diane Gardner addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Ms. Kille provided an historical overview of the Information Technology Strategic Plan and reported that the goal of the Plan is to provide quality Information Technology (IT) services to Mesa's residents as well as City staff. She explained that the Plan was developed by the IT Council, a group of senior management staff from various City departments, which is charged with developing and recommending Citywide IT strategies and policies that link to organizational strategic direction. Ms. Kille commented that the specific objectives of the Plan include: the identification of Citywide technology strategies; the development of an Information Technology Master Plan, and defining the associated Information Technology environment and standards. She also stated that the projects in the Master Plan are categorized by themes including E-Government, Employee Productivity, and Quality of Life and Safety for Citizens.

Ms. Gardner presented the Council with a brief overview of the E-Government Strategic Plan and explained that the goal of e-government is to deliver services and information electronically to businesses and residents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She detailed examples of the City's current Internet services including City information (early ballot requests, Council agendas, City Code Book and budget information); Services (Library catalog system, obtaining job applications), and Feedback and Input (Citizens can e-mail the Mayor and Councilmembers or employees in response to information or requests for information or services.)

Ms. Gardner noted that as a result of a recent survey conducted with Mesa residents, some of the most requested services for the Internet include the ability to register for Parks and Recreation Program classes online; to obtain City forms online, and to pay for City services online. She also stated that staff is endeavoring to reorganize and redesign the City's website in order to better serve the needs of the community.

Ms. Kille provided the Council with an overview of future e-government projects.

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked staff for the scope and comprehensive nature of the E-Government Strategic Plan and also acknowledged the commitment of City Manager Mike Hutchinson and staff, as well as the support of the City Council with regard to this issue.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that one of the projects in the IT Strategic Plan is to enable Mesa business owners to submit sales tax reports online, and that plans are underway to change the City's current e-mail address.

Mayor Hawker and the Councilmembers expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts and hard work to develop the E-Government and Information Technology Strategic Plans.

4. Hear a status report on Infill Development.

Planning Director Frank Mizner addressed the Council and provided a brief overview relative to this agenda item. He explained that with regard to the Mesa General Plan and the Mesa's Design Guidelines, considerable attention has been focused on the topic of infill development, and that the draft Mesa 2025 General Plan contains a number of relevant objectives and policies concerning the need to consider appropriate standards for infill development (compatibility, public participation and economic viability). Mr. Mizner commented that staff is preparing to address these concerns in a three-tiered approach including A.) Design Guidelines, B.) Vacant Properties and C.) Long Term. Mr. Mizner provided the Council with a brief explanation of the three elements. (See Attachment 1.)

Discussion ensued relative to the proposed "substantial conformance" test; the adaptive reuse of the City's vacant strip centers and drugstores, the proliferation of empty gas stations in Mesa, and Bonus Intensity Zones (BIZ).

Councilmember Kavanaugh thanked Mr. Mizner for his presentation and stated the opinion that the three-tiered approach will provide useful tools not only for the City, but for property owners and developers as well.

(Vice Mayor Davidson arrived at the meeting at 8:50 a.m.)

Vice Mayor Davidson urged staff that as the infill policy proceeds forward, it will be crucial to ensure that Mesa's stock of affordable housing is not depleted.

Councilmember Walters stated the opinion that the purpose of an infill development policy should be to improve Mesa neighborhoods as opposed to simply filling every vacant parcel in the City.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Mizner for the presentation.

5. Hear an update on Mesa's participation in the Central Phoenix/East Valley Light Rail Transit Project.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson provided the Council with a brief update of this agenda item and reported that staff has scheduled an April 29, 2002 meeting with various participating agencies

to discuss governance issues. He added that he will continue to provide status reports to the Council regarding this ongoing matter.

6. Hear an update and consider issues associated with the proposed site for the Multipurpose Facility.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson informed the Council that staff has attended a number of meetings relative to site issues, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and has also engaged in ongoing negotiations with the Hurley family. He explained that it is the intent of staff to conduct a series of public meetings to solicit input/suggestions from Mesa residents, and that in that regard, the Neighborhood Services Division will host a neighborhood meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. at Whittier Elementary School.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Hutchinson assured the Council that staff's meetings with the Tourism and Sports Authority (TSA) have been cordial and productive and added that he is optimistic regarding the ultimate outcome of the process.

Councilmember Walters advised that because today is her wedding anniversary, she will be unable to attend the neighborhood meeting this evening. She requested that Neighborhood Outreach Director Tanya Collins convey her regrets to the Mesa residents who attend the gathering.

Mayor Hawker welcomed a group of individuals from the East Mesa Senior Center for attending this morning's Study Session.

7. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. Jared Huish

Mr. Anthony Reid

Mr. Gabriel Saia, Jr.

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Sharon Corea

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Walters reported that she had the opportunity to represent the Council at the Mesa Library Volunteer Luncheon and she commended all of the individuals who have so tirelessly offered their time and service to the community.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that as part of the annual Bike Week celebration, which focuses on bicycles as a key mode of transportation within the City, he participated in the Celebrity Tricycle Race.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented that he also attended a ceremony at Mesa Community College (MCC) honoring its partnership with the Mesa-East Valley Rose Society for the creation of the largest public rose garden in the desert southwest. He added that in recognition of the work the community has accomplished in this regard, the American Rose Society has named Mesa as an American Rose City.

Councilmember Pomeroy advised that he recently attended a meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mesa Gang Intervention Project (MGIP) and said that the primary topic of discussion was the possible elimination of the MGIP due to the City's current budget constraints.

Councilmember Whalen reported on his attendance at the annual "Cops and Robbers" Golf Tournament which is sponsored by the Mesa Public Safety Foundation and noted that the event raised approximately \$30,000.

Mayor Hawker commented that he attended a Maricopa Association of Governments' (MAG) Transportation Subcommittee meeting recently and provided a brief overview of the individuals currently participating on the committee.

9. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, April 25, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session Cancelled

Thursday, May 2, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, May 6, 2002, 3:00 p.m. – Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, May, 6, 2002, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 6, 2002, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

10. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

11. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

12. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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Attachment