

# COUNCIL MINUTES

June 20, 2005

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 June 20, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Rex Griswold  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

None

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 20, 2005 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: 6b and c (Hawker); 7e (Whalen); 8n, o, r, and u (Walters); and 9d (Jones, Whalen)

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8m and 9b

2. Discuss and consider aquatic facilities improvements.

Vice Mayor Walters declared a potential conflict of interest and said she would refrain from discussion/participation in this agenda item.

Community Services Manager Joe Holmwood noted that following a prior presentation regarding proposed concepts for aquatic facilities, Council directed staff to refer the proposal to the Parks and Recreation Board and requested that public meetings be held to solicit citizen input.

Robert Brinton, Parks and Recreation Board Chairman, reported on public meetings that were held and attended by citizens, the aquatics' community, Mesa Community College officials, Mesa Public School officials and staff. He advised that input received at the meetings enabled the Parks and Recreation Board to identify the following aquatic facilities as priorities: 1) Carson (replacement); 2) Smith (new); 3) Outdoor Aquatic Center at Site 17 (new); 4) Kino (renovation); and 5) Taylor (renovation). Mr. Brinton stated that the Board also requested a Sports and Tourism Authority (STA) grant in the amount of \$3 million in order to assist in funding the Outdoor Aquatic Center.

Mr. Holmwood stated that Versar, Inc., a Valley architectural and engineering firm, was retained to provide cost estimates. He noted that the proposed outdoor facility on Site 17 meets the STA's funding guidelines because the facility would serve the region. Mr. Holmwood advised that the estimated \$26 million cost for the five facilities identified as priorities is less than the amount originally earmarked for the indoor facility. He added that the "Construction Manager at Risk" approach is being recommended, and that staff would like to begin the Carson pool replacement project as soon as possible.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, City Attorney Debbie Spinner stated that Proposition 104 language refers to funding for "the construction or aids in the construction of an amphitheater, sports complex, cultural or entertainment facility, arena, stadium, convention facility, or multi-purpose facility." She expressed the opinion that Proposition 104 does not apply to renovations, and that the intent of the Proposition was to impose a limitation on new construction. Ms. Spinner further stated the opinion that the proposed Outdoor Aquatic Center at Site 17 is a project that is subject to Proposition 104.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that it is possible to place the Outdoor Aquatic Center proposal on the March 2006 ballot for voter consideration.

Mayor Hawker expressed support for the Carson pool replacement and the Outdoor Aquatic Center. He asked if it was possible to utilize the remaining Quality of Life funds for road construction or other capital projects.

Ms. Spinner advised that the funds could be utilized for any project identified in the Quality of Life ballot language.

Mayor Hawker recommended that the Council delay approval of the pool projects, except the Carson pool replacement, and he suggested that the Outdoor Aquatic Center be placed on the March 2006 ballot for voter consideration. He explained that by delaying the remaining pool projects, funds would be available to address more critical Quality of Life projects in the 2007-2008 budget cycle.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that utilizing Quality of Life funds in 2007-2008 for projects other than pools would not address the projected budget shortfalls in the years beyond 2007-2008; that high school competitive swimming events have a pool depth requirement; and that the Carson pool would be renovated to the proper depth, but that the pool length may be inadequate to meet State competitive pool requirements.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Rawles regarding additional phases beyond "Phase I" of the Outdoor Aquatic Center, Mr. Brinton stated that future phases would address a therapy pool and other education-related facilities for Mesa Community College (MCC), all of which would be subject to Council approval. He advised that the subject of cost sharing has not been discussed with Mesa Community College representatives.

Deputy City Manager Debra Dollar stated that past discussions with MCC addressed the operational costs rather than the construction costs. She advised that cost sharing might be a future topic discussion now that more accurate cost estimates are available.

Mr. Holmwood estimated that the additional education-related facilities for MCC might cost millions of dollars.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Thom, Mr. Holmwood stated that he would provide her with information regarding the installation of a diving system and pool decking at the Taylor Junior High School pool over the past few years. He added that pool decking is typically replaced every five years. Mr. Holmwood explained that the primary advantage of locating pools at public parks or other non-school sites is that these sites provide unlimited access for special events and swimming competitions. He noted that access to many City pools is limited due to conflicts with school activities. Mr. Holmwood stated that access is the reason that a Skyline Park pool is included in the Master Plan, but he noted that budget issues prevent the City from addressing that proposed facility.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that several Mesa public schools do not have pools; that Highland and Desert Ridge Junior High Schools, which are located in Mesa but are a part of the Gilbert School District, do not have pools; that Mesa Public Schools have participated over the years in sharing some pool construction costs; that the Mesa Public School District contributes approximately \$400,000 per year to the operational costs by paying the utility bills for the pool facilities; and that Mesa Public Schools should share in future pool construction costs.

Councilmember Jones noted that the project list presented by the Parks and Recreation Board would require many years to implement. He expressed the opinion that the Council should move forward with the proposal for the Carson and Smith pools, consider placing the Outdoor Aquatic Center at Site 17 on a future ballot, and evaluate the remaining pool proposals at a future date.

It was moved by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, to direct staff to move forward on the proposals for the Carson and Smith pools.

Mayor Hawker expressed support for moving forward with the Carson pool proposal, but he stated that he did not support the Smith pool proposal at this point in time because of budget issues.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Holmwood advised that improving the Carson pool to competitive pool standards would require significant funding.

Mr. Hutchinson advised that staff would provide an estimate of the costs required to improve the Carson pool to meet competitive standards, and he noted that staff would also determine if the Carson site has sufficient space to allow the pool size to be expanded.

Councilmember Rawles expressed support for the Carson pool proposal, but he added that he would not support the Smith pool proposal.

Councilmember Jones clarified that the State high school competitive standard requires a specific depth for pools, and that the 25-meter pool length is acceptable. He stated the opinion that the proposals for the Carson and Smith pools would enable these facilities to meet the State's competitive pool requirements.

Mayor Hawker called for the vote.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Griswold-Jones-Thom-Whalen  
NAYS - Hawker-Rawles  
ABSTAIN - Walters

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried by a majority of those voting.

3. Discuss and consider Mesa Arts Center fees for adult visual and performing arts classes – Fall 2005.

Due to time constraints, there was no discussion or consideration of this agenda item.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Design Review Board meeting held June 1, 2005.
- b. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held May 3, 2005.
- c. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held May 24, 2005.
- d. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held April 20, 2005.
- e. Board of Adjustment meeting held May 10, 2005.

It was moved by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Vice Mayor Walters, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Griswold: Red Mountain Freeway Opening to Power Road

Councilmember Whalen: Valley Metro Meeting

Vice Mayor Walters: National League of Cities' Community Economic Development Committee Meeting

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, June 23, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, June 23, 2005, 9:30 a.m. – General Development Committee

Thursday, June 30, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Tuesday, July 5, 2005, 3:00 p.m. – Fire Committee

Tuesday, July 5, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Tuesday, July 5, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, July 11, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, July 11, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Monday, August 15, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, August 15, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:38 p.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 20th day of June 2005. 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