



COUNCIL MINUTES

November 19, 1998

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session (Extended) in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 19, 1998 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Lin Adams
Wayne Balmer
Denise Bleyle
Jamie Brennen
Jerry Brouwer
Steve Burg
Dennis Compton
Mike Comstock
Fred Conway
Linda Crocker
Cheryl Currell
Gil Damiano
Bob DeLeon
G.T. Fowler
Jack Friedline
Carl Geis
Geri Gerber
Bill Haney
Stan Hughes
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Richard Kasper
Harry Kent
Karl Kohlhoff
Wayne Korinek
Ron Krosting
Dorinda Larsen
Beth Miller
Keith Nath
Ellen Pence
David Plumb
Cliff Puckett
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Tom Remes

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Becky Richardson
Dan Saban
Jenny Sheppard
Jan Strauss
Ann Testa
Mike Whalen
Mindy White
Paul Wilson
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Pfannenstiel
Robbie Sherwood
Mary Jo Whalen
Others

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Jaffa from the beginning of the meeting.

1. Hear and consider a report from Mary Jo Whalen, Chairman of the Mesa Arts and Entertainment Center Architectural Selection and Design Committee, giving an update on the progress towards selecting an architect for the Center.

Mary Jo Whalen, Chairman of the Mesa Arts and Entertainment Center Architectural Selection and Design Committee, highlighted a brief presentation on the progress that the Committee has achieved regarding the selection of an architect for the Center. Chairman Whalen advised that the Committee, which is comprised of 14 members, has been meeting since July 1998. Chairman Whalen reported that five architectural teams were selected as finalists and stated that members of subcommittees traveled to sites in California, Oregon, New Jersey, Ontario and Denver where they visited facilities and spoke with the owners and users of those facilities.

Chairman Whalen introduced the Center's Project Manager Rick Pfannenstiel from Kitchell Corporation and advised that Mr. Pfannenstiel was involved in both the Herberger and Orpheum projects. Chairman Whalen provided an overview of the knowledge that was gained as a result of the groups' travels and reported that the major criteria surrounding the selection of an architect will be function, design, to include urban design, budget, scheduling and workability. Chairman Whalen stressed the importance of selecting the most qualified architectural team for the project and noted that theatres are the most complex buildings to design. Chairman Whalen commented that should the Council not be satisfied with the architect's urban planning credentials, two options should be considered: 1) the addition of an urban planner to the team, and 2) authorize the City of Mesa to hire an urban planner.

Chairman Whalen thanked the Council for their ongoing support and encouraged them to present their comments and questions.

Mayor Brown commended the members of the Committee on their extensive efforts to date and noted that the minutes of the January 18, 1999 Study Session (Extended) Meeting will contain specific Council direction for the Committee.

(Councilmember Jaffa joined the meeting at 7:41 a.m.)

Mayor Brown stated that it was the consensus of the Council that the Committee discuss the concept and feasibility of securing urban planning expertise for the project. Mayor Brown added that the Committee may discuss this option with the top two or three architect candidates, receive their input, and provide the Council with recommendations relative to either hiring a separate urban planner or securing the services of an architect who possesses that type of expertise. Mayor Brown emphasized the importance of utilizing urban planning experience to coordinate all of the development/redevelopment efforts in the Town Center area.

Discussion ensued relative to Mr. Pfannensteil's experience and expertise, the fact that costs will not be determined until the project is in the design phase, a tentative construction schedule, the fact that groundbreaking should occur approximately 18 to 24 months after the selection of an architect, the fact that the design process will last approximately 18 months, project phasing, and an overall view of the project.

Mayor Brown thanked Chairman Whalen and Mr. Pfannensteil for their input.

2. Hear and consider long range plans for the following Departments and Divisions:

a. Police Department

Police Chief Jan Strauss introduced staff present at the meeting and highlighted a brief presentation relative to the Department's accomplishments, current status and long-range goals.

Chief Strauss referred to a handout distributed to the Council and reported that the department currently employs 676 sworn officers and 391.5 civilian personnel. Chief Strauss added that the current ratio of sworn officers per 1,000 population is 1.77 and discussed the narcotics hot line, photo radar, the City's gang intervention program, the DARE and GREAT Programs, difficulties associated with maintaining officers once they become eligible for retirement, marketing and recruitment efforts, patrol officer utilization, populations statistics, community policing and facility growth and improvements.

Chief Strauss commented on the possibility of sharing public safety communication services with other agencies in the future, expansion of the Center Against Violence, helicopter service upgrades and enhancements, communication hardware and software, laptop computers for patrol field officers, the importance of compiling a full-time SWAT team by the year 2010, and future personnel requirements to meet demands.

Councilmember Pomeroy recommended that future recruitment efforts center around the mid-west area of the country.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the expansion of the County jail facility, privatized jails, difficulties associated with recruiting and maintaining civilian dispatchers, the possibility of providing lighting recommendations to staff for the purpose of enhancing safety on City streets, the importance of gaining the cooperation of apartment managers in high-crime areas to assist the Police Department in their enforcement efforts, and the possibility of implementing three rather than two police academies a year.

Mayor Brown requested that staff pursue the issue of retiree retention and present their findings to the Council at a future time.

Chief Strauss thanked the Council for their continuing support and encouragement.

b. Fire Department

Fire Chief Dennis Compton, Management Assistant II Dorinda Larsen and Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and referred to a five-year operational plan that was presented to the Council at a previous meeting.

Chief Compton highlighted a brief presentation on the status and goals of the Department and advised that Daniel Stubbs has been assigned the position of Research and Planning Officer. Chief Compton reported that the Department has prepared a 20+ year infrastructure plan and a 10 year strategic plan and emphasized staff's commitment to planning.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Department currently employs one firefighter per 1,000 Mesa residents, the importance of focusing on prevention/investigation capabilities, the addition of environmental issues to the responsibilities of the Department, call volume, response time goals, future growth and expansion, planning goals and strategies, the fact that the "Connector" program is currently operational, the Department's goal to meet with every business in the City on an annual basis to enhance safety and prevention, the positive impacts of built-in sprinkler protection, automatic aid and adaptive response companies, non-ambulance transportation services, future staffing/resource goals, and the on-going efforts of the Department to improve safety throughout the City of Mesa.

Mayor Brown thanked Chief Compton for his presentation and his efforts.

(Mayor Brown declared a recess at 9:53 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:11 a.m.)

c. Utility Department

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb and Water Resources Coordinator Beth Miller addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Plumb advised that the 1980 Ground Water Management Act requires the City to balance groundwater withdrawals with surface water supplies by the year 2026. Mr. Plumb reported that an assured water supply exists to meet the long-term goals of Mesa's residents and discussed available water supplies versus increasing demands.

Discussion ensued relative to the concept of recovered/reclaimed water, wells, and on-going efforts to improve the quality of water.

Utilities Education Supervisor Ann Testa provided the Council with a brief update on conservation programs and discussed five-year trends.

Assistant Utility Manager Karl Kohlhoff presented an overview of the Pinal County Water Farms' operation.

Assistant Utility Manager Bill Haney updated the Council on the City's water treatment plants and stressed the importance of City wells.

Utilities Marketing Coordinator Stan Hughes discussed the City's natural gas sales and future goals.

Utility Compliance Coordinator Mike Comstock presented an update on natural gas strategies and commented on cost savings that are realized as a result of utilizing gas rather than electricity.

Electric Utility Manager Jerry Brouwer discussed electric supply contracts and reported that the City has over 15,000 customers. Mr. Brouwer outlined current City of Mesa power contracts and discussed the Parker-Davis project.

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb commented that the Department intends to compete in the electric energy arena. In response to comments from the Council relative to the quality of City water, Mr. Plumb indicated his intention to prepare a report for the Council containing options to improve the smell and taste of the water.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Plumb and staff for their presentation.

d. Transportation

Mayor Brown stated that in the interest of time, this item will be discussed at the November 20, 1998 Council Study Session (Extended).

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session (Extended) adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Study Session (Extended)

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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 (Extended) of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 19th day of November 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK