

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 26, 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 June 26, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

Tom Rawles
Scott Somers

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmembers Rawles and Somers from the meeting.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 26, 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: 15f (Whalen); 19d (Whalen)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 13i, 19g

Items deleted from the agenda: 11a

2. Hear an update on an agreement with Mesa Community College to provide visual and performing arts classes at the Mesa Arts Center.

Arts and Cultural Director Gerry Fathauer and Marketing and Communications Supervisor Walter Morlock addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Ms. Fathauer reported that during the recent budget hearings, discussions occurred regarding the possibility of the City partnering with Mesa Community College (MCC) to provide adult visual and performing arts classes at the Mesa Arts Center. She explained that an executed agreement has now been finalized between the City of Mesa, on behalf of the Mesa Arts Center, and Maricopa County Community College District, on behalf of MCC, to cooperate in providing coordinated educational and occupational instructional activities for the purpose of educating and training students and professionals in the fields of visual and performing arts.

Ms. Fathauer highlighted various components of the agreement as follows:

- The classes would be facilitated and taught by Mesa Arts Center instructors, with MCC staff working to assure that the classes meet the highest standards.
- Beginning Fall 2006, the adult visual and performing arts classes offered at Art Studios would be designated as credit classes and recognized by the Maricopa County Community College District.
- Funds allowing maximum recovery of direct costs for the classes would be realized through facility rent, tuition, course fees, and salary assistance for instruction.
- The instructors, who would be compensated by MCC through tuition proceeds, would remain City of Mesa employees (i.e. grant-funded employees on a year-to-year basis).
- The funding resource allows budget reduction items #24 and #25 to be reinstated into the Final FY 2006/07 budget.

In response to a series of questions from Mayor Hawker, Ms. Fathauer clarified that the agreement would cover 100% of the direct costs of the classes; that the Mesa Arts Center would continue to offer a limited number of non-credit classes; and that students who take the credit classes would also have the option of receiving a pass/fail grade if they did not wish to receive a letter grade.

Mayor Hawker commented that he had hoped there would be more of a “clean break” for the City and that MCC would assume the responsibility for facilitating the classes and utilizing their instructors.

In response to Mayor Hawker’s comment, Ms. Fathauer stated that in her opinion, the proposed agreement is “the best win-win for both institutions” because there would be less risk on MCC’s part. She explained that the Mesa Arts Center already has a roster of ongoing students that would “seed the bottom line” for MCC with regard to class enrollment.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts and hard work in negotiating the agreement with MCC.

Vice Mayor Walter stated that with the adult visual and performing arts classes included in MCC’s catalogue, there is the potential for the Mesa Arts Center to “pick up” MCC students who may need to take various credit classes offered by the facility. She also joined Mayor Hawker in thanking Deputy City Manager Debbie Dollar, Ms. Fathauer and Mr. Morlock for their hard work in creating a successful model that is designed to help the Mesa Arts Center rather than hinder it.

Councilmember Jones also voiced appreciation to MCC for its willingness to partner with the City in this process.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Mesa Arts Center classes are not listed in MCC’s Fall catalogue, but would be included in future catalogues; that MCC and the Mesa Arts Center would jointly market the classes; that in July, the Mesa Arts Center would distribute its own catalogue for Fall classes; and that students may register for the classes online through MCC’s website.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees:

- a. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held May 24, 2006
- b. General Development Committee meeting held June 5, 2006

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

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, June 29, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Wednesday, July 5, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Wednesday, July 5, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Wednesday, July 12, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Wednesday, July 12, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, August 10, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mr. Brady announced that today the City of Mesa received its final mid-decade Census estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. He explained that the previous population estimate of 417,387 has been revised to 448,096. Mr. Brady acknowledged the efforts of Assistant to the City Manager Jim Huling, as well as Planning Director John Wesley and his staff for their efforts and hard work in assessing those areas of the City in which residents were not counted previously.

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:30 p.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 26th day of June 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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